Methodology

On December 7-8, 2014, Basswood Research conducted a statewide survey of likely Republican primary voters in Utah. The survey was conducted by live professional interviewers by telephone. The sample size was 600, with a margin of error of +/- 4%, at a 95% confidence interval. Interviews were geographically distributed to reflect actual voting patterns in Utah GOP primary elections.

Key Findings

- **Among those who are likely to vote in a Republican primary, U.S. Senator Mike Lee is in a very strong position for re-election.**

  Mike Lee favorability: 76% Favorable, 11% Unfavorable, 14% No opinion

  Orrin Hatch favorability: 72% Favorable, 23% Unfavorable, 6% No opinion
                                   [Hatch won his 2012 primary, 66%-34%]

  Lee job approval: On "fighting Obamacare":
                         70% Approve, 11% Disapprove

                         On "reducing federal spending and the national debt":
                         66% Approve, 12% Disapprove

                         On "supporting local Utah interests and needs":
                         71% Approve, 8% Disapprove

                         On "working well with others in the political process":
                         58% Approve, 21% Disapprove

                         On "being a good role model for Utahns":
                         72% Approve, 11% Disapprove

- **Lee's support is broad-based across ideological lines among primary voters**

  Lee favorable/unfavorable ratings among those who are:

Republicans	76-12
Independents	71-8
Tea Party voters	89-4
Very conservatives	87-4
Somewhat conservatives	75-10
Moderates	53-27

Summary

Recent changes in Utah election law increase the possibility that the 2016 Republican U.S. Senate nomination will be decided in a primary election rather than at a party convention. If that happens, based on his present day public support, Senator Mike Lee would enter a Republican primary in an overwhelmingly strong position.

Lee has a massively strong base of support among conservative and Tea Party voters, and he also has strong support among moderate Republicans and Independents who are likely to vote in a Republican primary. Lee's strong job approval ratings run the gamut from issue-based (Obamacare and the national debt), to character-based (being a good role model), to local-based (supporting local Utah interests and needs). Quite simply, there is no faction of the primary electorate that expresses a significant level of unhappiness with Lee's performance in office.

For comparison, in 2012, Senator Orrin Hatch did not win the Utah GOP nomination at the convention, and instead went on to face a contested primary, which Hatch handily won 66%-34%. Today, Senator Lee's favorable rating among primary voters is net 16 points higher than Senator Hatch's. A primary challenger to Senator Lee would face enormously long odds.

About Basswood Research

Since its founding in 2001, Basswood Research has conducted survey research in every state and in hundreds of local communities. Its founder and principal, Jon Lerner, has been recognized by *Roll Call*, *National Journal*, the *Washington Post* and others as one of the nation's leading pollsters. Basswood has helped elect more than three dozen U.S. Senators, Members of Congress, and Governors. In the just completed 2014 election cycle, Basswood conducted surveys for Governor Nikki Haley, Governor-elect Charlie Baker, Governor-elect Bruce Rauner, Senator Tim Scott, Senator-elect David Perdue, the RGA, the NRSC, the NRCC, the Club for Growth, and the Senate Conservatives Fund, among others.