

State workers voiced Pride support in video; Cox appointee put a lid on it

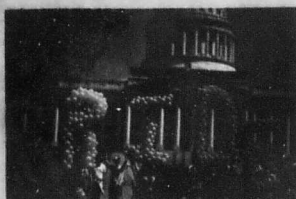
"If we can't embrace [LGBTQ+ people], how are we going to grow?" one employee said in the video.

By EMILY ANDERSON STERN | The Salt Lake Tribune

A photo of partners blissfully embracing, their noses reddened by the cold. An effervescent selfie taken by a young adult with rainbow glitter streaking their cheek and a multi-colored Star of David pinned to their T-shirt. A shot of five friends huddled together, clad in polychromatic hats and scarves, with pride flags waving in the background.

Those are scenes from the lives of three LGBTQ+ state employees featured in a draft video produced by the human resources group for Utah government workers and obtained by The Salt Lake Tribune. One by one, employees described to the camera why they were proud of their identities, and how they were "happy to be

Please see PRIDE VIDEO, A3



TRENT NELSON | The Salt Lake Tribune

People march from the Utah Capitol in Salt Lake City to kick off the Utah Pride Festival earlier this month.

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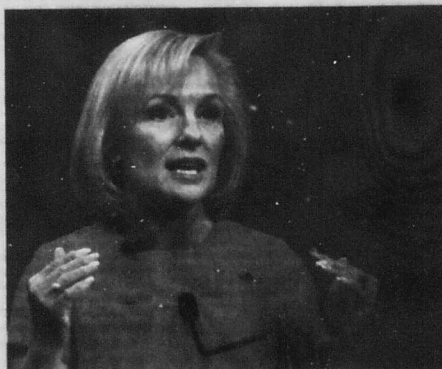
The Salt Lake Tribune

« MIDWEEK PRINT EDITION »

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

UTAH PRIMARY » JUNE 25



PHOTOS BY TRENT NELSON | The Salt Lake Tribune

Tina Cannon, a deputy in the state auditor's office, and Ricky Hatch, Weber County clerk, are vying to be the Republican Party nominee to replace John Dougall as state auditor.

Auditor's role in trans bathroom ban? GOP candidates weigh in on the issue.

Republicans Cannon, Hatch face off with winner advancing to November against a Democrat and Constitution Party candidate.

By ROBERT GEHRKE | The Salt Lake Tribune

After three terms as Utah auditor, John Dougall is leaving the office to run for Utah's open 3rd Congressional District seat. Two Republican candidates — Tina Cannon, one of Dougall's current deputies, and Weber County Clerk Ricky Hatch — are competing for the party's nomination to replace Dougall in the June 25 primary election.

The office audits financial reports from state and local governments, measures performance and reviews policies and compliance of various departments around the state.

The winner of the Republican primary will face Catherine Voutaz, the Democratic nominee, and Jeffrey Ostler, the Constitution Party nominee.

State school board contests

How the candidates match up for open seats on the state school board. » A4, A5

The Salt Lake Tribune submitted the same set of questions, based on top issues readers said they were watching in this election, to each candidate. The questions and their answers that appear below — with the candidates listed in alphabetical order — may have been edited slightly for length, style or grammar.

Question #1 » Auditor John Dougall has criticized the Legislature for passing a bill regarding which bathroom and locker room patrons who are transgender may use. Dougall says it is invasive and makes him the "bathroom monitor." What should be the state auditor's role in implementing this law?

Tina Cannon » As the deputy state auditor, I can assure you the staff in the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) wants privacy and

Please see AUDITOR, A2

Loosening of campaign finance rules buoys big donors' influence

End of Federal Election Commission's longtime deadlock brings significant rollback of restrictions.

By SHANE GOLDMACHER | The New York Times

For more than a decade, America's campaign watchdog agency was a portrait of dysfunction. Divided equally between three Republicans and three Democrats, the Federal Election Commission deadlocked so often it became a political punchline as investigations languished, enforcement slowed and updated guidelines for the internet era stalled.

Now, the commission has suddenly come unstuck.

In a series of recent decisions that are remaking the landscape of money in American politics, an ascendant new bloc of three Republicans and one Democrat is voting together to roll back limits on how politicians, political parties and super political action committees raise and spend money.

Reform groups are aghast at what they see as the swift unraveling of long-standing restraints. Conservatives who for years have dreamed of loosening restrictions are delighted, even though many of the rulings were sought by one of the Democratic Party's most prominent attorneys, Marc Elias, who was seeking

political advantage and clarity for his clients.

Those on both sides of the ideological divide agree on one thing: The changes amount to some of the most significant regulatory revisions since the campaign finance law, the McCain-Feingold Act, was put in place two decades ago.

"These decisions are a monumental shift in the law at the commission," said Sean Cooksey, the Republican chair of the Federal Election Commission. "The deregulators are winning."

A NEW SWING VOTE

At the center of the shift is

PHOTO BY POLITICAL CASR, A6

TAKING AIM AT THE PERFECT UTAH COURSE

ZAC BLAIR » A PGA Tour career has been a long game for the ex-BYU All-American, so it's fitting that building a Utah course is taking some time. » SPORTS, B1



A VOTER GUIDE TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Access The Tribune's primer by scanning the QR code.



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