January 2025

UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Over the next 45 days, lawmakers will consider, debate, and pass policies that will impact Utahns all across the state. On average, over 1,000 bills will be considered and about 500 will become law. While a busy time of year, we always look forward to meeting with lawmakers, watching the legislative process firsthand, and representing you!

SENATE MAJORITY PRIORITIES

The Utah State Senate's 2025 legislative priorities include establishing Utah as a leader in energy, investing in education by supporting both students and teachers, ensuring a sustainable water supply, implementing fiscally responsible tax cuts to make life more affordable, advancing technology and innovation, boosting the economy through business opportunities and job creation, maintaining affordable housing to keep the American Dream attainable, and building resilient infrastructure and transportation systems. Learn more here: <u>Utah Senate</u>

HOUSE MAJORITY PRIORITIES

The Utah House Majority's 2025 legislative priorities include education, with an emphasis on aligning higher education to ensure students are prepared for high-demand fields, protecting Utah's economic success through fiscal responsibility, low taxes, and easing the strain on household budgets. Infrastructure is another top priority, particularly in energy, transportation, and water systems. Additionally, the House Majority plans to address public safety challenges such as the fentanyl crisis and illegal immigration, building on past investments and policies to deter crime, hold offenders accountable, and reduce recidivism. They also aim to ensure accountable government by combating federal overreach, keeping state agencies accountable, and improving Utah's election processes. Learn more here: Utah House of **Representatives**

At the opening of each legislative session, Utah's top leaders address the people of Utah.

In his 2025 State of the State address, Gov. Cox gave the call to action: "We must build." Speaking to a packed chamber at the Capitol, Gov. Cox welcomed newly elected legislators and reflected on Utah's transformation from a barren desert into a thriving, world-renowned state. He shared powerful stories of Utahns past and present who embodied resilience, grit, and innovation, from pioneers and inventors to families who sacrificed for the greater good. Cox outlined five key priorities for Utah's future: addressing housing affordability, expanding energy resources, reforming infrastructure and permitting processes, enhancing public safety and community support, and strengthening families.

Senate President Adams kicked off the session with a focus on The Utah Dream—a vision rooted in values like hard work, innovation, and opportunity. President Adams emphasized the importance of preserving Utah's unique identity, protecting the state's Republic, and leading in critical areas like energy innovation, education, and resource management. From advancing nuclear energy and critical mineral extraction to cutting taxes for families and investing in education, Utah is poised to stay ahead as a national leader.

Speaker Mike Schultz highlighted key priorities for Utah's future, focusing on education, homeownership, public lands, and energy independence. He shared stories of students at the Davis Catalyst Center gaining real-world skills, young families achieving homeownership, and local innovators advancing critical mineral extraction to reduce reliance on foreign powers. Speaker Schultz emphasized the need to make life more affordable, invest in career and technical education, and streamline higher education to meet workforce demands. He also called for state control over public lands. Above all, Schultz reaffirmed his commitment to putting Utahns first by tackling their real challenges through practical solutions.

