

**JONATHAN
JOHNSON
GOVERNOR 2016**



PRESS RELEASE: Herbert Declines Debate Invitations Stating He is "Not an Official Candidate"

This despite multiple "Herbert for Governor" fundraisers in 2015

Sasha Clark
Director of Communications
Sasha@HireJJ.com
M: [\(801\) 719-1575](tel:8017191575)

Herbert Denies Opportunity to Inform Voters, Instead Hosting Multiple Campaign Fundraisers

Village Square of Utah, the Utah Freedom Forum and other groups extended invitations to both the Johnson for Governor and Herbert for Governor campaigns to debate about critical Utah issues for the benefit of voters.

The Johnson for Governor campaign has willingly accepted each of these invitations. The Herbert for Governor campaign has refused each invitation.

For example, Herbert for Governor campaign manager Marty Carpenter declined the invitation from Village Square stating, "2015 is a year to focus on fulfilling his duties as Governor". **(See image below)**

Also, Herbert for Governor deputy campaign manager Heather Groom Hawkins turned down the invitation to the Freedom Forum on the grounds that the "Governor is not an official candidate yet". **(See image below)**

However, the Governor has hosted or plans to host multiple fundraisers in 2015 (**see images below**) soliciting donations and spending hours with donors and special interest groups, including a Washington D.C. fundraiser later this month which seeks corporate donations up to \$10,000 and a Salt Lake fundraiser which seeks donations up to \$25,000. Governor Herbert has also taken the time to attend the recent fundraisers of Rep. Paul Ryan and presidential candidate, Jeb Bush while they were in Utah.

"Like many career politicians, Gov. Herbert has opted to spend time soliciting donations and talking with special interest groups instead of using that time to inform voters and debate solutions to critical Utah issues", stated Sasha Clark, Director of Communications for Jonathan Johnson for Governor. Governor Herbert has been an elected politician since 1990 and is seeking a third term as governor of Utah.

With the Count My Vote Initiative changes adopted in S.B. 54, candidates may begin gathering signatures as early as January 2016 to be on a primary ballot. With this change, voters have a right to compare the candidates side by side before that date.

Ms. Clark continued: "What many Utahns don't realize is that when then they sign a signature petition for a candidate, the Lt. Governor may reject that signature if the person has signed a signature for another candidate. It is only the first signature submitted by a candidate and approved by the Lt. Governor's office that counts under the Count My Vote Initiative. Thus, Utahns are effectively casting a soft vote when signing a signature petition. That is why frequent debates during 2015 are important."

To those who feel the gubernatorial candidates should debate, we encourage them to call the Governor's office at 801-538-1000 to ask why Governor Herbert will not debate and request that he take time from his fundraising and campaign activities to participate in a series of debates throughout the state this year.

For more information about potential debates and responses, please contact Sasha Clark, Communications Director for Johnson for Governor, at [801-719-1575](tel:801-719-1575).

Response from Marty Carpenter, Campaign Manager for Herbert for Governor

From: Marty Carpenter <marty@garyherbert.com>
Date: Thursday, Sept 9 at 1:09 PM
Subject: Invitation
To: jacob@villagesquareutah.org
Cc: Heather Groom <heather.groom@gmail.com>

Dr. Hess,

Thank you for reaching out and expressing interest in hosting an event with Governor Gary Herbert. Unfortunately, we have to decline at this time.

Governor Herbert believes 2015 is a year to focus on fulfilling his responsibilities as governor. Of course, he looks forward to debating the issues at the appropriate time in 2016.

Sincerely,

MC

Marty Carpenter
Herbert for Governor
mcarpenter@garyherbert.com
[801.971.3801](tel:801.971.3801)

Response from Heather Hawkins Groom, Deputy Campaign Manager of Herbert for Governor

Response to the offer of hosting a debate between you and the governor from Heather Hawkins Groom:

"Thank you for the offer, Mary. The governor has not yet officially announced he will be running again. So, we will not be participating in any debates until after he is an official candidate in the race. It sounds like you are busy with your forums. Maybe I will see you next time I am in St. George. Take care!"

September Fundraiser Invite for DC Lobbyists

PLEASE JOIN

UTAH GOVERNOR GARY R. HERBERT

FOR A CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

5:00 - 6:30 PM

HONEYWELL

101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW

SUITE 500W

WASHINGTON, DC

INDIVIDUAL - \$500

PAC - \$1,000

CORPORATE - \$2,500 • \$5,000 • \$10,000

2015 Governors' Gala Invite

