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UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



MOST CHARITABLE STATE

Utah continues to lead the nation in charitable contributions, ranking as the state with the highest volunteer rate in the 2024 WalletHub [report](#). Utah excels in both financial generosity and volunteerism, significantly outpacing national averages. Utahns donate more time and resources per capita than residents of any other state, a tradition deeply rooted in our community's values and supported by high rates of civic engagement. Nearly 70% of Utahns contribute to charitable organizations, with a volunteer rate more than 4.5 times the national average.

HIGHER EDUCATION AUDIT

A recent legislative audit highlighted opportunities for improvement in Utah's higher education institutions, with an emphasis on refocusing on workforce alignment. Read more [here](#).

NOVEMBER INTERIM

Lawmakers met for the final interim of 2024, in which they discussed legislative priorities, draft legislation, potential budget allocations, and strategies to address pressing issues like education, infrastructure, commerce, natural resources, and more. Read the full report [here](#).

HOLIDAY TRAVEL

For some of our clients, like Delta, Enterprise, and Marriott, the holidays are the busiest time of year! AAA projects a record-breaking number of travelers: 115 million Americans are expected to travel over Christmas and New Year's, which is a 2.2% increase from last year. Find travel tips and updates [here](#).

Whether you're traveling or staying home, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season!

— A CLOSER LOOK —

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Following each election, House and Senate Majority and Minority Caucuses elect leadership teams to represent them and forward their caucus policy priorities. Both top positions – Senate President and Speaker of the House – stayed the same with President Stuart Adams and Speaker Mike Schultz. House Majority leadership also did not change. Senate Majority Leadership looks quite a bit different this term, with Sen. Kirk Cullimore as Majority Leader, Sen. Chris Wilson as Majority Whip, and Sen. Mike McKell as Majority Assistant Whip. The Minority Caucuses also elected new leadership teams, with Rep. Angela Romero serving as House Minority Leader and Sen. Luz Escamilla as Senate Minority Leader.

Utah's legislative leaders also announced key leadership appointments and committee assignments for the 2025-2026 term. House Speaker Mike Schultz and Senate President Stuart Adams appointed extended members of leadership, which chair the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) and the Rules Committee. In the House, EAC will be led by Rep. Val Peterson (Vineyard/Orem) and Rep. Walt Brooks (St. George). In the Senate, EAC will be led by Sen. Jerry Stevenson (Layton) and Sen. Scott Sandall (Tremonton). The Rules Chairs and Vice Chairs are Rep. Jordan Teuscher (South Jordan) and Rep. Karen Peterson (Clinton), in the House, and Sen. Lincoln Fillmore (South Jordan), and Sen. Keith Grover (Provo), in the Senate. The House Majority created a new leadership position – House Majority Caucus Manager – which will be filled by Rep. Candice Pierucci (Herriman).

Standing and appropriations committee chairs and members have also been assigned. Committee chairs play an important and often powerful role in the legislative process as they create agendas, determine which bills get hearings, and are responsible for leading each committee meeting. Many of the issues we're working on align with the Business and Labor, Economic Development and Workforce Services, Revenue and Taxation, and Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology committees. You can see those committee assignments, and others on the [House](#) and [Senate](#) websites.

We look forward to working with all committee chairs, vice chairs, and members and are excited for the 2025 Legislative Session!

