

Jan. 2022

# UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Weekly Newsletter of RRJ Consulting  
*Utah's Leading Lobbying Firm*



## WELCOME TO THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2022 General Legislative Session began this week! To kick things off, Speaker Brad Wilson and Senate President Stuart Adams addressed their respective bodies. A big theme this session will be growth in our state and how we can effectively work together to ensure Utahns and Utah businesses can continue to enjoy a high quality of life.

## BUDGET NUMBERS

One of the Legislature's top priorities each year is to create and pass a balanced budget. This week, appropriations committees began meeting to decide how this year's funds should be allocated. Utah has the largest budget it's ever seen, with \$21.87 Billion to appropriate. Click [here](#) for more information on Utah's budget.

## UTAH'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Utah's unemployment rate hit a historic low this week at 1.9%. In comparison, the national unemployment rate currently sits at 3.7%. The biggest job gains have been in the industries of Trade, Transportation and Utilities (22,300 new jobs); Professional and Business Services (15,200 new jobs); Construction (11,500 new jobs); and Manufacturing (7,900 new jobs). Read more [here](#).

## STATE OF THE STATE

On Thursday, Governor Cox delivered the annual State of the State address. His remarks focused on education, water, election integrity, the economy, and more. Read the Governor's full remarks [here](#).



# THINGS TO LOOK FOR THIS SESSION

Each session, lawmakers consider over a thousand bills. We are keeping a close watch on many of these bills and will work with lawmakers to ensure the bills passed are benefitting our clients and the people of Utah.

Recently, the Legislature and Governor have talked extensively of a tax cut. Whether this comes in the form of an income tax cut or a sales tax cut, only time will tell.

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*The Utah Legislature meets for 45 days a year – from the third Tuesday of January to the first Friday of March*

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While it should come as no surprise, lawmakers will consider many pieces of legislation to address Utah's drought and water supply.

We know there will likely be several pieces of legislation that will impact local governments and other political subdivisions.

The Legislature is also expected to consider legislation dealing with economic development incentives, infrastructure, regulations, and much more.

Additionally, the Legislature will also look at housing affordability, road, transit and bike trail infrastructure, and as always, education. One key point of the House Republican policy pillars is education modernization. A Senate focus is homelessness and mental health.

## MEET THE TEAM



**ROB JOLLEY**



**JODI HART**



**CHRIS BLEAK**

With experience that no other lobbying firm in Utah has and influential relationships throughout state government to effectively communicate our clients' needs and positions, RRJ knows how to accomplish agendas and deliver real results. Whether it is defeating legislation and bills presumed too popular to beat, overriding a governor's veto, negotiating compromises, quietly passing controversial statutory changes, resurrecting defeated bills during the last day of the session, securing multi-million dollar appropriations, or simply passing legislation, RRJ has done it —and more.

Sincerely,

*Rob, Jodi, and Chris*

