

UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



REVENUE IS UP- BUT NOT WAY UP

This past week the legislature unveiled the updated revenue estimates. Previously, in December, they reported available revenue of \$504 million ongoing and \$134 million one-time. After fulfilling base budget commitments and allocating resources for tax cuts and compensation increases, those figures dwindled to \$7 million ongoing and \$267 million one-time.

The latest projections released last week suggest an additional \$126 million for ongoing and \$214 million for one-time allocation. It's worth noting that up to \$175 million of the one-time allocation is deemed high risk due to pending federal tax changes in Congress.

The sustained revenue growth underscores Utah's economy's return to a pattern of modest and sustainable growth, which bodes well for Utah's families.

WATER WEEK ON THE HILL

This past week marked the annual water week for the Utah Legislature. Utah has infused close to \$1 billion into enhancing Utah's water resources over the past two years. Local authorities, farmers, and residents statewide have embraced substantial adjustments to promote water conservation. The Utah Legislature celebrates the strides achieved thus far and pledges to continue crafting inventive and forward-thinking water policies, ensuring water security for Utah residents during droughts and periods of abundance.

FINAL TWO WEEKS

The Utah Legislature is just weeks away from the finish line. Standing committees are in full swing each day, with more and more floor time in both the House and Senate and Governor Cox continues to sign bills. The last day of the session is Friday, March 1 and the Governor has until Thursday, March 21 to sign or veto legislation.

A CLOSER LOOK

DATA PRIVACY

Data privacy is a pivotal concern in the context of government operations, as it entails the responsible handling of citizens' sensitive information by public institutions. Governments collect vast amounts of data to fulfill administrative, regulatory, and service delivery functions, ranging from census data to tax records and healthcare information. Ensuring robust data privacy practices within government agencies is imperative to uphold citizens' rights to privacy, security, and due process.

H.B. 491 - Data Privacy Amendments

Rep. Jefferson Moss has introduced HB 491- Data Privacy Amendment, which does a few things, including:

- Describes governmental entity duties related to personal data privacy for breach notification
- Limits on data collection and use
- Allows ability for citizens to correct and access personal data
- Creates the state data privacy policy that outlines the broad data privacy goals for the state
- Creates the Utah Privacy Governing Board to recommend changes in the state data privacy policy
- Establishes the Office of Data Privacy to coordinate the implementation of privacy protections

In April 2023, Gov. Spencer Cox issued an executive order directing Utah's chief privacy officer to create a strategic plan to safeguard the personal information of Utahns.

"From getting a driver's license to registering to vote to opening a business, state government requires the disclosure of personal information for almost all of the services it provides. This is a sacred trust and we want to make sure that every state agency has a set of policies and procedures that will protect the privacy of all Utahns."

- Governor Spencer Cox

