



## Provo Candidate Survey 2023

Thank you to the candidates for their willingness to serve our community. We appreciate their consideration of this issue survey on matters that are important to voters. Best Friends Animal Society is the leading organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters by 2025. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs across the country, and we operate the nation's largest no-kill animal sanctuary in Utah.

Candidate responses below are verbatim to how they were submitted and have not been altered in any way.

### Provo City Council District 1

**Candidate:** Craig Christensen

**Occupation:** Consultant

**Employer:** kraftworx, inc.

**Campaign E-Mail:** craig@craig4provo.com

**Campaign Website:** www.craig4provo.com

**Social Media Links:** Insta and Facebook: craig4provo

- **Which public offices have you held?**  
none

- **Are you an incumbent?**  
No

### General Background Questions

- **Please describe your experience with Best Friends or other animal organizations.**  
Little to none
- **Do you have any pets? If so, what kind?**  
Not currently. I have owned two dogs.
- **Why are you running for this office? What makes you qualified to serve?**  
I feel its my responsibility to contribute to my community. I have been involved in Provo issues for the last four years.
- **What groups have endorsed your campaign as of today?**
- **What civic and/or professional organizations are you a member of?**

- **What boards or commissions do you serve on?**  
Conserve Utah Valley

### Issue Questions

- **How do you propose to influence municipal animal services policies should you win the office you are seeking?**  
Be open to the needs of animal services.
- **How much freedom do you believe that animal control facilities and shelters in Utah should have to implement new and different programs designed to save all healthy and treatable dogs and cats?**  
I'm still learning about animal control facilities.
- **Please describe what you believe are the top priorities of the animal shelter and field services in the city.**  
I don't have three. I do believe we should be humane to all of our animals. They are part of our stewardship as good citizens.

*The number one reason owners report surrendering their dog to a shelter, in Utah and nationwide, is housing barriers. Often these barriers are a lack of pet friendly rental housing and rental housing that has bans on certain breeds of dogs.*

- **What can you do to help keep pets with their families and incentivize more pet-inclusive housing?**  
Encourage people to be responsible acquiring a pet.
- **70% of lost pets traveled less than one mile from their home. What steps can Utah take to ensure families get reunited and pets do not have to travel to the shelter?**  
I don't know. I'm open to solutions that would be helpful.

*Studies show that Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return programs are effective at controlling stray populations and reduces the number of cats killed in shelters by more than 75%.*

*Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) Support*

- **Please describe your position on trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) programs by animal control facilities and shelters to humanely reduce the free-roaming stray cat population as provided by the Utah Community Cat Act.**
- **Many cities across the country, and in Utah, provide funding for spay/neuter services, for the shelter and residents, in the city budget. Would you support city-funded support for spay/neuter procedures for dogs and cats in the city? Please explain.**
- **Do you agree that animal shelters should publicly share all inspection, intake and disposition data for the purpose of better lifesaving strategic planning and community engagement? Please explain your position.**

- **Would you support policies and ordinances to allow for the implementation of the necessary programs by animal control facilities and shelters that will save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats?**

I love this idea, and I don't know what the barriers are.

- **Do you support allowing animal control facilities and shelters in Utah to implement the programs that they deem necessary to save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats? Please explain your position.**

- **Do you support the No-Kill Shelter movement saving 90% or more of the dogs and cats that enter an animal shelter?**

I like the idea.

**Candidate:** Stan Jensen

**Occupation:** Business Lawyer

**Employer:** The Jensen Firm

**Campaign E-Mail:** Stan@voteStanJensen.com

**Campaign Website:** voteStanJensen.com

- **Which public offices have you held?**

- **Are you an incumbent?**

No

#### General Background Questions

- **Please describe your experience with Best Friends or other animal organizations.**

I have not had direct interactions with Best Friends

- **Do you have any pets? If so, what kind?**

I don't currently have pets in my home. Until recently we had two cats Smokey and Tiger Lilly. Growing up we had dogs labs, and britneys and a few mixed and a couple cats. I also had a pet racoon, turtles and other random pets.

- **Why are you running for this office? What makes you qualified to serve?**

I am running to help Provo government be more responsive to citizens priorities and goals. I have degrees in business and law and 25 plus years of corporate transaction experience. I have served as Chair for Provo District 1 Neighborhood program and participated in various other organizations and programs with the city and with community and other volunteer organizations.

- **What groups have endorsed your campaign as of today?**

I have endorsements from people but have not sought endorsements from groups.

- **What civic and/or professional organizations are you a member of?**

Bar Association of Utah, and  
Central Utah Bar Association

- **What boards or commissions do you serve on?**  
Provo District 1 Neighborhood Chair, (currently on leave to run for City Council)  
I serve as a Precinct vice chair in the republican party and as a member of the State Central Committee in the republican party.

### Issue Questions

- **How do you propose to influence municipal animal services policies should you win the office you are seeking?**  
I believe the kind humane treatment of animals improves us and our community and would support efforts to continue and improve such treatment.
- **How much freedom do you believe that animal control facilities and shelters in Utah should have to implement new and different programs designed to save all healthy and treatable dogs and cats?**  
I generally favor allowing private businesses wide control in how they operate and achieve their goals and objectives and that principle should apply to animal shelters and animal control facilities.
- **Please describe what you believe are the top priorities of the animal shelter and field services in the city.**  
I believe the top priorities of animal shelters should be to provide humane treatment and to protect animals and people from disease and harm.

*The number one reason owners report surrendering their dog to a shelter, in Utah and nationwide, is housing barriers. Often these barriers are a lack of pet friendly rental housing and rental housing that has bans on certain breeds of dogs.*

- **What can you do to help keep pets with their families and incentivize more pet-inclusive housing?**  
I see education and sharing information about benefits of pets and families as important to providing appropriate housing that allows pets.
- **70% of lost pets traveled less than one mile from their home. What steps can Utah take to ensure families get reunited and pets do not have to travel to the shelter?**  
I understand there are some pet tracking options or services available but I am not an expert in what is available or recommended in this area.

*Studies show that Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return programs are effective at controlling stray populations and reduces the number of cats killed in shelters by more than 75%.*

*Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) Support*

- **Please describe your position on trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) programs by animal control facilities and shelters to humanely reduce the free-roaming stray cat population as provided by the Utah Community Cat Act.**  
I have not yet studied this issue, it sounds like it may be a good approach but I would need more research.

- **Many cities across the country, and in Utah, provide funding for spay/neuter services, for the shelter and residents, in the city budget. Would you support city-funded support for spay/neuter procedures for dogs and cats in the city? Please explain.**

I understand that in the area of and around my city there are some low cost options for vaccinations and other vet services but I am not aware of cities near me funding or subsidizing spay / neuter services. Adding a new government program or subsidy may be appropriate, but it would have to be weighed by the tradeoff for other uses of such funds, and the items the citizens indicate is their highest priorities.

- **Do you agree that animal shelters should publicly share all inspection, intake and disposition data for the purpose of better lifesaving strategic planning and community engagement? Please explain your position.**

I generally believe transparency is important in business and government; however, I don't necessarily support requiring reporting of information to government or others without a better understanding of the costs and benefits of such reporting in a specific situation.

- **Would you support policies and ordinances to allow for the implementation of the necessary programs by animal control facilities and shelters that will save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats?**

I of course want to support saving healthy treatable animals, but would need to better understand the impacts and costs of new legislation or requirements to further these goals.

- **Do you support allowing animal control facilities and shelters in Utah to implement the programs that they deem necessary to save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats? Please explain your position.**

I generally favor giving broad autonomy to shelters they deem necessary and appropriate.

- **Do you support the No-Kill Shelter movement saving 90% or more of the dogs and cats that enter an animal shelter?**

The published numbers of the South Utah Valley Animal Shelter which services the my city indicates its save rates for dogs is between 96% and 98% and its save rates for cats is between 88% and 77%. I would be glad to look at what factors could improve rates especially for cats.

### **Provo City Council District 3**

**Candidate:** Becky Bogdin – No Response

**Candidate:** David Lewis

**Occupation:** General Contractor

**Campaign E-Mail:** bwd.northshore@gmail.com

**Campaign Website:** dave4provo.com

- **Which public offices have you held?**

- **Are you an incumbent?**

No

### General Background Questions

- **Please describe your experience with Best Friends or other animal organizations.**

I don't have past experience.

- **Do you have any pets? If so, what kind?**

I currently don't have any pets. I have had dogs and cats in the past.

- **Why are you running for this office? What makes you qualified to serve?**

I love where I live. I think I have life and business experience that will strengthen the city council through my service. I have been involved with several other organizations where I added strong value and made a difference. I think I can provide the same value for Provo.

- **What groups have endorsed your campaign as of today?**

- **What civic and/or professional organizations are you a member of?**

Park City Home Builders Association

- **What boards or commissions do you serve on?**

Currently not serving on any boards.

I have served on the

Uniform Building Code Commission for the State of Utah

Spanish Fork Planning Commission

### Issue Questions

- **How do you propose to influence municipal animal services policies should you win the office you are seeking?**

I will be prepared to review policy proposals.

- **How much freedom do you believe that animal control facilities and shelters in Utah should have to implement new and different programs designed to save all healthy and treatable dogs and cats?**

I think animal control facilities should have policies and procedures reviewed and approved at an administrative level and then allowed to carry out the mission of the shelters.

- **Please describe what you believe are the top priorities of the animal shelter and field services in the city.**

Finding homes for lost or abandoned animals.

*The number one reason owners report surrendering their dog to a shelter, in Utah and nationwide, is housing barriers. Often these barriers are a lack of pet friendly rental housing and rental housing that has bans on certain breeds of dogs.*

- **What can you do to help keep pets with their families and incentivize more pet-inclusive housing?**

I am not sure what we can do to incentivize pet inclusive housing.

- **70% of lost pets traveled less than one mile from their home. What steps can Utah take to ensure families get reunited and pets do not have to travel to the shelter?**

This sounds like an area that would be helpful to have improved solutions.

*Studies show that Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate–Return programs are effective at controlling stray populations and reduces the number of cats killed in shelters by more than 75%.*

*Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) Support*

- **Please describe your position on trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) programs by animal control facilities and shelters to humanely reduce the free-roaming stray cat population as provided by the Utah Community Cat Act.**

I support this program.

- **Many cities across the country, and in Utah, provide funding for spay/neuter services, for the shelter and residents, in the city budget. Would you support city-funded support for spay/neuter procedures for dogs and cats in the city? Please explain.**

I think this is worth reviewing, I need to understand the impact on the City budget.

- **Do you agree that animal shelters should publicly share all inspection, intake and disposition data for the purpose of better lifesaving strategic planning and community engagement? Please explain your position.**

I do think animal shelters should publicly share data.

- **Would you support policies and ordinances to allow for the implementation of the necessary programs by animal control facilities and shelters that will save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats?**

I support a review and budget discussion of this policy.

- **Do you support allowing animal control facilities and shelters in Utah to implement the programs that they deem necessary to save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats? Please explain your position.**

I think if the policies and procedures adopted by the communities supporting the shelter support this plan, the shelter should carry out this plan.

- **Do you support the No-Kill Shelter movement saving 90% or more of the dogs and cats that enter an animal shelter?**

I need to be more educated on this movement.

## **Provo City Council District 4**

**Candidate:** Travis Hoban – No Response

## Provo City Council City Wide II

**Candidate:** McKay Jensen – No Response

**Candidate:** Gary Garrett

**Occupation:** Retired from senior management of personal care company

**Campaign E-Mail:** garygarrett88@gmail.com

**Campaign Website:** garygarrett.org

- **Which public offices have you held?**  
Provo Municipal Council 2011-2015
- **Are you an incumbent?**  
No

### General Background Questions

- **Please describe your experience with Best Friends or other animal organizations.**  
No previous experience
- **Do you have any pets? If so, what kind?**  
No
- **Why are you running for this office? What makes you qualified to serve?**  
I served in this office previously for a term. I have worked and served on boards in downtown Provo for 33 years, including Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce, Provo Downtown Alliance, United Way of Utah County, Provo Rec Center bond election, Provo Kiwanis, among others.
- **What groups have endorsed your campaign as of today?**
- **What civic and/or professional organizations are you a member of?**
- **What boards or commissions do you serve on?**  
See above. All listed service was prior to three-year church service assignment in Panama. Just returned last year.

### Issue Questions

- **How do you propose to influence municipal animal services policies should you win the office you are seeking?**  
Study issues carefully and listen to stakeholders.
- **How much freedom do you believe that animal control facilities and shelters in Utah should have to implement new and different programs designed to save all healthy and treatable dogs and cats?**  
Question is fairly broad; however, generally I support autonomy.



- **Please describe what you believe are the top priorities of the animal shelter and field services in the city.**
  1. Educate on pet ownership commitment
  2. Promote adoption
  3. Assist with strays

*The number one reason owners report surrendering their dog to a shelter, in Utah and nationwide, is housing barriers. Often these barriers are a lack of pet friendly rental housing and rental housing that has bans on certain breeds of dogs.*

- **What can you do to help keep pets with their families and incentivize more pet-inclusive housing?**  
Encourage dog parks and other pet services everywhere, but especially in high-density communities.
- **70% of lost pets traveled less than one mile from their home. What steps can Utah take to ensure families get reunited and pets do not have to travel to the shelter?**

*Studies show that Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate–Return programs are effective at controlling stray populations and reduces the number of cats killed in shelters by more than 75%.*

*Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) Support*

- **Please describe your position on trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) programs by animal control facilities and shelters to humanely reduce the free-roaming stray cat population as provided by the Utah Community Cat Act.**  
I support this program
- **Many cities across the country, and in Utah, provide funding for spay/neuter services, for the shelter and residents, in the city budget. Would you support city-funded support for spay/neuter procedures for dogs and cats in the city? Please explain.**  
I support using city budget for some animal services and control. I believe this is expected by the residents of our city.
- **Do you agree that animal shelters should publicly share all inspection, intake and disposition data for the purpose of better lifesaving strategic planning and community engagement? Please explain your position.**  
Yes, I believe in transparency and open communication to improve services.
- **Would you support policies and ordinances to allow for the implementation of the necessary programs by animal control facilities and shelters that will save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats?**  
This makes sense to me based on the limited information I have.
- **Do you support allowing animal control facilities and shelters in Utah to implement the programs that they deem necessary to save all healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats? Please explain your position.**  
I am willing to be educated on the importance of saving all healthy dogs and cats.

- **Do you support the No-Kill Shelter movement saving 90% or more of the dogs and cats that enter an animal shelter?**

This also makes sense to me, and I am prepared to listen and learn about this movement.