



**AGENDA  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Summit County Council will meet, on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, electronically, via Zoom, and at the anchor location of the Summit County Courthouse, 60 N. Main Street, Coalville, UT 84017

(All times listed are general in nature, and are subject to change by the Board Chair)

**To view Council meeting, live, visit the "Summit County, Utah" Facebook page.**

**OR**

**To participate in Council meeting: Join Zoom webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/772302472>**

**OR**

**To listen by phone only: Dial 1-301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 772 302 472**

3:25 PM Closed Session - Property acquisition (60 min)

4:25 PM - Move to Council chambers (5 min)

4:30 PM Work Session

1. 4:30 PM - Pledge of Allegiance (5 min)
2. 4:35 PM - Discussion regarding Emergency Services Sales Tax Grant; Shayne Scott (30 min)  
[StaffReportESSTGrant.doc](#)  
[EMS Sales Tax Grant Program.doc](#)
3. 5:05 PM - Presentation and discussion on weeks two and three of the general session of the Utah State Legislature; Janna Young (45 min)  
[StaffReport\\_2026LegSession\\_Week2and3.pdf](#)

5:50 PM - Council and Manager comments (10 min)

6:00 PM Public Input

Public comment is for any matter not on the Agenda and not the subject of a pending land use application. If you would like to submit comments to Council, please email [publiccomments@summitcountyutah.gov](mailto:publiccomments@summitcountyutah.gov) by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. If you wish to interact with Council, for public input, please appear in person, or use the "Raise Hand" button at the bottom of the chat window in Zoom.

Adjourn



## STAFF REPORT

To: Summit County Council  
From: Shayne Scott, County Manager  
Date of Meeting: February 4, 2026  
Type of Item: Emergency Services Sales Tax Grant Process  
Process: Work Session

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### **Requested Council Action**

To provide direction and feedback to the County Manager regarding the proposed grant process.

### **Introduction and Background**

In 2025, Summit County enacted the EMS Sales Tax, Utah Code §59-12-802, which may be utilized to fund (a) emergency medical services ("EMS"), (b) solid waste disposal, (c) search and rescue activities, (d) law enforcement activities, and/or (e) fire protection services.

Given the increases in costs associated with EMS, solid waste disposal, search and rescue, law enforcement, and fire protection services, primarily from the impacts of tourism, the County desired to fund these increased costs through a sales tax that is partially paid by tourists instead of through an increase in property taxes to residents.

In 2023, the County entered into a series of interlocal agreements with Park City Fire Service District, North Summit Fire Service District and South Summit Fire Protection District to provide almost \$5,000,000 in funding for a basic level of ambulance service and paramedic rescue services.

The County funded the 2024 EMS Services on a one-time basis through County fund balances with the expectation that a portion of the EMS Sales Tax will fund future EMS Services going forward.

### **Proposal**

As part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, up to 5% of the collections from the ESST have been set aside to go toward one time capital costs that might qualify to be

spent from these funds. It is proposed that these requests are received, vetted, and allocated using a grant process.

The grant process is outlined in the attached document "EMS Sales Tax Grant Program". The highlights of this document include:

- Justification for the Grant
- Who can apply
- How an organization might qualify
- Limitations of the funding
- Makeup of the "Advisory Board"
- Timing

Concisely, it is proposed that an advisory board be established to make a recommendation to the County Manager how to allocate the grant funds.

Proposed timeline for 2026:

February 4:	Receive council feedback on grant process.
February 5:	Advertising for Advisory Board Members begins
February 15:	Advertising Campaign for applications Begins.
March 1:	Grant Open.
March 31:	Grant Closed. Advisory Board Members approved.
April:	Advisory Board reviews applications and convenes.
May 1:	Advisory Board Chair makes a recommendation to the County Manager.
May 15:	County Manager decision made, applicants informed.

**COUNTY MANAGER**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2025-01**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES SALES TAX GRANT PROGRAM**

***Preamble***

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, Summit County (the “County”) enacted the EMS Sales Tax, Utah Code §59-12-802, which may be utilized to fund (a) emergency medical services (“EMS”), (b) solid waste disposal, (c) search and rescue activities, (d) law enforcement activities, and/or (e) fire protection services; and,

**WHEREAS**, given the increases in costs associated with EMS, solid waste disposal, search and rescue, law enforcement, and fire protection services, primarily from the impacts of tourism, it is the intent of the County to fund these increased costs through a sales tax that is partially paid by tourists instead of through an increase in property taxes to residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the County entered into a series of interlocal agreements with Park City Fire Service District, North Summit Fire Service District and South Summit Fire Protection District (together, the “Fire Districts”) to provide \$4,200,000 in annual funding for a basic level of ambulance service and paramedic rescue services (the “EMS Services”); and,

**WHEREAS**, the County funded the 2024 EMS Services on a one-time basis through County fund balances with the expectation that a portion of the EMS Sales Tax will fund future EMS Services going forward; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the County’s intent to allocate up to five percent (5%) of the EMS Sales Tax during each budgetary year in order to fund a grant program for the County and its special service districts to pay for capital improvements and equipment consistent with the statutory restrictions on the use of these funds (the “EMS Sales Tax Grant Program”); and,

**WHEREAS**, the County shall implement the EMS Sales Tax Grant Program in accordance with this “Executive Order.”

***Executive Order***

**1.0      Qualifying Grant Application**

- 1.1      Each County department or County special service district (an “Applicant”) is eligible to make an annual application (a “Grant Application”) to the EMS Sales Tax Grant Program.
- 1.2      EMS Sales Tax Grants (the “Grants”) are awarded once each year on a schedule to be determined by the Summit County Manager (“County Manager”).
- 1.3      Grant Applications are limited to one-time financing of Capital Improvements or Personal Property.

- 1.3.1 As used herein, “**Capital Improvements**” mean permanent upgrades, alterations or additions to real property which increase its value or lifespan, distinct from routine maintenance and repairs.
- 1.3.2 As used herein, “**Personal Property**” means property within the following Classes of the Utah State Tax Commission’s Personal Property Classification Guide: Class 8 (*Machinery & Equipment with an economic life of at least twelve years*); Class 12 (*Computer Hardware*); Class 13 (*Heavy Equipment*); and Class 16 (*Long Life Property*).
- 1.4 The Capital Improvements or Personal Property must be utilized in conjunction with EMS, solid waste disposal, search and rescue activities, law enforcement activities, or fire protection services within Summit County.

## 2.0 Creation of Advisory Board; Selection Criteria and Process

- 2.1 An Advisory Board consisting of five (5) members shall serve as the selection committee to evaluate Grant Applications (the “**Advisory Board**”).
  - 2.1.1 The County Manager shall appoint the members to the Advisory Board for three (3) year terms. The County Manager may stagger the initial Advisory Board member terms so that the terms of approximately one-third (1/3) of the members expires each year.
  - 2.1.2 Members shall serve on a voluntary basis without compensation, except that mileage or other travel expenses associated with service may be reimbursed by the County.
  - 2.1.3 Members shall annually elect a chair (the “**Chair**”).
  - 2.1.4 The Chair shall preside over and conduct all meetings and shall act as the representative of the Advisory Board in all matters before the County Manager.
  - 2.1.5 A County staff liaison appointed by the County Manager shall coordinate and facilitate the Advisory Board’s actions.
  - 2.1.6 The Advisory Board shall be subject to the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, Utah Code, Title 52, Chapter 4 (“**OPMA**”). Executive closed sessions may be scheduled whenever the Chair deems such action permissible under OPMA, so long as the Summit County Attorney concurs in such determination.
  - 2.1.7 A majority of members shall constitute a quorum and the action of the majority of the members present shall be the action of the Advisory Board.
  - 2.1.8 The Advisory Board shall annually make its recommendations to the County Manager.
  - 2.1.9 Conduct of Members
    - 2.1.9.1 *Serve the Public Interest.* The primary obligation of the Advisory Board and each member is to serve the public interest.
    - 2.1.9.2 *Avoid Conflicts of Interest.* Members shall avoid personal conflicts of interest and the appearance of impropriety. A member with a potential

personal conflict of interest shall abstain from voting on the matter and not participate in any deliberations on the matter. The member shall also not discuss the matter privately with any other member voting on the matter.

2.1.9.3 *Render Thorough and Diligent Service.* If a member has not sufficiently reviewed relevant facts affecting a recommendation, that member should not participate in the vote on that recommendation.

2.1.9.4 *Not Seek or Offer Favors.* A member must not directly or indirectly solicit any gift, or accept or receive any gift (whether in money, services, loans, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promises, or in some other form) under circumstances in which it could be reasonably inferred that the gift was intended or could reasonably be expected to influence them in the performance of their duties or was intended as a reward for any vote on their part.

2.1.9.5 *Not Disclose or Improperly Use Confidential Information for Financial Gain.* A member shall not disclose or improperly use confidential information for financial gain, and must not disclose to others confidential information acquired in the course of their duties or use it to further a personal interest.

2.1.9.6 *Maintain Public Confidence.* A member must conduct himself/herself publicly so as to maintain public confidence in the Advisory Board, and the member's performance of the public trust.

2.1.9.7 *Respect for and Courtesy to other Members, Public and Staff.* Each member has the same rights and privileges as any other member. Any member has the right to be heard and to hear what others have to say about items being considered by the Advisory Board.

- 2.2 The County Manager shall provide advanced notice of the annual application filing period, which shall extend for a period not less than thirty (30) days.
- 2.3 The award of Grants shall be based upon adherence to the requirements set forth in Section 1.0.
- 2.4 With respect to Applicants who have been previously awarded a Grant, the Advisory Board and County Manager may take into account audit compliance as set forth in Section 3.0 in making recommendations and awards of Grants.
- 2.5 The County Manager shall, in his sole discretion, make the Grant awards.
- 2.6 Grants shall be awarded once each calendar year.

### 3.0 Auditing of Grant Awards

- 3.1 The Advisory Board shall annually review and evaluate all prior Grant awards to ensure the following:

- 3.1.1 The Grant was appropriately utilized within the budget year to finance the acquisition of the Public Improvement or Personal Property;
- 3.1.2 The Public Improvement or Personal Property is being used consistent with the Grant; and
- 3.1.3 The Public Improvement or Personal Property is being appropriately maintained and depreciated.

4.0 Annual Funding

- 4.1 Subject to the annual appropriation of the Summit County Council (the "Council"), up to five percent (5%) of the EMS Sales Tax may be expended by the EMS Sales Tax Grant Program.
- 4.2 The County Manager shall include a proposed funding amount in his annual tentative budget to the Council.

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY MANAGER

APPROVED AS TO FORM

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Shayne C. Scott  
County Manager

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David L. Thomas  
Chief Civil Deputy

## STAFF REPORT

TO: Summit County Council  
FROM: Janna Young, Deputy County Manager  
MEETING: February 4, 2026  
SUBJECT: Weeks Two and Three of the 2026 General Session of the Utah State Legislature

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### **Requested Council Action**

None

### **Introduction**

During the 2026 general session of the Utah State Legislature, staff, along with Councilmembers Roger Armstrong and Tonja Hanson, will provide the County Council weekly updates on the issues and activities the County is monitoring at the State Capitol.

### **Background**

On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, the general session of Utah's 67<sup>th</sup> legislature began and runs through Friday, March 6, 2026. Over the next 45 days, Summit County's internal legislative working group will track activity at the State Capitol and provide updates to the County Council and to the public.

The County's legislative working group is comprised of the County Assessor, Chief Deputy Attorney, Auditor, Clerk, (2) Councilmembers, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer, Health Department Director, Behavioral Health Director, Chief Financial Officer, Community Development Director, Economic Development & Housing Director, Engineer, Transportation Planning Deputy Director, County Manager, Deputy County Manager, Sustainability Director, Lands & Natural Resources Director, and Emergency Manager.

This group meets weekly to monitor bills, share information, decide County positions on legislation, participate in Utah Association of County's (UAC) weekly policy steering and coordinating meetings, work closely with the County's House and Senate members and the County's lobbying team, attend committee meetings, and testify before legislative committees.

Each week during the session at the County Council meetings, Deputy County Manager, Janna Young reports to the Council on these activities, and requests input on issues and support for proposed county positions on bills.

### **Bills Summit County is Currently Monitoring**

Below is a list of the bills the county is tracking thus far. Please note that bills change frequently throughout the session. The information below

reflects the situation at the time of drafting this report and is subject to change:

**HB13, Municipal Services Fees and Political Subdivision Lien Amendments (Rep. Cutler)**

This bill authorizes municipalities to place a political subdivision lien on property for certain past due services and makes related amendments.

**HB15, Medicaid Expansion Amendments (Rep. Eliason) – SUPPORT**

The bill defines key terms and modifies provisions related to Medicaid eligibility and the timeline for expansion, including changes to the date on which the Medicaid expansion will end unless further legislative action is taken. Its purpose is to clarify and adjust how Utah implements and maintains expanded Medicaid coverage under current state law.

**HB19, Drinking Water Utilities Amendments (Rep. Jack)**

The bill requires a community water system to complete an emergency response plan and report a security breach to the Utah Cyber Center within two hours of discovering the breach. It also requires the Division of Drinking Water to report annually to two legislative committees on security at community water systems and classifies a community water system's emergency response plan as a protected record.

**HB26, Voting Equipment Amendments (Rep. Cutler) – SUPPORT**

This bill requires County Clerks/election officers to upgrade voting equipment to ensure all equipment used in Utah is not capable of wireless communication (except for an electronic pollbook or official register). It also prohibits an election officer from acquiring voting equipment that is not part of the new voting equipment system selected for purchase by the Lieutenant Governor and ensures the new voting equipment system complies with the requirements for forecasting a mechanical ballot. Summit County is fine with the bill because it is time to replace our voting equipment anyway and the state is paying for these replacements.

**HB27, Signature Verification Revisions (Rep. Shepherd) - OPPOSE**

This bill would revise procedures related to signature verification for candidate nomination petitions and other election-related materials, aiming to update requirements and processes used by election officials in reviewing and confirming voter or candidate petition signatures.

**HB28, Health and Human Services Sunset Amendments (Rep. Eliason) – SUPPORT**

Extends the Mobile Crisis unit (MCOT) and Receiving Centers grant program from December 2026 to December 2029.

**HB32/HB74/HB160/HB167/HB242 – MONITOR**

These are all signature gathering, verification, and petition-related bills regarding ballot initiatives and referenda. The County Clerks Affiliate is talking with all the various bill sponsors because some of the provisions they like (add clarity) while others they do not like, such as divulging the private information of voters, especially if requested by the voter to withhold, if they sign a candidate petition. This makes voters choose between their privacy and exercising their democratic rights to sign a candidate petition. To sign, a voter must provide their name and the senate district in which they live, which both become public information. The Clerks are also concerned about provisions that allow signature packets to be taken apart for signatures.

**HB38, County Government Amendments (Rep. Dunnigan) – MONITOR**

This bill updates Title 17 of state code, which is the code governing counties. Many of these updates help our elected offices but there are some provisions we are watching.

**HB46, Taxpayer Information Sharing Amendments (Rep. Shelley)**

This bill provides for information sharing between the Driver License Division and county assessors.

**HB60, Water Rights Amendments (Rep. Shallenberger) – OPPOSE**

This bill makes it easier for unused water rights to be sold or taken by preliminary municipalities.

**HB68, Housing Amendments (Rep. Roberts) – MONITOR**

Repeals the Commission on Housing Affordability and creates a new division of housing within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) with a Deputy Director appointed by the governor.

**HB76, Data Center Water Policy Amendments (Rep. Koford) – MONITOR**

This bill helps prepare Utah for enticing large data centers to locate to the state. We know these facilities require a lot of water and energy. The bill specifies that large data centers over 50,000 sq. ft. must coordinate with water agencies before construction and report annual water use. Counties must notify state divisions during land-use approval and will receive

anonymized water data annually for planning. Enforcement applies if reporting requirements are not met.

**HB79, Governmental Immunity Amendments (Rep. Gwynn)**

The bill would revise and clarify definitions and provisions related to governmental immunity, including provisions that define terms and outline when a governmental entity or employee may be immune from civil liability in actions such as emergency medical services and other government operations.

**HB82, Judgement Information Amendments (Rep. MacPherson)**

The bill modifies the information required to file a judgment lien against real property if the judgment debtor is an individual.

**HB88, Public Assistance Amendments (Rep. Lee) – **OPPOSE****

This bill would require an individual to prove their US citizenship/legal status before they can receive public assistance benefits, including mental health crisis care and homeless services, among others.

**HB112, Political Advertising Amendments (Rep. Hayes) – **MONITOR****

Updates and expands the state's rules governing political advertising by defining key terms more precisely (like "electioneering communication") and strengthening disclosure requirements for political ads, which clarifies when an ad must include information about who paid for it and under what circumstances certain communications are regulated.

The bill's goal is to increase transparency and accountability in campaign messaging across various media by requiring clearer identification of sponsors and potentially tightening reporting triggers for entities engaging in political advertising in Utah's elections

**HB161/HJR7, Property Tax Modifications (Rep. Koford) – **MONITOR****

This bill would increase the primary residential property tax exemption (i.e., the percentage of the value of one's home that is exempted from the property tax calculation) from the current 45% to 60%. Requires the approval of a constitutional amendment first (House Joint Resolution 7). Primary residents in Summit County could see a savings as the tax rate would not go up much because we have so many secondary properties. This bill is also the precursor to pushing for full disclosure of sales to help Assessors assess property values. A consequence of the bill is it would shift the property tax burden to the commercial sector and second, non-primary homes.

### **HB183, Sex Designation Amendments (Rep. Lee) – OPPOSE**

The bill would make broad changes to how state law treats sex and gender. Specifically, it would replace references to "gender" with "sex" throughout Utah statutes and prohibit changes to the sex designation on birth certificates. It also would require state agencies to use "sex" instead of "gender" in administrative rules, alter anti-discrimination protections by removing gender identity from certain provisions, restrict employment of transgender people in some roles involving contact with children, and direct courts in child custody cases to consider a parent's opposition to a child's gender identity as a factor favoring that parent. Critics argue the bill would reduce legal protections for transgender and non-binary Utahns.

### **HB184, Local Land Use Revisions (Rep. Ward) – OPPOSE**

The basic premise of this bill is to allow a change in zoning without going through the public hearing process, specifically for "starter homes" which are defined as homes sold for the "area mean purchase price". If the county legislative body does not deny the rezone request within 30 days, and explain its reasons why, then it becomes the de facto land use regulation for that specific project (without going through the planning commission or holding any public hearings). In addition to the legal challenges with the bill (legislative act vs administrative act), there are policy ones as well. The problem is that these homes will not be "starter homes" in Summit County because the "area mean purchase price" is too high for any young families or new homeowners. Additionally, the deadlines spelled out in the bill for when actions have to occur are impractical.

### **HB190, Child Care Business Tax Credit (Rep. Thompson) – SUPPORT**

Summit County has been working on this bill with Rep. Thompson, the PCCF's Early Childhood Alliance, Park City Municipal Corporation, and the Policy Project to expand the tax credit the legislature enacted last year for businesses that construct childcare facilities for their employees.

Last year, the legislature passed two tax credits: a 20% credit for qualified child care construction or expansion costs for businesses and a 10% credit for ongoing employer-paid child care expenses. These credits mirrored existing federal incentives and could be stacked with them. It was an important step, but it did not match the scale of the problem.

HB190, is designed to align with federal incentives and maximize participation. By stacking state and federal credits, employers, including small businesses, can receive a tax credit of up to 80% for all qualified child care expenses paid on behalf of an employee.

**HB209, Voting Amendments (Rep. Maloy) – OPPOSE**

This bill requires citizenship verification before anyone can vote. It would result in two databases for elections and the potential for racial profiling at polling stations. Additionally, an individual already has to prove their citizenship when they register to vote.

**HB211, Real Property Recording Amendments (Rep. Chew)**

The bill provides that a county recorder may record a document without acknowledgment or jurat, if the document has the Great Seal affixed by the lieutenant governor.

**HB225, Boundary Line Adjustments (Rep. Shelley)**

The bill requires that each party to a conveyance of real property sign a statement that acknowledges that the real property may be subject to adverse possession, boundary by acquiescence, or a right-of-way.

**HB231, Restaurant Tax Repeal Amendments (Rep. Thurston) – OPPOSE**

This bill would repeal the restaurant tax and consequently, the county's grant program. It does allow counties to impose a new sales tax to make up for the lost revenues from the restaurant tax. The revenues from this new sales tax would be restricted to the same things as under the current restaurant tax but instead of the tax only levied on food and alcohol at restaurants, which mainly visitors pay, it would be a general purpose sales tax that would impact everyone in the county.

**HB272, Tourism Taxes Amendments (Rep. Bolinder)**

The bill addresses the reporting requirements counties have to meet for expending revenues generated from the Transient Room Tax (TRT) and specifically authorizes the state auditor to audit expenditures reported by counties as part of the analysis for county expenditure reports. The bill also clarifies the state auditor's authority to prohibit counties from accessing revenue generated by a TRT if the state auditor and the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst determine a county's expenditure report does not sufficiently demonstrate compliance with the expenditure requirements.

**HB282 Transportation Earmark Amendments (Rep. Dailey-Provost)**

This bill reduces the state's sales and use tax earmark that directs revenue into the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) and instead puts those revenues in the state's general fund, which will likely impact our grant funding for transportation infrastructure projects.

### **HB320, Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy Amendments (Rep. Cutler)**

The bill clarifies and modifies provisions related to the Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy and the Artificial Intelligence Learning Laboratory Program, with the aim of encouraging the *responsible deployment* of AI technologies and strengthening oversight of AI development and safety practices. It is part of ongoing legislative efforts to refine Utah's approach to AI governance, including public safety and child protection considerations for AI systems.

### **HB323, Solar Panel Disposal Amendments (Rep. Jack)**

The bill implements the federal EPA rule on disposal of solar panels once they meet the end of their life to determine if they are best destined for the landfill or recycled and ensure they go to the correct landfill to avoid superfund sites from the hazardous materials in the panels. Specifically, the bill directs the appropriate state board to adopt rules for analyzing hazardous waste in solar panels, create procedures for handling end-of-life solar modules, and ensures potential customers are informed about disposal requirements.

### **HB332, Local Building Authority Amendments (Rep. Auxier)**

The bill prevents a local government who tried to finance a project through a failed General Obligation (GO) Bond, to then finance the same Project through a lease revenue bond. While municipalities and school districts more regularly use a GO Bond to fund a capital project, most counties do not, including Summit County.

### **HB335, County Employment Amendments (Rep. Christofferson)**

The bill modifies provisions relating to law enforcement officers and other county employees who serve under county merit, career service, or civil service systems, updating how their employment status, classifications, or related personnel policies are governed at the county level.

### **HB361, Elections Office Oversight Amendments (Rep. Wilcox)**

The bill proposes changes to how election oversight is structured in the state. It would establish a conflict of interest elections officer to take on certain election complaint and controversy duties instead of the lieutenant governor when the governor or lieutenant governor is a candidate in a race involved in the dispute. It also creates an Elections Oversight Task Force with specified membership, duties, and reporting requirements to review and recommend improvements to the state's election oversight system. The bill includes provisions on terms of service for the conflict of interest officer and sets a repeal date for the task force.

### **HB365, Taxation Notification Requirements (Rep. Peterson)**

The bill would revise truth-in-taxation notice requirements so that if a taxing entity anticipates raising the amount of property tax revenue, it must provide specific information to taxpayers—including the proposed increase and its estimated impact—before the tax is adopted. The goal is to improve transparency and ensure property owners are better informed about significant changes in taxation.

### **HB367, Solar Power Utility Amendments (Rep. Ward)**

The bill proposes changes to Utah's energy and utility laws to update how solar power is treated within the state's utility framework. The bill would enact amendments related to the regulation and integration of solar power in the utility system, including provisions affecting net-metering and customer protections for solar energy users, and clarifying roles for utilities and the Public Service Commission in managing solar-related programs and electricity procurement.

### **HB381, Electric Mobility Device Amendments (Rep. Cutler)**

Proposes updates to state law governing electric bikes and similar electric mobility devices, such as requiring a safety course and helmets for individuals younger than 16 years of age operating a particular class of electric bikes. Additionally, the bill revises definitions and regulatory provisions related to electric-assisted bicycles and other electric mobility devices to clarify how they are classified and operated under Utah law, aiming to modernize and standardize rules for these vehicles.

### **HB388, Public Health Hazard Amendments (Rep. Shepherd)**

This bill would require law enforcement to report to the health department when they observe a property that is a clandestine drug laboratory or contaminated with methamphetamine. Local health departments are then required to determine contamination and maintain publicly accessible contamination lists. It also outlines owner notification and decontamination procedures, updates standards for decontamination specialists, and makes technical and conforming changes to existing statutes.

### **SB15, County Forms of Government Amendments (Sen. Winterton) –**

#### **MONITOR**

This bill repeals existing restrictions on how counties can structure their governing bodies, specifically removing limits related to including a part-time or full-time county executive or legislative body in new or amended optional forms of county government, giving counties greater flexibility to design their governmental structure under optional government models.

## **SB20, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes (Sen. Stratton)**

This bill addresses obsolete programs and makes other technical changes to statutes within the purview of natural resources, agriculture, and environment or related legislative committees.

## **SB28, County Classification Modifications (Sen Winterton) – MONITOR**

This bill updates how counties are classified by defining key terms and establishing a requirement that the Utah Population Commission and the State (presumably state agencies) review county population and classification every five years, clarifying when a county may move to a different classification level under state law. Specifically, counties have to meet both a population test and a total revenue test to determine if they move classifications. Under the bill as currently drafted, Summit County will remain a third class county because we fail the population test but exceed the revenue test.

## **SB44, Statewide Resource Management Plan Amendments (Sen. Stratton)**

The bill adopts a statewide resource management plan to replace a previously adopted plan.

## **SB70, Natural Disaster Amendments (Sen. Plumb) – MONITOR**

This bill would require counties and other entities who manage shelters during natural disaster emergencies to establish a plan for how to co-house individuals with their pets when evacuated from their homes. Summit County and other emergency managers across the state have plans for how to shelter animals during emergencies. The challenge is requiring families to be housed with their pets as most of the shelters we use are contracted from the schools and others who do not allow animals. Additionally, the individuals managing these shelters do not have the training or materials to care for animals, particularly unique ones like reptiles that require specialized foods. The emergency managers are working with the bill sponsor on changes.

## **SB78, Property Tax Relief Amendments (Sen. McCay) – OPPOSE**

This bill is the same bill the Senator introduced last session that was fought down by UAC and the County Treasurers Affiliate. It eliminates the circuit breaker program, which is a tax relief program for low income primary residents/homeowners, and replaces it with a tax deferral program. The challenge with a deferral is it only saddles the heirs of the homeowner with the tax burden and does not actually provide the relief needed by these low income individuals.

**SB97, Tax Revenue Amendments (Sen. McCay) – OPPOSE**

This bill limits the total amount of additional property tax revenue a taxing entity may obtain through truth-in-taxation and excludes certain valuation increases from the calculation of new growth. The challenge for Summit County is we have been able to keep our tax rate low (we are the lowest in the state) due to the new growth calculation (and high values, particularly from second homes). Additionally, for special service districts and small municipalities that have small budgets (\$45,000 for example), the 5% cap will not give them any useful increase, so they will likely not go through the truth in taxation process or be able to collect revenues to sustain their operations/services.

**SB108, Online Marketplace Amendments (Sen. Fillmore) – MONITOR**

Summit County is monitoring this legislation but is leaning towards opposing it. The bill pertains to the regulation of short-term rentals and could make it more difficult for the county to enforce violations of county code and licensing requirements for these properties by prohibiting us from using online websites.

**SB123, Privacy and Cybersecurity Amendments (Sen. Harper) – SUPPORT**

This bill would provide funding to the Utah Cyber Center, which provides funding for the licensing of Summit County's cybersecurity training systems KnowBe4 and Action1. This saves the county at least \$20,000 a year.

**SB194, Election Modifications (Sen. McKell)**

This bill proposes changes to Utah's election law, including provisions affecting how certain election-related processes are handled in state law (e.g., statutory definitions and procedures in elections). One public focus of the bill is modifying rules around legislative vacancies so that when a seat becomes open the replacement aligns with the party affiliation previously held by the departing lawmaker.

**SB201, Shelter Animal Euthanasia Amendments (Sen. Grover) – OPPOSE**

This bill makes several changes to euthanasia protocols in animal shelters. Summit County has serious concerns about the bill, including:

- Allowing animals that have failed their behavioral analysis and are dangerous to the public to be released, which, besides creating a public safety risk would greatly increase legal liability for the county
- Allowing all feral cats to be released back into the community with no guarantee they will be sterilized

- Harming Utah's wildlife, biodiversity, and public health because of increased disease transfer among different animal species, including the spread of zoonotic diseases (rabies, toxoplasmosis, etc.)
- Increasing the workload of shelter staff by requiring them to notify every shelter and rescue group for every animal

### **SB205, Law Enforcement and Artificial Intelligence Amendments (Sen. Pitcher)**

This bill builds upon a law enforcement AI bill from last session. Specifically, it defines key AI-related terms and amends existing law to require agencies to adopt clear written policies on the use of generative AI and other AI technology by their employees. It mandates that reports or records created wholly or partly with AI include a disclaimer and that the author certify they have reviewed the content for accuracy. The bill also obligates agencies to publicly post their AI policies and information about the specific AI technologies they use, including settings related to transparency and human oversight, and to update those postings when changes occur. Summit County's current Policy 390 is pretty much aligned so the bill should not impact us too much. We will need to add some definitions and address the reporting requirements in our policy. There is already a spot carved out on the Sheriff's website to meet the posting/notification requirements.

### **SB206, Multicounty Appraisal Trust Amendments (Sen. Harper)**

The bill makes changes to state law governing multicounty appraisal trusts. Specifically, it updates and clarifies provisions related to the establishment, governance, and operation of appraisal trusts that span multiple counties, with the intent of improving how these entities collaborate on property appraisal and tax matters across county lines. It was introduced in the Utah Senate and has been distributed for committee review.

### **Significant Dates**

January 20	Legislative Session Begins
January 22	Last day legislators can designate priority bills
January 29	Last day to either pass or defeat each base budget bill
January 30	Last day to request bills without floor approval
March 4	Last day to prioritize fiscal note bills and identify other programs for new funding
March 4	Final action must be taken on each appropriations bill
March 6	Last Day of the Session
March 26	Last day the Governor may sign or veto bills
May 5	Last day a veto-override session may begin
May 6	Normal effective date for bills

May 6           First day a legislator can open a bill file for appropriation request for the next general session

Every Tuesday and Wednesday during session: Meeting of UAC's policy steering committees

Every Tuesday (afternoon) during session: Meeting of Summit County's legislative working group

Every Thursday during session: Meeting of the UAC's Legislative Coordinating Committee

### **Engagement, Access, and Transparency**

Interested citizens can watch Utah's 2026 legislative session in real time or access archived materials through the Legislature's online tool. To access this tool, go to <https://le.utah.gov/> and click on the "calendar" button. Click on the desired meeting and the committee webpage will have links to materials and the audio/video recording.

Additionally, the State Legislature's website allows citizens to sign up to follow individual bills and receive email alerts whenever action is taken on the measure. To sign up for alerts, go to <https://le.utah.gov/>; click on the "Bills" tab at the top of the page. Then either perform a bill request or keyword search. Once locating the desired bill, click on "Track this" or "Email notification" underneath the photograph of the bill sponsor. The website for each individual bill also provides the bill text, status information, audio/video of any committee hearings or floor debate, and details on the bill sponsor.