How Well Do Republican Delegates Represent Other Utah Republicans

Matthew D. Frei
mattfrei27@gmail.com

Quin J. Monson

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub

Part of the Political Science Commons

The Annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference showcases some of the best student research from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The mentored learning program encourages undergraduate students to participate in hands-on and practical research under the direction of a faculty member. Students create these posters as an aide in presenting the results of their research to the public, faculty, and their peers.

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub/62

This is brought to you for free and open access by the Family, Home, and Social Sciences at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in FHSS Mentored Research Conference by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
How Well do Republican Delegates Represent Other Utah Republicans?

**INTRODUCTION**
Utah gives more power to nominating convention delegates than does any other state. In May 2010, Senator Robert Bennett was removed from office without facing a primary. Could the outcome have been different if another system were in place?

**METHODOLOGY**
Using original survey data, I compare the demographics of Republican delegates to primary and general election Republicans. Then, I compare their issue positions using an index created from the following issues:

- Reauthorizing the State Children’s Health Insurance Program
- The 2009 stimulus package
- Health insurance reform
- The 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Package
- Funding for a troop increase in Afghanistan

The resulting “National Issue Index” ranges from −5 to 5 with higher values representing Republican positions.

**IMPLICATIONS**
Delegates are neither demographically nor substantively representative of Utah Republican voters.

While our data does not speak specifically to the ousting of Senator Robert Bennett, it is clear that a more representative nomination system could lead to very different results.

Note: The bar chart above reports the predicted National Issue Index scores for a hypothetical person with the following attributes: 50-years-old, male, strong Republican, $70 and $85K annual income, Mormon, religiously very active, and employed by another person.

Matthew D. Frei
Mentor: Dr. J. Quin Monson
Department of Political Science