

# UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



## THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

We've wrapped up week 6 and are heading into the final week of the 2024 Legislative Session. Utah's session is one of the shortest in the country, yet we accomplish just as much or more than anyone else.

Senators and representatives will find themselves on the Senate and House floors almost all week, with committees wrapping up on Tuesday. Perhaps the most important thing legislators will vote on this week is the final budget (more on that to come).

## BILLS TO WATCH

Each year, the Legislature passes around 500 bills. Most of those are simple changes and pass with bipartisan support. However, a handful of bills are significant policy shifts that will noticeably impact the people of Utah. A few of those that we're watching closely include HB 298 and HB 421, which work to combat homelessness, SB 211, which will aid in the planning and development of generational water projects, and SB 224, which addresses Utah's energy decisions and future.

## A \$28 BILLION+ BUDGET

On Friday, the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) made final recommendations for the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. EAC's recommendations include items based in the base budgets earlier this year, with a few supplemental items. Lawmakers now must decide which few bills with fiscal notes will be funded this year. The EAC budget recommendation will now advance to the full Legislature and the final budget must be approved before the session adjourns on March 1.

A few significant highlights of EAC's recommendations include:

- \$167 million tax cut, reducing the income tax rate from 4.65% to 4.55%
- \$2.3 million to expand the Child Tax Credit
- \$212 million for a 5% increase to the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) for public education
- \$100 million for school safety and security
- \$18 million for affordable housing program
- \$50 million for a transit stop at Point of the Mountain
- \$10 million toward the Great Salt Lake

# — A CLOSER LOOK —

## COMING SOON: MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Lawmakers unveiled HB 562 *Utah Fairpark Area Investment and Restoration District*, sponsored by Rep. Ryan Wilcox and Sen. Lincoln Fillmore – a long awaited piece of legislation paving the way to bring major league baseball to the Beehive State. The MLB has signaled that an expansion is very likely and Salt Lake City is at the top of their list. With this potential, the public and private sectors are gearing up and making necessary preparations to welcome America's favorite pastime. HB 562 can be broken into 2 parts:

### **(1) Creates the Utah Fairpark Area Investment and Restoration District**

Similar to other significant state projects and entities, a board will be set up to oversee and manage the area. The 5-member board will be responsible for determining land use, recruiting businesses, receiving and spending property taxes, bonding, collecting tax increments, imposing resort taxes if necessary, contracting for services, and collecting visitor player income tax to distribute to at-risk Title I schools.

### **(2) Establishes stadium funding, revenue sources, and structure**

The Larry H. Miller Company, Rocky Mountain Power, other private sector partners, and the state of Utah are joining together to put mechanisms in place to ensure a new state-of-the-art facility is shovel-ready when the time comes. HB 562 will be heard on the House floor early this week and make its way over to the Senate for consideration.

### **The Power District**

Additionally, the Larry H. Miller Company has committed to redeveloping approximately 100 acres in west Salt Lake City. This area will be known as the Power District, as it has been owned by Rocky Mountain Power for decades. This unified redevelopment endeavor includes plans to beautify the Jordan River and make the area walkable, bikeable, and transit-connected, with multi-functional, mixed-use development including residential, dining, retail, entertainment, and green spaces.

You can learn more about the Power District and Utah's plans to secure a major league team by visiting [thepowerdistrict.com](http://thepowerdistrict.com) and [bigleagueutah.com](http://bigleagueutah.com).

