

May 2024

UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Monthly Newsletter of RRJ Consulting
Utah's Leading Lobbying Firm



UTAH IS #1

Just last week, Utah was ranked as the No. 1 best state overall for the second year in a row by the [U.S. News and World Report](#). This comes on top of recent accolades announcing Utah as the state with the [best economic outlook](#) for the 17th consecutive year in [Rich States, Poor States](#), being recognized as the best state for social mobility by the [Archbridge Institute](#) and Salt Lake City's distinction as the best job market in the country by the [Wall Street Journal](#). We've said it before, but we love calling Utah home!

NHL COMING SOON

Another exciting announcement – Utah will soon be home to a National Hockey League team!

“As everyone knows, Utah is a vibrant and thriving state, and we are thrilled to be a part of it.”

– NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman

WATER UPDATE

By 2026, the Utah Division of Water Resources must release an updated State Water Plan. One of their main focuses is studying the financing for water infrastructure projects — steering towards a water-secure future, as laid out in HB 280. You can learn more [here](#).

BILL SIGNINGS AND VETOES

The Legislature passed 591 bills this session and Governor Cox signed a majority of those bills. However, he vetoed 7 bills and the Legislature has now passed the deadline to override those vetoes, meaning those bills will not become law.

Governor Cox also held a handful of ceremonial bill signings to celebrate the passage of monumental and significant pieces of legislation. Photos from those events can be viewed [here](#).

A CLOSER LOOK

WHAT TO EXPECT THIS INTERIM

Interim meetings begin this week at the Utah State Capitol. Interim provides lawmakers with a chance to take a deep dive into issues and prepare legislation for the next session. Each committee approves a study item list containing ideas, issues, and areas of opportunity that they plan to look at between now and the end of the year. The full list of study items can be viewed [here](#). We'll be keeping a close eye on the Revenue and Taxation Committee as they look at property taxes and evaluate transient room tax (TRT) revenues and allocations. We're also excited to watch the Transportation Committee as they study long-term transportation needs statewide and look at the road use charge (RUC).

Lawmakers will meet the third week of each month for interim committees, as approved by the Legislative Management Committee.

“As legislators, we have the unique opportunity during the interim to connect with our communities and gain valuable insights into the issues that matter most to Utahns. I am excited to work alongside my fellow senators and hear from constituents and stakeholders as we continue our collaboration and strive to provide the best possible policy for our state during the 2025 session.”

– President J. Stuart Adams

“The interim provides lawmakers with an opportunity to dive into issues, explore opportunities, and prepare for the upcoming legislative session, ensuring we make the most out of the short 45 days we have to pass legislation. Committees are the workhorse of the legislature and much of the important work they accomplish is done during the interim. I look forward to working with committee chairs and House members to make the most out of the interim.”

– Speaker Mike Schultz

This interim, we're looking forward to representing your voice on Capitol Hill and working on a wide array of issues to benefit our clients, communities, and the people of Utah. As always, we are grateful to represent you. If you would like to attend an interim meeting or have issues that need to be worked on, please reach out.

