

# Rebuttal to the Opposition

David Irvine

The only issue for voters is whether Bountiful residents want more park space for recreation and family use and whether the plan to finance it makes sense. Less obvious but equally important is whether residents would benefit from a 10-acre park (the size of Temple Square).

In survey after survey, voters say they want more parks, trails, soccer fields, and pickleball courts. There are only three ways to pay for such a project: (1) raise taxes to generate \$8 million next year; (2) cut \$8 million out of the existing budget; or (3) borrow at the best interest rate available.

Mr. Mortensen's litany of complaints is more intended to criticize a wisely governed city than to seriously address the actual ballot question. I can't think of a civic improvement over the years that Mr. Mortensen has favored.

The most deceptively misleading argument he makes (of several) is "*the fact that the city does not currently have any bond debt should be a badge of honor – not a reason to justify bonding.*" The *real* badge of honor is the City's excellent bond *rating*, which makes low interest borrowing possible.

The biggest investment most of us make is buying a home. Prudent borrowing is essential to most families and most businesses. Smart bonding for needed capital investments is wise government at work.

Bountiful has long been wisely managed for just such an opportunity, and our great community will be an even better place to live, if we vote YES.