



# MINUTES

## FEDERALISM COMMISSION

Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. | 30 House Building

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**Members Present:**

Sen. Keven J. Stratton, Senate Chair  
Rep. Ken Ivory, House Chair  
Sen. David P. Hinkins  
Sen. Karen Kwan  
Sen. Derrin R. Owens  
Sen. Ronald M. Winterton  
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht  
Rep. Jefferson S. Burton  
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson  
Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost  
Rep. Rosalba Dominguez  
Rep. Calvin Roberts  
Rep. Jason E. Thompson  
Jennifer Brown  
Jim Moss  
Lisa Roskelley  
Casey Saxton

Mike Smith  
Kael Weston

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Michael J. Petersen  
Justin Anthony  
Rob Bishop  
Jason Chaffetz  
Lorie Fowlke  
Ben McAdams  
Chris Stewart  
Jerry Taylor  
Kyle Wilson

**Staff Present:**

Nathan W. Brady, Policy Analyst  
Gus Harb, Senior Associate General Counsel  
Samantha Merrell, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

### 1. Committee Business

Chair Ivory called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

### 2. Federal Funds Contingency Planning

Chair Ivory introduced the agenda item.

#### [2 - Federal Deficit and States \(Manhattan Institute\)](#)

Jessica Reidl, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute, presented on the federal deficit's impact on states and how states can plan for this problem.

Chair Ivory offered comment on this agenda item.

Sen. Kwan gave a brief update on the law enforcement work group.

Jessica Riedl responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Ivory introduced the next presenters.

Veronique de Rugy, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, presented on the federal deficit, how the problem is exacerbating, and how states may wish to prepare.

Veronique de Rugy responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Ivory introduced the next presenter, Jack Salmon, Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University.

Jack Salmon presented on the federal government fiscal outlook and debt consolidation strategies.

Jack Salmon responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Ivory introduced the next presenters from the State Policy Network.

Steve Johnson, Fellow, Center for Practical Federalism, State Policy Network, spoke on how states can restore federalism principles and spoke to state contingency planning.

Jennifer Butler, Senior Policy Advisor, Center for Practical Federalism, State Policy Network, continued to present on state contingency planning and spoke to changes coming from the federal government which may impact Utah.

Jennifer Butler and Steve Johnson responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Ivory introduced the next presenters.

[2 - The High-Risk List: Identifying and Mitigating Critical Vulnerabilities in Utah \(Office of the Legislative Auditor General\)](#)

[2 - Report, High-Risk List: Identifying and Mitigating Critical Vulnerabilities in Utah \(Office of the Legislative Auditor General\)](#)

Kade Minchey, Legislative Auditor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG), presented an overview of high-risk areas for Utah, including state and federal revenue diversification.

Darin Underwood, Deputy Auditor General, OLAG, presented on why state and federal revenue diversification is on the state's high-risk list.

Andrew Poulter, Performance Audit Supervisor, OLAG, presented on how to mitigate impacts of potential federal funding disruptions for legislative consideration.

Darin Underwood and Andrew Poulter responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Ivory introduced the next speaker, Johnathan Ball, Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

[2 - Federal Share of Utah Budget \(Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst\)](#)

Johnathan Ball presented on the share of federal funds in Utah's budget over time, what federal funds are used for in Utah, how much Utah has in reserve funding, and options the state may want to explore to mitigate risk.

Johnathan Ball responded to questions from the committee.

### **3. Committee Business**

**MOTION:** Sen. Stratton moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 10

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. C. Roberts  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. J. Thompson  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Sen. K. Kwan  
Rep. M. Petersen

**MOTION:**

Sen. Stratton moved to open a commission bill file to address federal funds contingency planning and the commission discussed the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 12

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Sen. K. Kwan  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. C. Roberts  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. J. Thompson  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 2

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. M. Petersen

Jonathan Ball responded to questions from the committee.

**4. Draft Legislation: State Resource Management Plan Amendments**

[3 - Draft Legislation "State Resource Management Plan Amendments" \(V002\) \(Drafter: G. Harb\)](#)

[3 - State Resource Management Plan Draft \(Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office\)](#)

**MOTION:**

Sen. Stratton moved to favorably recommend, "State Resource Management Plan Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 9

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Sen. K. Kwan  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. C. Roberts  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. J. Thompson

Nays - 0Absent - 5

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. R. Winterton

**5. Federal Guidance Letters**

[4 - Federal Guidance Letters Summary \(Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel\)](#)

[4 - Utah Federalism Commission: Federal Guidance Letters 2025 Report Draft \(Federalism Commission\)](#)

Stan Rasmussen, Vice President, Government Affairs, Sutherland Institute, and Bill Duncan, Fellow, Sutherland Institute, introduced the federal guidance letters.

Nathan Brady, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel (OLRGC), presented on the federal guidance letters report.

Bill Duncan offered additional clarification and context regarding the federal guidance letters report.

The commission discussed the federal guidance letters report.

Gus Harb, Associate General Counsel, OLRGC, responded to a question from the commission regarding the process for creating a commission letter if the commission wishes to send a letter to agencies in response to impacts from a federal guidance letter.

Kael Weston requested that we invite federal representatives to come present to the commission on a future agenda.

Stan Rasmussen thanked commission members and staff.

**MOTION:** Rep. Christofferson moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 9

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Sen. K. Kwan  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. C. Roberts  
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. J. Burton  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Rep. J. Thompson  
Sen. R. Winterton

Chair Ivory adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.