

On February 12th, the Sandy GOP Club invited Greg to speak at it's Lincoln-Reagan dinner. They graciously allowed Greg, and other candidates attending, to speak for approximately two minutes. This is the text from which Greg based his talk. This speech was also presented at the Wasatch County dinner on the same night by Greg's Communications Director, Jim Ackerman.

A TIME TO DECIDE
Gregory P. Hawkins
February 12, 2000

The architects of this nation gave the world its first written constitution and began the great American experiment in self-government. Their vision and the sacrifice of millions have made America the most consequential nation on earth.

At the dawn of this new millennium a new generation is prepared to carry the torch of their vision. Government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" has struggled through many severe challenges, but few more perilous than what Orrin Hatch himself warned about, what the "Founders of the Republic feared most: A permanent elite or ruling oligarchy."

IT WAS THE VISION of the Framers that congress be a citizen legislature, THUS GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

IT WAS THEIR VISION that the people of this nation would be informed and involved, THUS GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE.

IT WAS THEIR VISION that government be the servant of the people not their master, THUS GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE.

The belief that a career politician must stay in office or "else" is not only the core problem with the politician himself, it is the foundation of delusion that has created the unmoving congressional mass we have lived with for decades. It is the essence of the "permanent elite" we've been warned against. It is the number one reason why citizen apathy is so high. People don't care because people don't believe they matter any more.

We can return government to the people by electing citizen candidates - candidates who are committed to doing the people's work, candidates who will voluntarily return to private life to live with the laws they've created.

THE DAWN OF THIS NEW MILLENNIUM HAS BROUGHT US TO A CROSSROADS OF DECISION: DO WE STILL BELIEVE THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT CAN WORK?

Do we believe enough to require career politicians to come home? Do we believe enough to elect capable citizen candidates - a government of the people?

Do we believe enough to elect people to congress who will reestablish the balance of power and lift the burden of suffocating federal bureaucracy, regulation and taxation and make government our servant - a government for the people?

Do we believe enough to look beyond sound bites to understand the issues. Do we believe enough to participate in ways we have felt we should but haven't -a government by the people.

I believe in Self-government. I am not a politician by profession. I am a neighbor, a husband, a father, a teacher, an attorney - a citizen. I am ready and willing to stand. I will stand for you. I will stand for principle. But I promise I will not try to stand forever in Washington.