



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Community
Engaged Learning

WSU students find Utah 1st Congressional District candidate statements to be true a little more than half the time in live debate fact check event

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OGDEN, UT- Weber State University students found the combined candidate statements in the Utah 1st Congressional District debate, held on Oct. 17, to be true a little more than half of the time during its first live debate fact check event.

Sponsored by the university's Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL), students enrolled in investigative journalism, policy debate, broadcasting and political science courses rated the candidates' statements on a scale ranging from true to false. The checked facts were posted through a Facebook Live stream in real-time during the debate.

According to the fact checkers, Republican candidate Rob Bishop completed the debate with 10 facts checked with two true statements, one mostly true, two mostly false, with one being overall false. Democratic candidate Lee Castillo finished the debate with 14 comments checked with 11 true, one mostly true, and none of the checked comments false. With a total of 12 facts check, Eric Eliason, the United Utah candidate, finished with seven true facts, one mostly true, and one mostly false, with zero checked facts being false.

Students not only checked facts, but collaborated to stage the technical aspects of the event. Communication major Hillary Reilly worked behind the scenes to make sure the pre-show and post-show ran smoothly.

"I'd say the most interesting part was being a part of it, running the teleprompter, working behind the scenes and seeing how fellow students functioned while checking the facts and making sure everything was right," she said.

The Southwest branch of the Weber County Library in Roy also hosted a community event featuring the livestream of the event.

