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UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



WEEK SEVEN

And with that, the 2023 legislative session is in the books. Adjournment came early last Friday evening around 9:30 pm after the last bill in the House had passed. Both House and Senate soon adjourned Sine Die to wrap up the session.

BILLS TO GOVERNOR DESK

After the last gavel fell on the legislative session, it does not mark the end of the session. Over the next 21 days, Governor Cox and his team will work through the 575 passed bills to sign or veto those bills into law.

The media will announce the bills through final passage as well as the ones he decides to veto.

UTAH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The final AP Top 25 Poll has been released for women's basketball ahead of this weekend's Selection Sunday show.

The Utah women's basketball team remains in the Top 10, coming in at No. 8 after a loss to eventual Pac-12 Tournament winners Washington State last Thursday.

The Utes have had a magical season so far, being ranked as high as No. 3 in the country and sitting with a 25-4 record. They earned a piece of their first Pac-12 Title two weeks ago with a win over No. 3 Stanford and are gearing up to play host for the first two rounds of the upcoming NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

POLICY HIGHLIGHT

THAT'S A WRAP

The Utah Legislature's 45-day general session came early end after legislators finalized the state's record \$29 billion budget with hours to spare before its deadline. The 2023 session was largely dominated by debates over complex and generational issues facing the state, including what Utah should do about the record drought gripping the West and threatening the Great Salt Lake, how to tackle the state's housing affordability crisis, and how to fund other big budget priorities, including education.

Here are some of the most noteworthy funding highlights:

Water

- Nearly \$500 million to address statewide water conservation needs, including \$200 million for agricultural water optimization, \$40 million for water reuse and desalination, \$50 million for Wasatch Front aqueduct resilience, and \$50 million for water infrastructure projects.

Public Education

- An increase to the education budget of \$578 million in ongoing revenue and \$339 million in one-time funds, a nearly 20% increase. That includes \$236 million for a 6% increase in the value of the weighted pupil unit. In total, the Legislature appropriated \$15 billion for public education and education programs from all sources.

Taxes

- \$850m in total tax reduction, including income tax, social security tax, dependant, and child care tax.

Housing and Homelessness

- Approximately \$250m on housing and homelessness programs.

