

# On Utah Politics

The Mormon Church wants to avoid the appearance of influencing Utah politics, except when it doesn't. The 2018 ballot has a proposition to legalize the medicinal use of cannabis (marijuana). In my view, this is obviously a good thing for both liberty and for patients. I interpret opposition to this proposition as opposition to both liberty and wellness. Will cannabis use produce wellness in every patient? Probably not, but commitments to liberty and health demand that every patient, on the advice of their physician, be allowed to try. To my knowledge, there's no evidence that cannabis has ever made a patient worse off. The opposition is either ignorant or nefarious. In the case of the Mormon Church, it has a long history of dealing with theological and philosophical dissidents on an institutional level. Your typical member, including those who serve as lawmakers, doesn't want their church to suspect them of any level of heresy, lest they be summoned before a Stake disciplinary council. Therefore, directly or indirectly, the Mormon Church does influence Utah politics. The solution? Abolish Utah politics. Duh! And that's today's two cents.