

SLC Council Candidates District 3	1. The Utah Inland Port, created by the Utah Legislature, could potentially render the Salt Lake Valley unlivable. What authority does the city council have to limit the growth of the port or reduce the damage it causes?
David Berg	The potential of an unlivable valley should be cause for mass concern and immediate action. SLC Council members must firmly say "No!" to the project and work to regain control over this area. We must do anything & everything possible to keep the polluting port from becoming a reality, including steadfast opposition from SLC appointees to the UIPA board of directors, litigation, and build coalitions with other government entities and elected officials opposed to the port within the valley & state.
Casey O'Brien McDonough	The city council has lots of authority including zoning, land use, planning, etc. But I don't believe any of that will actually stop the what the inland port supporters at the state intend to do. While there is litigation already at play, we need to do more. I don't believe the state legislature will negotiate with us in a way that will reflect what the residents of Salt Lake City want, which is no inland port. We must investigate possible eminent domain claims for the inland port and make the argument that the environmental costs far outweigh the economic gains. I believe the city council has the authority to spearhead that effort.
Chris Wharton	The legislation that created the port in 2018 broke the rules between state and local authority in Utah. It also stripped away much of Salt Lake City's ability to impose more environmental protections through zoning. I'm hopeful that pending litigation before the Utah Supreme Court will restore Salt Lake City's taxing and land use control over a majority of the port's boundaries. But even the most favorable legal outcome will not stop the port entirely. Salt Lake City will need to empower residents (especially those on the Westside) to stay engaged, lobby state leaders, diligently monitor and enforce federal regulations, and partner with private entities to protect the health of our residents and our environment. It will be a multifaced endeavor—likely over the course of many years—but I am committed to placing health, sustainability, transparency, and economic justice at the forefront of Salt Lake City's efforts.
2. On bad days, Salt Lake Valley has some of the worst air quality on the planet. Huge increases in truck and car traffic in the northwest quadrant will only make it worse. What is the city's role in addressing this?	
David Berg	Our only choice for the future of our city and the health of this valley is to stop the polluting port from ever being built. We already have the worst air in the world and don't have the luxury of doing anything other than taking decisive action for clean air quality. The city has a direct responsibility over the health of its citizens and our bad air should be addressed as an immediate threat to the future and wellbeing of our community.
Casey O'Brien McDonough	While I think it's a great idea to talk about planting more trees in response to the inland port, It is also simply unrealistic to believe that more trees will do very much to correct fir the environmental consequences of the inland port. We need to negotiate with the state to ensure the inland port includes serious and significant efforts for environmentally

	friendly transportation methods like electric or other modes of transportation. Solar power, wind power, and any other renewable methods to support the other developments. If the inland port continues as planned, we can at least make it a model for the most environmentally continues and least impactful inland port.
Chris Wharton	<p>Cities do not have the legal authority to regulate passenger or commercial vehicles directly, however, Salt Lake City can help reduce vehicle emissions through careful planning and investing in electric infrastructure. The use, orientation, and design of buildings and properties can have a significant impact on efficiency for attending vehicles. The City can also support investments in electrification, including charging stations for commercial trucks. I will continue to support these and any other measures that curtail traffic and reduce vehicle emissions.</p> <p>Aside from regulating vehicle emissions directly, cities are making efforts to offset increase vehicle emissions in other ways. The Community Renewable Energy Agency (CREA) will add new renewable energy supplies, like wind and solar, to Rocky Mountain Power's regional power supply and replace existing coal and gas power generation. Salt Lake City has led this effort and I am excited to see what we can accomplish in the coming years.</p>
<p>3. What will you do to protect the health of Salt Lake City's westside citizens who must live with the port's massive warehouses, noisy and dirty rail yards, traffic volume, congestion, noise, and badly polluted air? (There had been historic neglect, even abuse of the Westside of Salt Lake City. Air quality, healthcare, schools are the poorest in the valley. Westside residents are growing more and more aware of this discrimination and neglect.)</p>	
David Berg	The health of our westside community is vitally important and must take precedence over the polluting port that should never be built. Additionally, we must put an end to the neglect of our most diverse neighborhoods. I'll help make sure this port is never built and I'll fight for justice in all areas for westside residents.
Casey O'Brien McDonough	<p>When we look at how tax are collected and spent across the city, the west side always comes up high in where we get the money, and low on where we spend the money. Research has long shown that those who live near major thoroughfares like out freeways suffer more than those who don't. On top of that we have the new threat of the inland port and all its affects on the west side. We need to ensure the west side gets the attention it deserves and that where and how we spend tax dollars is a reflection of who needs it most. I have been researching methods to clean the air like large scale solar and wind power generated air filtration systems (https://www.google.com/amp/s/ideas.ted.com/this-tower-sucks-up-smog-and-turns-it-into-diamonds/amp/) and we must start thinking about out of the box ways we can make direct impacts on pollution, especially on the west side where the impacts are the most significant on that part of our city and the residents there.</p>
Chris Wharton	Even though most of the district I represent is east of I-15, I have been highly involved with Westside issues throughout my time on the City Council. The economic, social, and environmental injustices on the Westside are rooted in generations of systemic inequality and inattention from City Hall. That's why I ran for City Council after serving on the City Human Rights Commission. That's why I'm in Westside neighborhoods every week, engaging with residents and businesses. And that's also why I've worked to put equity

	<p>initiatives at the forefront of every budget and policy conversation.</p> <p>In addition to establishing a dedicated revenue stream for affordable housing with funds from the port, I helped set environmental standards for businesses in the area and permanently set aside 4,000 acres of the most sensitive lands and habitats from future development. Moving forward, I will ensure that the tax revenue generated by the port is reinvested directly into the most pressing needs of our Westside communities. I will also require any businesses seeking City support to demonstrate a commitment to advancing equity and sustainability in the northwest quadrant area.</p>
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4. As a community leader and city council member, how will you bring high wages, secure and union-supported jobs to the westside of SLC? (The Utah Inland Port touts good paying jobs but so far has built only warehouses. Warehouse employees are poorly paid, easily dismissed, and inevitably replaced by automation. These are not the high tech, high paid careers that promoters of growth hope for.)

David Berg	<p>The better economic and financial lives of our westside residents starts with how we are allocating investment resources across our city. It's time we make massive investments in education, housing, child care, and prosperity on the west side so residents can have more mobility in positions, especially those backed by unions. This resource investment also supports new local businesses that hire directly from the community. I will actively support union's efforts to organize workers, support entrepreneurs starting businesses, and increase job training programs.</p>
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Casey O'Brien McDonough	<p>We are having a conversation across the county right now regarding the min. wage, standard of living, etc. We must encourage higher wages for the work we ultimately all value like warehouse workers who provide benefits to all of us getting us what we want and need quickly and efficiently. We must find ways to encourage people to use and governments to incentivize companies who put people first and profits second. I believe the free market system of economics has and continues to bring the world out of poverty. But it a system that must be checked constantly for its consequences for those making the least and suffering the most from it, and it needs some serious and significant checking and balancing right now.</p>
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Chris Wharton	<p>As a councilmember, I value economic development but not at the expense of working families. I have the support of the Utah AFL-CIO, the Central Utah Federation of Labor, and the local affiliates of the operating engineers, transportation workers, and public employees unions. I've earned the trust of these groups because of my dedication to fair compensation, decent benefits, safe working conditions, and the right to collective bargaining. These groups also know I am committed to affordability and economic diversity in every neighborhood. I will bring the voices of those workers to the table whenever Salt Lake City is recruiting and partnering with private sector employers.</p>
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5. How will you protect the abundant wildlife and up to 10 million migratory birds that depend on the wetlands of the Northwest Quadrant of Salt Lake City for survival?

David Berg	These important wetlands are home to a wide variety of species of millions of birds and we need to fight for them to be made state/federally protected wilderness areas immediately. As climate change continues to wreak havoc around the world, we must be conscious of how man made actions have had disastrous repercussions across the animal kingdom. We must aggressively protect birds and wildlife throughout the Northwest quadrant, all of SLC and Utah.
Casey O'Brien McDonough	I would wheel back to my first answer. We need to fight back against the port even if it means taking eminent domain action so we put the true values and costs of what is being proposed and what is being threatened to the court of public and legal opinion. The cities original plan to developer some and protect some of the northwest quadrant was the result of widespread and thoughtful public and private property input and my personal opinion is it was a good plan. The state is putting money and economic development first over the will of the residents of our city and the best interests of our environment. We must do everything we can to protect the wetland and wildlife for ourselves and the future.
Chris Wharton	Protecting 4,000 of the 7,000 developable acres in the most environmentally sensitive areas is a good start and I was proud to help put that in place. But we need to keep fighting to protect all wildlife species in the area. City Code currently requires a 400-foot eco-buffer around the Great Salt Lake and I will fight to maintain that area and the sustainability requirements associated with it—including compliance with the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There may also be opportunities for the City and/or private conservation groups to acquire land or establish conservation easements and I will work diligently to pursue any option that becomes available.