



2024 MAY INTERIM

May 15, 2024

UAC is the advocate for all 29 Utah counties. If you have questions about legislative action, please reach out to the legislative team or visit uacnet.org. November is the last interim meeting of the year.

<p><u>Executive Appropriations</u></p>	<p>Executive Appropriations heard state budget and federal funding updates from legislative and executive budget staff. This year, federal funds eclipsed income tax revenue as the largest revenue source.</p> <p>The Legislative Fiscal Analyst's slides contain a summary of budget items passed during the session. The legislature also adopts and publishes a budget document each year.</p> <p>Legislative leaders also heard an update regarding the North Capitol Building, which has an expected completion date of January 2026. Best news? Additional parking will be completed by next session!</p>
<p><u>Economic Development and Workforce Services</u></p>	<p>Economic Development and Workforce Services adopted their study list and heard presentations from the Governor's Office of Economic Development Office of Tourism and the Utah Tourism Industry Association. This committee will focus on policy surrounding tourism, while Revenue and Taxation focuses on TRT and TRCCA revenue and spending.</p> <p>This committee's big lift will be an analysis of Utah's housing policy, including suggestions related to land use.</p>



<p><u>Government Operations</u></p>	<p>Government Operations adopted their study list, which includes a variety of elections topics such as availability of election documents, ballot requirements, declaration of candidacy, county v. municipal elections, bifurcation of elections, personal data and voter registration records, and signature security.</p> <p>The committee opened a bill file to address a challenge faced by about five counties where the assigned USPS regional processing center is in Las Vegas. Suggested language for the bill will allow ballots to be mailed within Utah, or from the nearest USPS regional processing center.</p> <p>An additional bill file was opened that will examine the availability of election documents.</p>
<p><u>Health and Human Services</u></p>	<p>Health and Human Services heard a review of relevant bills from the 2024 session and committee members approved their study list.</p> <p>The Integrated Behavioral Health Care Grant Program will sunset on December 31, 2025. This program appropriates \$116,000 ongoing for DHHS to award to local mental health authorities to develop or expand projects to deliver integrated health care services. DHHS will deliver a report on the program in 2025, and the committee may take action.</p> <p>Joshua Gordon, Director of Health Policy for Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, spoke about contingency planning in case of a downturn in federal medicaid funding. Although some relevant bills passed during the session, HB 463, Medicaid Funding Amendments (B. Brammer) did not, and will likely be revisited.</p> <p>Medicaid unwinding has been completed, resulting in a 40% decline after removal of individuals who were only eligible due to the public health emergency.</p>
<p><u>Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice</u></p>	<p>Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice adopted their study list. The committee discussed organized criminal activity and its relation to illegal immigration challenges. Rep. Wilcox shared about his recent trip with Sheriff Arbon from X to the Tucson section of the U.S. border with Mexico.</p> <p>The committee created two subcommittees to recodify the criminal code, and to focus on Organized Crime. Rep. Gwynn will chair the Criminal Code Recodification Subcommittee.</p>



<p><u>Legislative Water Development Commission</u></p>	<p>Staff provided an overview of water bills passed in 2024.</p> <p>Grand County asked for a resolution that requests the federal government transfer a pipe and an easement to the Grand County Water Conservancy District to service Thompson Springs.</p> <p>Candice Hasenyager, Director of the Division of Water Resources, provided the Committee with an update of the current water situation. The state’s Snow Water Equivalent is a little above the median and the reservoir capacity is looking great.</p>
<p><u>Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment</u></p>	<p>Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment adopted their study list. Staff provided a summary of Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment bills from the 2024 session.</p> <p>Candice Hasenyager, Director of the Division of Water Resources, provided an update on the current water situation.</p> <p>The committee voted to open two committee bills, one on the Livestock Brand Board and the other on the Provo Canyon Resource Management Plan to address sunset reviews scheduled for July 1, 2025.</p>
<p><u>Political Subdivisions</u></p>	<p>Cameron Diehl, Executive Director of the Utah League of Cities and Towns, provided an update on efforts over the past few years to increase housing, focusing on the financing tools passed in the 2024 session.</p> <p>The committee approved their study list with amendments. Staff discussed the recodification of Chapter 17, and recommended that the committee could either do the work all at once, or a bit at a time. The committee will likely opt for a multi-year approach.</p> <p>The Legislative Auditor General presented A Performance Audit of Utah Housing Policy. Steve Waldrip, Senior Advisor for Housing Strategy to the governor, responded and shared that he has a goal to finish the Statewide Housing Plan before the end of interim.</p>
<p><u>Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology</u></p>	<p>Bryce Bird, Director of the Division of Air Quality, presented on the new EPA Greenhouse Gas Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel Fired Power Plants with an effective date of July 8, 2024. Utah has joined a lawsuit with 25 other states to challenge the rule. Rep. Jack suggested that the technology doesn’t exist for the state to comply with the rule.</p>



<u>Revenue and Taxation</u>	<p>Revenue and Taxation approved their study list with minor amendments, including the addition of vehicle registrations and residency requirements, and an analysis of taxing authority ceded to other governmental entities, such as the new fairpark district.</p> <p>Scheduled presentations on property taxes and TRT spending were not heard and will be moved to next month's agenda.</p>
<u>Transportation</u>	<p>Transportation heard recommendations from the Tax Commission regarding vehicle registration definitions, such as off-highway and on-highway motorcycles, trailers and semi-trailers, etc. They want these clarifications to help their staff better serve customers when they approach the counter.</p>

