

# 2026 UTAH LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

**Description Key: All bills have a number, title, sponsor, UASD's position on the bill and the status of the bill: For example:**

**HB17** is the number, **Public Infrastructure District Meeting Amendments** is the title, **Doug Welton** is the sponsor, UASD is **tracking** the bill, and currently the bill has passed the House and is on its **Second Reading** in the Senate

All bills must be read and voted on 8 times. 3 times in each chamber and each bill must go to committee in both chambers and be voted out of committee before it's enrolled.

## HOUSE BILLS

**HB 17 – Public Infrastructure District Meeting Amendments – Doug Welton – Track – Senate Second Reading**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0017.pdf>

This bill: 1) requires a public infrastructure district board to hold meetings at a location in the boundaries of the public infrastructure district; and 2) provides exceptions that permit a board to hold meetings outside the boundaries of the public infrastructure district.

Ryan's thoughts: Mostly watching this to make sure nothing spills over to us

**HB 19 – Drinking Water Utilities Amendments – Colin Jack – Track and Amend – Senate Second Reading**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0019.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) requires a community water system to: a) complete an emergency response plan; and b) report a security breach to the Utah Cyber Center within two hours of discovering the breach; 3) requires the Division of Drinking Water to report annually to two legislative committees on security at community water systems; 4) classifies a community water system's emergency response plan as a protected record.

Ryan's thoughts: This specifically targets Water Districts who have infrastructure threatened by cyber-attacks. I'm including it because it requires those water districts to report to the state within 2 hours of a cyber-attack. I'm pretty sure that if your district is in the middle of a cyber-attack you will be a bit busy stopping the attack to meet the deadline of this law.

**HB 38 – County Government Amendments – James Dunnigan – Track – House 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**  
<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0038.pdf>

This bill: 1) modifies definitions; 2) describes when a county legislative body shall submit the question of moving the county seat to the county's voters; 3) modifies provisions related to the annexation or consolidation of counties and the creation of a new county; 4) addresses pending criminal and civil proceedings following the creation of a new county; 5) provides that a county shall hold an election on an optional plan to change the form of county government at the next regular general election that is no less than 180 days after the day on which the county attorney submits to the county clerk the attorney's report; 6) modifies provisions related to county costs following a change of venue; 7) repeals a requirement that a county financial officer be bonded; 8) modifies the ability of a legislative body to investigate the actions of a county officer that impacts county business or operations; 9) modifies provisions related to the consolidation of county offices; 10) modifies the qualification requirements of a county assessor; 11) modifies provisions related to county surveyor duties; 12) modifies the circumstances in which an election official is required to notify eligible voters via email about the disqualification of a candidate; 13) modifies the manner in which a county recorder is required to index recorded instruments; 14) authorized a county legislative body to set fees for services of the county recorder; 15) increases certain James Dunnigan Track Page 3 of 14 UASD Legislative Update statutorily provided fees for county recorder services; 16) provides a method for an individual requesting a record related to military service to demonstrate that the individual is a lineal descendant of the individual who is the subject of the record; 17) provides that, when a county contracts with a licensed professional land surveyor to fulfill certain county surveyor duties, the licensed professional land surveyor may utilize the county surveyor seal or a personal seal; 18) modifies provisions related to survey monuments, corners, and boundaries; 19) authorizes a county surveyor to charge a plat fee to an infrastructure financing district or public infrastructure district; 20) authorizes a county treasurer to approve or consent to the county entering an interlocal agreement with a special district for the county treasurer to bill and collect service fees on behalf of the special district; 21) modifies provisions related to merit system employment, including appeals to a career service council or an administrative law judge; 22) repeals a criminal penalty for individuals who willfully violate provisions related to county personnel management; 23) rennumbers authority for a county to expend county funds as considered advisable for the development of the county's resources; 24) repeals sections related to the Title 17 recodification during the 2025 First Special Session.

Ryan's thoughts: The mosquito district most concerned with this bill is South Salt Lake Valley. Southwest Salt Lake County's cities and communities and towns and whatever else they want to call themselves want out of Salt Lake County and want to form their own county. This bill will start the framework of how they do it. HB 212 is more specific to this idea.

**HB 73 – Public Employee Retaliatory Action Amendments** – Neil Walter – Track and Amend -  
**Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0073.pdf>

This bill modifies the definition of retaliatory action by an employer to include making a complaint, in violation of the whistle-blowing statute, to a person that licenses the employee to practice a profession or perform other types of work.

Ryan's thoughts: For our purposes, you can't call the UDAF and tell the pesticide department that your employee is a jerk who doesn't know how to do anything. No talking behind an employee/former employees back.

**HB 104 – State Holiday Amendments** – Ryan Wilcox – UASD not following – **House 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

<https://le.utah.gov/session/2026/bills/introduced/HB104.pdf>

This bill: 1) establishes the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November as a state holiday called Election Day; and makes technical changes.

Ryan's thoughts: Another holiday over election day. In our meeting, Mark Anderson said, "you don't HAVE to observe it just because it's a state holiday." That's why UASD is not following it.

**HB 130 – Employment Medical Examination Expense Amendments** – Matt Gwynn – Track –  
**House Business, Labor and Commerce Committee**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0130.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) prohibits an employer from requiring an individual to pay for a medical examination; 3) prohibits an employer from using reimbursement to cover the cost of a medical examination; 4) provides a mechanism for enforcement; 5) grants rulemaking authority to the Labor Commission.

Ryan's thoughts: If you require your employees to take any medical exam, the district must pay for it.

**HB 147 – Government Form Submission Amendments** - Jordan Teuscher – Track and Amend –  
**House Rules**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0147.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) requires state and local government to provide an electronic option for filling out forms and for submitting forms, records, and other information; and 3) provides certain exceptions to the requirement described in the preceding paragraph.

Ryan's thoughts: If you have a form that your constituents/customers/people who live in your district must fill out or CAN fill out to provide services, you MUST have an online version option for the form. For our purposes... Lines 43 and 44 spell it out. For mosquito districts I assume that most of us have some sort of form for a service request. You will have to have an online version of that form or any other form you provide/require.

**HB 161 – Property Tax Modifications** – Jill Koford – Track – **House Revenue and Taxation Committee**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0161.pdf>

This bill: 1) contingent on passage of a proposed constitutional amendment, increases the percentage of the fair market value of primarily residential property that is exempt from property tax.

Ryan's thoughts: Currently the Utah code allows for a 45% residential exemption on property tax. This bill increases that exemption to 60% if the constitutional amendment passes. See HJR 7. I dug into this a bit more and want to give more of an explanation. For districts this bill will mostly be revenue neutral. If the 60% exemption passes, it will increase the overall tax *rate* on *everyone*. So while it will decrease taxes for homeowners at their primary residence by \$300-\$400 annually on a \$500K home, the RATE on EVERY property, whether residential or commercial will go up to make up the difference. So, in short, the RATE goes up for everyone and businesses who are already taxed at 100% of their value, will see a large increase in their taxes.

**HB 212 – County Formation Amendments** – Jordan Tuescher – Track with interest – **House Political Subdivisions Committee**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0212.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) establishes a process for the legislative body of a petitioning municipality to initiate a process to create a new county; 3) imposes a threshold for petitioners and certain viability requirements on the formation of a new county, including the completion of a feasibility study; 4) allows certain rural property to remain in a seceding county, in certain circumstances; 5) provides for the continuation of property taxation between a seceding county and a new county to satisfy general obligation or revenue bond indebtedness; 6) clarifies provisions regarding the division assets and liabilities between a seceding county and a new county.

Ryan's thoughts: See House Bill 38. House Bill 212 Specifies what "petitioners" need to do in order to create their new county. Again, the only district this will really affect is South Salt Lake Valley, Unless Kearns and Magna decide they want to be part of it and then I'll be in it too. YAY

**HB 236 – Truth in Taxation Amendments** – Karen Peterson – Track and Amend – House 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0236.pdf>

This bill: 1) requires certain taxing entities proposing a property tax increase to make a preliminary statement in a public meeting regarding the taxing entity's consideration of a tax increase; 2) prohibits the State Tax Commission from certifying a taxing entity's proposed property tax increase if the taxing entity fails to meet the requirements for making the preliminary statement; 3) requires taxing entities proposing a property tax increase to: a) adopt and utilize a tentative operating budget that does not include revenue derived from the proposed tax increase before a tax increase is approved; and b) present an alternative tentative budget that includes the additional revenue that would be derived from the proposed tax increase, if later approved.

Ryan's thoughts: Mostly has to do with Fiscal year entities. For us, our tax rates come out in June. In that board meeting we have to declare if we are raising taxes or not. This is going to force fiscal year entities to declare it like we do already. One other thing it will do that does affect us is that if you plan to raise taxes, ~~you must create TWO preliminary budgets. One that includes the tax increase revenue, and one that does not.~~ **UASD got our amendment in. Still only need ONE preliminary budget.**

**HB 309 – Juneteenth Observance Amendments** – Sandra Hollins – Support – House 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading <https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0309.pdf>

This bill: 1) provides that June 19, called Juneteenth National Freedom Day, is a legal holiday in Utah; 2) consistent with other legal holidays in Utah, provides for recognition of Juneteenth National Freedom Day on the preceding Friday or subsequent Monday if the holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, respectively; and 3) amends parent-time schedules in relation to Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

Ryan's thoughts: Treats Juneteenth like Christmas or Independence Day. Whatever day the 19<sup>th</sup> falls on is the holiday. If it falls on a Saturday, observation is Friday. If it falls on Sunday, observation is Monday.

**HB 319 - Electronic Records Amendments** – Paul Cutler - Support - House Rules

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0319.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) authorizes counties to accept digitally authenticated records as an alternative to traditionally notarized documents; 3) establishes requirements for digital authentication standards; 4) requires review and approval from the State Archives before county implementation; 5) provides that digitally authenticated records have the same legal effect as notarized documents when requirements are met; 6) requires the State Archivist to establish retention and preservation standards for digital records; 7) grants rulemaking authority to the State Archivist in consultation with the Division of Technology Services; 8) requires approval processes for counties before accepting digitally authenticated records; and 9) makes technical.

Ryan's thoughts: Allows for online documents to be digitally notarized. You will no longer be required to get wet signature

**HB 449 – Utah Taxpayer Oversight of Government Spending Amendments** – Tiara Auxier – Oppose – House Rules

<https://le.utah.gov/Session//2026/bills/introduced/HB0449.pdf>

This bill: 1) establishes taxpayer oversight of government spending as required by a proposed amendment to the Utah Constitution, including: requiring voters to approve an increase in state or local government revenue through most taxes or government debt; 2) limiting the amount of revenue a government entity may spend in a fiscal year unless voters approve increased spending; 3) eliminating automatic increases to taxes; 4) and requiring a refund of excess revenue to taxpayers; 5) repeals provisions requiring residential property to be assessed using any method other than the sales comparison approach; modifies elections provisions to accommodate voting requirements; 6) exempts business personal property that is not subject to a uniform fee from property tax; 7) makes technical and conforming changes; and makes these changes contingent upon passage of a proposed constitutional amendment.

Ryan's thoughts: To put it as simply, this bill will limit how much you can spend, when you can spend it, how you can spend it and if you don't spend it, the money gets returned to the taxpayer. And if you attempt in any way to increase taxes you MUST take it to the voters for their approval. This doesn't just involve districts thankfully. All government entities are included. Schools, state agencies, counties, cities, all of us. In short, I don't think it will go anywhere but you never know. UASD vehemently opposes. So does the League, so does UAC. It also requires a constitutional amendment (see HJR 20).

**HB 456 – Pesticide Amendments** – Tyler Clancy – Track and Amend – House Rules

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HB0456.pdf>

This bill modifies provisions related to application of pesticides. 1) addresses application of pesticides near an elementary or secondary school.

Ryan's thoughts: Short bill with a big impact. This is a bill that does not specifically target us. It looks to be going after commercial herbicide companies. It will, however, affect us significantly. The bill specifies that you cannot apply pesticides within 1000 feet of a school unless you notify that school and POST SIGNS 72 hours pre-treatment and leave the signs up for 72 hours post treatment. The bill also specifies mostly herbicide ingredients that are banned from being sprayed on school property. That said, the bill also seems to allow for some of our larvicide treatments while forcing us to notify for our ULV treatments. Obviously this is not going to work for us and to be honest most of us, if not all, get requests from many schools for service. UASD is planning on getting an exemption for mosquito in the bill. Heather and LeGrand will talk with Rep. Clancy and let us know if we need to get more involved.

**HJR 7 – Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution - Property Tax Modifications** – Jill Koford – Track – House Revenue and Taxation Committee

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HJR007.pdf>

This resolution proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to: 1) authorize the Legislature to exempt up to 60% of the fair market value of residential property from property tax.

Ryan's thoughts: See HB 161. If this passes, it will go on the ballot in November. **New** thoughts on this bill spelled out in HB 161

**HJR 20 – Utah Taxpayer Oversight of Government Spending** – Tiara Auxier – Oppose – House Rules

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/HJR007.pdf>

This joint resolution of the Utah Legislature proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to create taxpayer oversight of government spending. This resolution proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to: 1) require residential real property to be assessed using the sales comparison approach; 2) authorize the Legislature to exempt business personal property from property tax; and 3) establish taxpayer rights that include: requiring voters to approve an increase in tax revenue or most types of government debt; 4) limiting the amount of revenue a taxing entity may spend in a fiscal year without voter approval; 5) and requiring a refund of excess revenue to taxpayers.

Ryan's thoughts: See HB 449. This resolution takes that bill to the voters. If it passes the legislature it will be put on the ballot in November and will ask voters to approve a constitutional amendment to change the way government collects and spends money

## SENATE BILLS

**SB 23 – Airborne Chemicals Amendments** – Ronald Winteron – UASD not following –  
**Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee**

<https://le.utah.gov/session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0023.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) establishes that the release of a chemical or substance from an aircraft for the purpose of solar geoengineering is a third-degree felony; 3) provides a means for a person to submit information regarding suspected solar geoengineering; 4) requires the Department of Transportation to report credible instances of suspected solar geoengineering to the Office of the Attorney General; 5) requires an airport operator to report suspected solar geoengineering activity to the Department of Transportation.

Ryan's thoughts: UASD was originally following this and asked specifically if we (mosquito districts) may have any issues with this. I said that we shouldn't because it specifically targets solar geoengineering. I'm including it here in case I'm missing something. If those of you who regularly use planes to treat see something wrong with the bill let me know and UASD will follow it again.

**SB 26 – Pest Control Amendments** – Keven Stratton – UASD Not following - **Enrolling**

<https://le.utah.gov/session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0026.pdf>

This bill: 1) modifies the definition provision; 2) addresses rulemaking and requires reporting regarding rulemaking; 3) removes certain language regarding liability; 4) amends provisions related to a pesticide applicator business, including: a) modifying fee requirements; b) repealing the qualified party concept; and c) providing for a registration established by rule; 5) provides for permitting of ornamental and turf technicians, including fine amounts; 6) provides for permitting of certain salespersons.

Ryan's thoughts: Primarily deals with private applicators and mostly those who are herbicide applicators. Nothing in this affects our sections of the code



**SB 64 - Government Records Amendments** – Wayne Harper – Track – **Senate Rules**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0064.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) requires a summary of government records requirements to be developed and provided to employees of a governmental entity; 3) modifies provisions relating to fees charged in relation to a record request; 4) modifies requirements for responding to a record request, including: a) deadlines; b) a request for an expedited response; c) appeals; and d) other requirements; 5) adds certain federal employees to the definition of an "at-risk government employee"; 6) modifies provisions relating to certain protected records; 7) requires a governmental entity to conduct an annual review of records retention requirements and compliance with those requirements; 8) amends requirements for an ordinance or policy adopted by a political subdivision in relation to public records; 9) makes it a crime to destroy a record with the intent to avoid disclosure in response to a pending record request.

Ryan's thoughts: More red tape on Records. You'll have to create a policy to review records retention yearly.

**SB 97 – Property Tax Rate Amendments 1<sup>st</sup> Sub** – Daniel McCay – Track and Amend – **Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0097.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) limits the amount of surplus funds that may accumulate in a city or county general fund; 3) limits the residential property tax exemption to one primary residence per household; 4) establishes a rebuttable presumption that property owned by a business entity does not qualify for the residential exemption; 5) requires residential property owners to apply to the county to receive a residential exemption if the property was ineligible for the residential exemption in the prior year, an ownership interest in the property changes, or the county has reason to believe the property no longer qualifies for the residential exemption; 6) prohibits taxing entities from depositing property tax revenue into a reserve fund for capital improvement projects after a certain date; 7) limits the total amount of additional property tax revenue a taxing entity may obtain through truth-in-taxation, with certain exceptions; 8) excludes certain valuation increases resulting from physical improvements to property from the calculation of locally assessed new growth; 9) excludes increases to the value of tangible personal property from the calculation of project area new growth; 10) subtracts interest earned on investments from a taxing entity's certified tax rate calculation.

Ryan's thoughts: **Lines 674-679** limit any truth in taxation increases to 5% annually. Also excludes certain physical improvements to property in the calculation of a property value. **Lines 400-402** are troubling as well. The bill will forbid taxing entities to place property tax revenue into a reserve fund for capital improvement. Senator McCay himself said that the bill is going to go through a lot of "sausage making" before final passage. He also stated that the 5% cap will go away in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub.

**SB 178 – Right to Work Amendments** – Nate Blouin – Track – Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0178.pdf>

This bill repeals Title 34, Chapter 34, Utah Right to Work Law.

Ryan's thoughts: This has no shot of going anywhere

**SB 179 – Wage Amendments** – Nate Blouin – Track – Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0179.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) requires that an employer include information relating to wages and other compensation in a job listing; 3) increases the minimum wage in the state to \$20 per hour; 4) provides that the Labor Commission (commission) may not establish a minimum wage that is lower than \$20 per hour; 5) requires that the commission adjust the minimum wage for inflation at least once per year; and 6) makes technical changes

Ryan's thoughts: This has a snowballs chance in a St. George summer of passing.

**SB 193 – State Legal Holiday Amendments** – Keven Stratton – Track- Senate Rules

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0193.pdf>

This bill makes Good Friday a legal holiday in Utah

Ryan's thoughts: YOU get a holiday and YOU get a holiday and Every day gets a holiday!

**SB 238 – Property Tax Adjustments** – Chris Wilson – Track w/Concern – Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee

<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2026/bills/introduced/SB0238.pdf>

This bill: 1)requires residential property owners to apply to the county to receive a residential exemption if the property was ineligible for the residential exemption in the prior year, an ownership interest in the property changes, or the county has reason to believe the property no longer qualifies for the residential exemption; 2)clarifies burden of proof requirements in appeals involving property assessed by the State Tax Commission; 3) modifies the content and publication of the advertisement required for taxing entities to impose a judgment levy; 4) clarifies the requirements for taxing entities to impose judgment levies and increase property taxes through truth in taxation; 5) modifies the time frame in which the State Tax Commission is required to certify a taxing entity's compliance with truth in taxation requirements; and 6) makes technical and conforming changes.

Ryan's thoughts: This is mostly a clarification bill for all of the problems with truth in taxation last year. There are still issues to be worked out however. Lines 585-593 state that you cannot have *any* meeting other than the public hearing for truth in taxation. You'll have to schedule your usual board meeting on a separate day.