

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION POSITION STATEMENT

- WHEREAS,** PTA supports the democratic process and encourages its membership to be active participants in the election of child/parent-friendly representatives in the various elected bodies, including the State Board of Education; and
- WHEREAS,** the State Board of Education is designed to be a body representative of a geographic area and thus responsive, foremost, to the voters; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2004, the Utah State Legislature enacted legislation which has empowered representatives of special interest groups who are not accountable to the voters to make decisions concerning which candidates are on the ballot for the State School Board; and
- WHEREAS,** On September 5, 2014, U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups ruled that Utah's process of selecting candidates for the State School Board, in which candidates are vetted by committee and chosen by the governor, unconstitutionally limits participation and violates constitutional guarantees of free speech; and
- WHEREAS,** Partisan election of school board members puts the focus on political parties and not upon qualified candidates; and
- WHEREAS,** A November 2011 Dan Jones Poll showed that 66% oppose forcing candidates for the Utah State Board of Education to run through a political party which would require going through primaries and conventions in order to get nominated; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support legislation which enacts direct, nonpartisan election of State School Board members and opposes partisan election of the same body.