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# The Pulse of Utah Politics

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## **OSHER 725-001**

**Dates:** Tuesdays, 1/19/16 – 3/01/16

**Times:** 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**Location:** Utah State Capitol, East Senate Office Building, Olmsted Room, Room #115

**Instructor:** Sheryl Allen and Trisha Beck

### **Course Overview**

It has been said, “Laws, like sausages, cease to inspire respect in proportion as we know how they are made.” This unique class will, as much as possible, strive to make sense of the process and outcome of politics in Utah. In addition to spirited discussions, Osher members will learn how to better navigate Utah's political arena by witnessing firsthand what is happening on the Hill during the 2016 legislative session. Meeting at the Capitol will provide a unique opportunity to observe lobbyists, advocates, and elected officials in action, and track the status of bills. Osher members will learn—and witness—how ordinary people can create extraordinary results as advocates.

With the benefit of assistance from course instructors—former legislators and popular Osher instructors, Sheryl Allen (R-from Davis County) and Trisha Beck (D-from Sandy), Osher members will be encouraged to identify issues and track bills of personal interest. The combined expertise of these esteemed public servants will amplify discussion about major topics likely to be discussed during the 2016 session, e.g: SB54 (Count My Vote); Medicaid expansion; Education; Public Lands and Clean Air.

The January 19th class will be held at the Capitol a week before the legislature convenes so parking should not be an issue. Class will include an orientation to the Capitol, a refresher on how an idea becomes a law, and introduction to issues.

Parking is extremely difficult during the legislative session. For the remainder of the course (Jan. 26 – Mar. 01), Free, limited parking is available at the Salt Lake Central Station, 250 S. 600 W. UTA Bus Route 500 runs to the Capitol every half hour from the Salt Lake Central Station (check bus time-tables) and is included in Salt Lake City's Free Fare Zone. When boarding the bus, simply tell the bus driver you intend to stay in the Free Fare Zone to ride without charge.

### **January 19, 2016**

How a bill becomes a law; how constituents can advocate; learn to navigate the legislative website; brief orientation of the Utah State Capitol; Osher member transportation to Capitol during the legislative session.



## **January 26, 2016**

The Legislative Calendar; Identify bills that peak your interest; Capitol Tour

## **February 2, 9, 16, 2016**

Spirited classroom discussion; Track status of bills; Attend Appropriation Subcommittee hearings and/or Standing Committee hearings.

## **February 23, 2016**

The End in Sight: What happens before Sine Die (final adjournment of a legislative session).

## **Instructor Bios**

Following ten years as a volunteer lobbyist advocating for individuals with disabilities, a quality public education, and the right to access affordable health care, **Trisha Beck** served in the Utah State House of Representatives for four terms 1997-2002 and again in 2009-2010. Trisha has served on dozens of State boards and committees. With over 30 years in the political arena, Trisha delights in sharing her knowledge and understanding of Utah Politics. Trisha is a University of Utah Alumni with a degree in Political Science.

Before entering politics, **Sheryl Allen** was an educator and Public Relations Director of the Davis Applied Technology College. She served as president of the Davis County Board of Education, and she represented the 19th District of the Utah House of Representatives from 1994 to 2011. In May 2010, Salt Lake County mayor Peter Corroon, the Democratic candidate for Governor of Utah, selected Allen as his running mate for the office of Lieutenant Governor, making them the first major bipartisan ticket in Utah state history. Although defeated, Sheryl has remained committed to improving the lives of Utah residents, working tirelessly as an advocate for Real Women Run, Utahns for Ethical Government, Utahns for Public Education, Alliance for a Better Utah, KUED, and she currently serves as Chair of the Richards Institute for Ethics at Weber State University.