

# UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



## THAT'S A WRAP

The Utah Legislature wrapped up its 2025 General Session by approving a \$30.8 billion budget for fiscal year 2026, including \$12.7 billion from state funds.

Over the 45-day session, a record 952 bills were introduced, with 582 passing—slightly fewer than in recent years.

## IT'S AN EDUCATION YEAR

**\$97 million** for a bonus for K-12 teachers and support staff.

**\$27 million** for careers in technical education credential programs.

**\$2.5 million** for free school lunches for low-income children.

**\$40 million** in ongoing funding for the state's school voucher program, officially called the Utah Fits All Scholarship.

**\$65 million** for catalyst campus programs.

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

Nuclear energy gained momentum in the Utah Legislature this session as lawmakers recognized its potential to provide reliable, low-carbon power for the state's growing energy needs. Utah secured \$8.25 million for Operation Gigawatt initiative, which aims to double Utah's energy production over the next decade through nuclear investments. The Legislature also introduced new regulations to ensure grid stability as Utah moves toward incorporating more nuclear and renewable energy sources.

Lawmakers are exploring agreements with neighboring states to form a tri-state nuclear compact and supporting nuclear research programs at the University of Utah. Advances in small modular reactors (SMRs) and next-generation nuclear technology have fueled excitement, as they promise safer, more efficient, and cost-effective energy solutions. With growing bipartisan interest in nuclear power, Utah is positioning itself as a leader in the transition to clean and resilient energy infrastructure.

# — A CLOSER LOOK —

## WRAPPING UP THE UTAH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Utah Legislature has officially adjourned, capping off a session filled with significant policy shifts and budget decisions. Lawmakers tackled pressing issues, from tax cuts to education funding and housing reforms, shaping the state's future for years to come.

Key takeaways from this session include:

- **Tax Relief:** For the fifth year in a row, a significant tax cut package was passed, aiming to ease the burden on Utah families and businesses. Lawmakers highlighted the importance of keeping Utah economically competitive while providing relief to residents, particularly middle- and lower-income earners.
- **Education Investment:** Lawmakers approved increased funding for public education, including teacher salaries and school infrastructure. Additional resources were allocated to early childhood education and vocational training programs to prepare students for future workforce demands.
- **Housing and Growth:** With Utah experiencing rapid population growth, policies were enacted to address the state's housing shortage. These include zoning changes, development incentives, and measures to promote affordable housing projects, aiming to balance expansion with sustainability.
- **Public Safety & Healthcare:** New measures focused on mental health services, law enforcement resources, and healthcare accessibility. Investments in first responder training, community mental health programs, and emergency medical services aim to create a safer, healthier Utah.
- **Energy:** Established regulations for large-scale electrical loads, requiring the Public Service Commission to review contracts and ensure utilities meet specific service standards. Legislation also mandates financial transparency, preventing cost shifts to other customers and requiring financial security for large-scale energy providers.

