SOUTH SALT LAKE CITY ON THE MOVE

CITY COUNCIL

MEMBERS:
JOY GLAD
COREY THOMAS
SHARLA BYNUM
NICK MITCHELL
IRVIN JONES
RAY DEWOLFE
CLARISSA WILLIAMS

ARIEL ANDRUS
CITY RECORDER
220 E MORRIS AVE
SUITE 200
SOUTH SALT LAKE
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South Salt Lake City Council
Work Meeting Agenda

Public notice is hereby given that the **South Salt Lake City Council** will hold a Work Meeting on **Wednesday, September 23, 2026** in the City Council Chambers, 220 East Morris Avenue, Suite 200, commencing at **6:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

To watch the meeting live click the link below to join:
https://zoom.us/j/93438486912

Watch recorded City Council meetings at: youtube.com/@SouthSaltLakeCity

Conducting: Council Chair Bynum

Matters for Discussion:

1.	Salt Lake County Presentation on County Budget, Services & Key Priorities	Suzanne Harrison, Natalie Pinkney – 30 min

Adjourn

Posted September 18, 2026

Those needing auxiliary communicative aids or other services for this meeting should contact Ariel Andrus at 801-483-6019, giving at least 24 hours' notice.

In accordance with State Statute and Council Policy, one or more Council Members may be connected electronically.

Have a question or concern? Call the connect line 801-464-6757 or email connect@sslc.gov

CITY OF SOUTH SALT LAKE
CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

COUNCIL MEETING	Wednesday September 23, 2026 6:30 p.m.
CITY OFFICES	220 East Morris Avenue South Salt Lake, Utah 84115
PRESIDING:	Council Chair Sharla Bynum
CONDUCTING:	Council Chair Sharla Bynum

https://sslc.gov/AgendaCenter

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Joy Glad, Corey Thomas, Sharla Bynum, Nick Mitchell, Irvin Jones, Clarissa Williams, and Ray deWolfe

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:
None

STAFF PRESENT:
Mayor Cherie Wood
Josh Collins, City Attorney
Danielle Croyle, Police Chief
Jared Christensen, Deputy Fire Chief
Jonathan Weidenhamer, Community & Economic Development Director
Craig Giles, Public Works Director
Eliza Ungricht, Community Development Deputy Director
Stewart Okobia, Finance Director
Britney Helmers, Arts Council Director
Carson Aprato, Police Sergeant
Spencer Redden, Police Officer
Corby Talbot, Capital Improvements Project Manager
Spencer Cawley, Senior Planner
Matthew Robins, Executive Assistant
Ariel Andrus, City Recorder
Sara Ramirez, Deputy City Recorder

Matters for Discussion

1. **Salt Lake County Presentation on County Budget, Services & Key Priorities**
   Salt Lake County Council At-large Members Suzanne Harrison and Natalie Pinkney presented to the City Council regarding the role of the County, its budget, and opportunities for regional partnership. Ms. Harrison began by outlining the history of incorporations within Salt Lake County, noting that South Salt Lake was incorporated in 1938 during the earlier waves of municipal incorporation. She explained that recent legislation would result in the County being entirely composed of incorporated cities, apart from the canyons, by mid-summer 2027. Consequently, the County had shifted its focus from municipal services to regional services, intentionally leaving municipal duties to the City, while continuing to provide municipal services

to unincorporated areas through specific funding.

Ms. Harrison detailed the core regional services provided by the County, highlighting that approximately seventy-three percent of the general fund was allocated to criminal justice and public safety. This allocation covered the operation of the county jail, the district attorney's office, the sheriff's office, and indigent defense services. The jail alone required nearly one hundred twenty million dollars to operate. Additionally, the County fulfilled statutory obligations to manage elections, provide health department services, and oversee adult and aging services, such as the Meals on Wheels program and senior centers. Harrison noted the critical role of these community centers in combating an ongoing epidemic of loneliness among seniors. Furthermore, she explained that the County served as the behavioral and mental health authority for the region, providing services for low-income individuals.

Ms. Pinkney and Harrison also discussed the County's involvement in culture, arts, and tourism. They noted the County managed or co-owned facilities such as the Eccles Theater, Clark Planetarium, the Salt Palace, and the Mountain America Expo Center. These entities were funded outside the general fund through tourism dollars, which Harrison stated lowered the tax burden for every household by over seventeen hundred dollars annually. Regarding regional parks and recreation, Ms. Harrison advocated for the upcoming recreation bond on the ballot, which would allow continued investment in parks and trails. Ms. Pinkney added that this specific bond only appeared on the ballot once every decade. Ms. Harrison also highlighted the free My County Rec pass, which granted every Salt Lake County resident under the age of eighteen free access to public pools, ice rinks, and recreation centers year-round.

Addressing the County's budget, Ms. Harrison clarified public misconceptions that the budget had ballooned uncontrollably. She explained that a state auditor required pass-through dollars, which amounted to five hundred million dollars largely distributed to the Utah Transit Authority and other entities, to be included in the County's budget reporting. The actual operating budget under the County's jurisdiction was one and a half billion dollars. She further explained Utah's Truth in Taxation laws, emphasizing that increasing home values did not automatically generate increased tax revenue, as the County collected the exact same dollar amount each year regardless of property value increases. This system occasionally necessitated tax rate increases simply to keep pace with inflation. Ms. Harrison concluded the presentation by stressing the County's commitment to fiscal responsibility, noting its AAA bond rating and its bipartisan cooperation in balancing the budget.

Following the presentation, Council Member deWolfe inquired about the budget breakdown, noting a discrepancy between the total one and a half billion-dollar budget and the one hundred twenty-two million dollars allocated to the jail, asking where the remaining funds were distributed.

County Council Member Harrison clarified that the slide presented only covered the public safety portion of the budget, which encompassed seventy-four percent of the general fund. This portion included numerous other law enforcement and judicial services beyond the jail, such as canyon patrols, the gang unit, the district attorney's office, and indigent defense. County Council Member Pinkney offered to send the City Council a full breakdown of the general, special, and enterprise funds.

Council Member Williams asked how the upcoming closure of the county justice court system would impact cities and whether it would place a financial burden on the City to replace those services.

County Council Member Harrison responded that cases from unincorporated areas would be referred directly to the district court, assuring the Council that this transition would not create an additional financial or administrative burden on the City.

Council Chair Bynum asked if the youth recreation center pass was available year-round or only during the summer.

County Council Member Harrison confirmed the pass was valid all year and requested the City's assistance in promoting the program to families.

Council Chair Bynum then expressed that it would be highly desirable for the City to have a recreation center of its own.

County Council Members Pinkney and Harrison acknowledged the request, explaining that a regional board reviews these needs to ensure equitable access across the County, though a facility might not be placed in every single municipality.

Council Member Thomas requested clarification for residents watching online on how to obtain the free youth passes.

County Council Member Harrison explained that a parent or guardian must sign their children up online by searching for the Salt Lake County recreation pass, reiterating that the program was completely free.

Council Member Williams asked if the recreation pass could cover activities and leagues, such as baseball or basketball, noting that some families could not afford the fees to get their children involved in organized sports.

County Council Member Harrison stated that league play was not currently covered by the pass, as the County had to balance providing broad access with the financial realities of funding the programs. However, she noted they offer free clinics for youths to try new activities and stated that the County strives to keep all program fees as low as possible.

Council Member Williams concluded by stating the City would prefer a recreation center over being the site of another jail or homeless shelter.

County Council Member Harrison acknowledged the sentiment.

Council Chair Bynum thanked the presenters for their collaboration and expressed appreciation that County Council Member Pinkney, who previously served South Salt Lake, was now on the County Council.

County Council Member Pinkney affirmed her continued advocacy for the City, acknowledging the significant sacrifices the City had made in supporting regional behavioral health and human

services.

County Council Member Harrison added that Council Members Aimee Winder Newton and Jiro Johnson, who also represent portions of the City, were unable to attend but kept the City's interests in mind.

Council Chair Bynum reiterated her request for a local recreation center as the discussion concluded.

A copy of the presentation is attached and incorporated by this reference.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Sharla Bynum, Council Chair

Ariel Andrus, City Recorder

23-Sep-26

Please sign in for each meeting

CITY COUNCIL - WORK & REGULAR MEETING

LIST OF ATTENDEES

NAME	CITY/TOWN	REPRESENTING
Audrey Policarpio	South Salt Lake	N/A
Leslie Jones	SSL	self
kevin miller	SSL	self
B.M. "Haisel" Stout	SSL	Self

SALT LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Understanding the purpose, structure, and funding for county programs and services.

HISTORY OF SALT LAKE COUNTY

ESTABLISHED CITIES

Evolved many times since 1850



- Salt Lake City (1850)
- Sandy (1893)
- Murray (1902)
- Midvale (1909)
- South Jordan (1935)
- South Salt Lake (1938)
- West Jordan (1941)
- Riverton (1948)
- Town of Alta (1970)
- Draper (1978)
- Bluffdale (1978)
- West Valley City (1980)

1990's WAVE OF INCORPORATIONS

Wanted input on planning, zoning & services



- Taylorsville (1996)
- Herriman (1999)
- Holladay (1999)
- Cottonwood Heights (2005)
- Town of Brighton (2020)

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT

Resulted in 23 incorporated cities

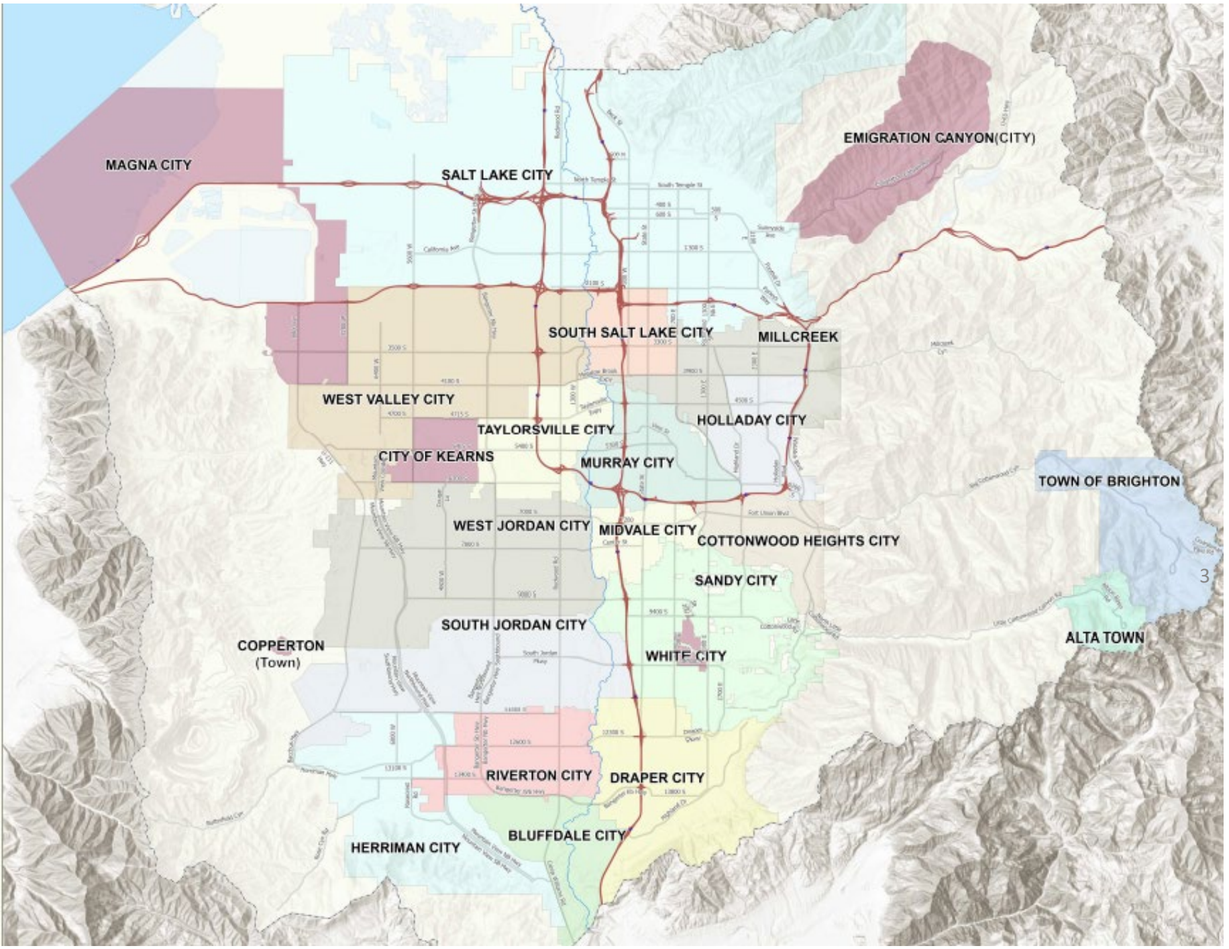


- Millcreek (2016)
- Kearns (May 2024)
- Magna (May 2024)
- White City (May 2024)
- Emigration Canyon (May 2024)
- Town of Copperton (May 2024)

*** H.B. 330 (2024) now requires all "islands" to annex or incorporate by July 2027*

SALT LAKE COUNTY

WILL WALL-TO-WALL CITIES REDUCE THE NEED FOR THE COUNTY?



- Counties are political subdivisions of the state per Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 1.
- Counties deliver state-mandated services.
- **State law differentiates the roles of cities and counties.**
- Cities handle municipal services—counties focus on regional functions.
- Consolidation into cities reduces duplication and allows counties to maximize efficiency across jurisdictions.

SALT LAKE COUNTY

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES THE COUNTY PROVIDES



CRIMINAL JUSTICE / PUBLIC SAFETY

Jail and other criminal justice services, prosecution and indigent defense.



ELECTIONS

Runs the general election by statute. Contracts with municipalities for municipal elections.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Provides immunizations, saftey protocols for restaurants and businesses, clean up homeless camps and other unsafe environments.



AGING & ADULT SERVICES

Provides Meals on Wheels and runs senior centers.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Manages mental health/substance abuse services. Partners with providers. Designated by the state to be mental health & substance abuse authority.



CULTURE & THE ARTS

Administers grants and manages cultural facilities: Abravanel Hall, Capitol Theater, Eccles Theater, etc.



CONVENTIONS & TOURISM

County-owned convention centers bring in out-of-state conventions that generate sales tax.



REGIONAL PARKS & RECRECATION

Maintains regional parks, trails, and open spaces. Operates recreation centers and sports complexes.



LIBRARY SERVICES

Salt Lake County Library system serves most of the county, with access to Salt Lake City and Murray libraries.



PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION

Collects property tax for all entities, most of which are not part of Salt Lake County, and distributes funds.

CITIES CAN'T DO WHAT THE COUNTY DOES



Multiple jails? Multiple health departments?

Multiple clerk's offices?

Salt Lake County delivers **regional services** on a scale best served by county government.

Duplicating these services would be expensive, inefficient, and create confusion across city boundaries.

SALT LAKE COUNTY

MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Clear separation of powers, administration and oversight.



MAYOR
Jenny Wilson

Council Members



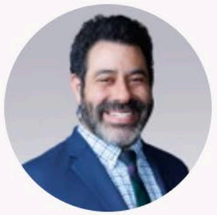
COUNCIL
Laurie Stringham
At-Large A



COUNCIL
Suzanne Harrison
At-Large B



COUNCIL
Natalie Pinkney
At-Large C



COUNCIL
Jiro Johnson
District 1



COUNCIL
Carlos A. Moreno
District 2



COUNCIL
Aimee Winder Newton
District 3



COUNCIL
Ross Romero
District 4



COUNCIL
Sheldon Stewart
District 5



COUNCIL
Dea Theodore
District 6, Chair

INDEPENDENT ELECTED OFFICIALS

Operate independently within their constitutional and statutory authority but in coordination with the Mayor and Council.



ASSESSOR

Chris Stavros

Establishes the fair market value of real and personal property ensuring assessments are accurate, fair, and compliant with Utah law.



DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Sim Gill

Responsible for legal work, including prosecution of all felony criminal matters in Salt Lake County as well as civil government litigation.



SURVEYOR

Bradley Park

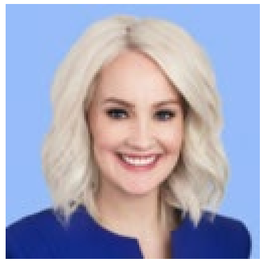
Provides quality surveying and mapping services to protect, preserve, and perpetuate property boundary rights.



AUDITOR

Chris Harding

Financial integrity through audits, annual financial report, certifying property tax rates, and ensuring compliance with budgeting and fiscal policies.



RECORDER

Rashelle Hobbs

Maintains public land records, relating to real estate, liens, mining, and subdivision plats, to ensure transparency in real estate transactions.



TREASURER

Sheila Srivastava

Collects, safeguards, and disburses county funds, including property tax payments, and manages the county's investments.



CLERK

Lannie Chapman

Oversees elections, marriage licenses, passports, and maintains official records for the County Council.



SHERIFF

Rosie Rivera

Runs the jail operations, manages search and rescue teams, and law enforcement for the unincorporated areas including the canyons.



Justice Court Judge

Shauna Graves Robertson

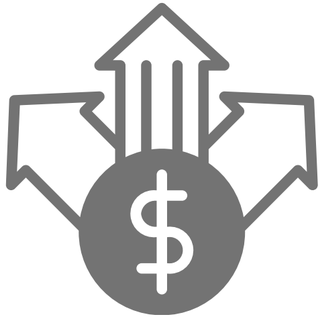
The Salt Lake County Justice Court handles small claims, misdemeanors, and traffic cases

****This will dissolve June 2027.**

SALT LAKE COUNTY

WHAT IS THE 2026 SALT LAKE COUNTY BUDGET?

CAUSES CONFUSION



TOTAL BUDGET

$2.3 Billion (Approx.)

While this reflects the total amount adopted, **only a portion of it falls under the County Council's discretion--some are "pass through" taxes.**



NET COUNTY BUDGET

$1.7 Billion (Approx.)

The net budget represents total revenues **minus "pass through"** taxes. This is the portion that falls under the County Council's discretion.

SALT LAKE COUNTY



WHAT ARE PASS THROUGH TAXES?

- Appear in the budget for transparency, but don’t impact county operations.
- County is middleman. Receives funds and forwards to other agencies.
- Not truly county funds.
- Examples: Cities, service providers, federal or state grants, UTA.

Council has NO DISCRETION over how these funds are used.

LEAST UNDERSTOOD BUDGETARY ITEM

2026 June Adjusted Budget
PASS THROUGH TAXES

RDA Property Tax Property Tax-RDA- Pass Thru	33,616,073
Transportation sales tax Mass Transit Pass Thru to UTA, cities & state	467,110,000
New Sales Tax for Public Safety & Public Transportation (aka 5th 5th) 0.15% beginning July 1, 2025 ~$29M	
Visitor Promotion Sandy Soccer Stadium Transient Room Tax	5,826,353
State & General-Tax Administration Multi County Pass Thru Revenue	4,380,000
Grand Total	**$510,932,426**

SALT LAKE COUNTY



SPECIAL REVENUE

- Source: County controlled funds from taxes or fees.
- Libraries, TRCC, Behavioral Health, etc.
- HIGHLY RESTRICTED USE
- Some special revenues are transferred to the General Fund to be used for their intended purposes.
- Council has **some discretion** over use but can only fund certain things within certain funds.



GENERAL FUND

- Source: Primarily property taxes, sales tax, etc.
- Core government services—public safety, elections, public heath, and administration.
- Most flexible.
- Only fund the council has **mostly full discretion**.



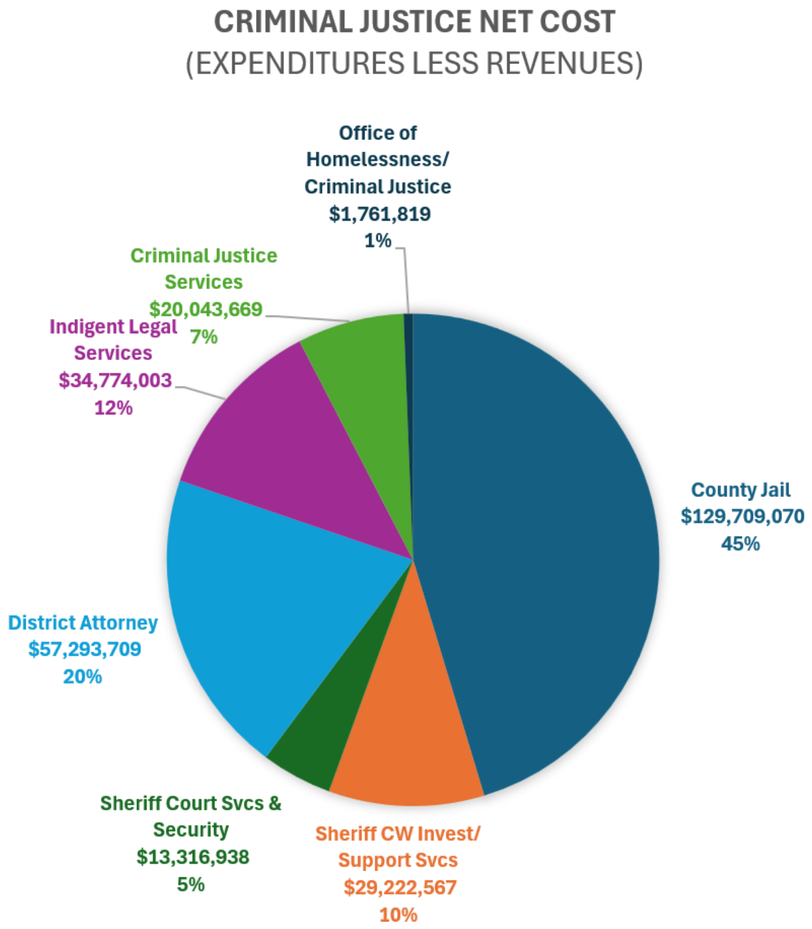


ENTERPRISE FUNDS

- Source: Fees charged to users through paid services—not taxes.
- These funds operate like businesses.
- Golf Courses, Landfill, Public Works
- Council has **limited discretion** over how this is used.

SALT LAKE COUNTY

WHAT IS THE COUNTY'S LARGEST RESPONSIBILITY?



PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety accounts for the largest portion of the budget. More than **73% of the county's general fund is allocated to public safety** including law enforcement, corrections, and prosecution.



SALT LAKE COUNTY

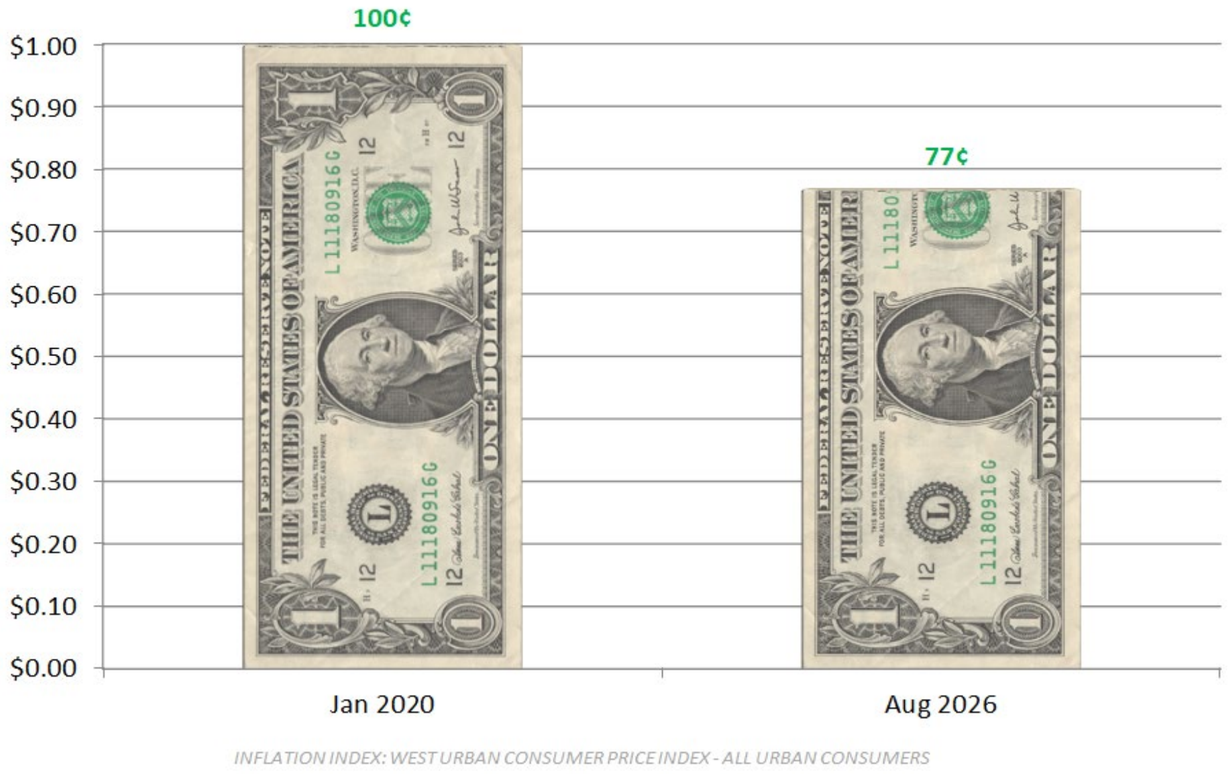
HOW PROPERTY TAXES WORK IN UTAH

State law limits property tax revenue increases to only “new growth” (e.g., new construction or additions).

Inflation in property values does not increase revenue—rates are adjusted downward to keep revenue flat.

Population growth increases demand for county services.

This creates a budget gap, averaging about 1% or $5M per year.



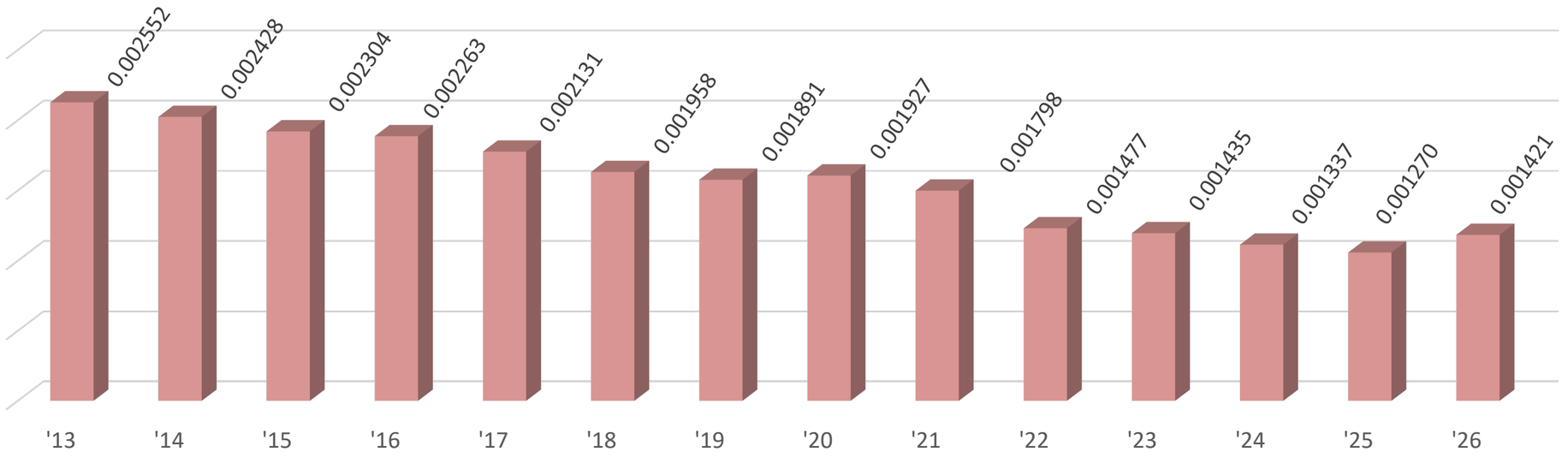
Purchasing Power Erosion Due to Inflation

SALT LAKE COUNTY

DECLINING TREND IN PROPERTY TAX RATES

Countywide and Assessing & Collecting

Excluding Bond Debt Service and Judgment Levies



SALT LAKE COUNTY

What portion of property taxes goes to the county?

Service Provider	Tax Rate	[1]Judgment Levy	Amount
GRANITE SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.003705	0.000000	1120.56
GRANITE SCHOOL DEBT SVCE	0.000634	0.000000	191.75
STATE BASIC SCHOOL LEVY	0.001379	0.000000	417.07
UT CHARTER SCHOOL-GRANITE	0.000142	0.000000	42.95
SALT LAKE COUNTY	0.001134	0.000000	342.96
SL COUNTY BOND INT/SINK	0.000119	0.000000	35.99
TAYLORSVILLE CITY	0.000820	0.000000	248.00
SL COUNTY LIBRARY	0.000425	0.000000	128.54
SOUTH SL VALLEY MOSQUITO	0.000008	0.000000	2.42
JORDAN VALLEY WATER CONS	0.000340	0.000000	102.83
TAYLORSV BENN IMPROVEMENT	0.000073	0.000000	22.08
CENTRAL UT WATER CONSERV	0.000400	0.000000	120.98
UNIFIED FIRE SVCE AREA	0.001650	0.000000	499.03
MULTI COUNTY ASSESS/COLL	0.000014	0.000000	4.25
COUNTY ASSESS/COLL LEVY	0.000136	0.000000	41.13
	.010979	.000000	$3,320.54

SALT LAKE COUNTY

When my property values go up, does my property tax automatically go up?



No - it does not. Utah's system is designed so that rising property values alone do not automatically raise your property tax bill. Each year, the County Auditor calculates a *certified tax rate* for every taxing entity (county, city, school district, etc.).

That rate is adjusted downward so the entity collects the same total revenue as the prior year—plus new-growth revenue from new construction.

SALT LAKE COUNTY

HOW HAS THE COUNTY RESPONDED?



The Council has consistently exercised **fiscal discipline**, cut spending while preserving Salt Lake County's top tier **AAA bond rating**—the highest available.

As part of its commitment to fiscal responsibility, the Council has **regular stress testing** in each agency to identify financial needs and **manage spending.**

SALT LAKE COUNTY

PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

OVERVIEW

- **Not a single new bed has been built since 2001,** even as the county's population has grown by nearly 300,000 and is expected to grow to 1.4 million by 2040.
- **Approximately one-fifth of the jail's beds are in Oxbow**, a failing facility that urgently needs to be replaced.
- At the same time, homelessness and mental illness have increased, and **our jail has become the state's default mental health provider.**
- Over the past ten years, the average person booked into the jail has been **booked seven times prior**, driving up costs while leaving underlying needs unmet.

34%
percent of those leaving jail exit directly into homelessness

80%
of the jail population has prior offenses

SALT LAKE COUNTY

PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

JAIL REMAINS AT CAPACITY



Although beds have increased after opening Oxbow's third pod, the jail continues to **operate at or near capacity every day.**

Reopening the third pod at Oxbow added 184 individuals, placing **additional pressure on aging infrastructure and maintenance systems.**

Increased enforcement due to SLC Public Safety Plan has meant an **increase in bookings and individuals with multiple charges** is placing greater demands on judicial processing.

SALT LAKE COUNTY

PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

GOALS:

- ✓ Rebuild capacity from Oxbow Jail (552 beds) at main facility
- ✓ Add new beds to meet growth and safety demands
- ✓ Expand mental health treatment from 88 → 160 beds
- ✓ Create a stepdown unit (100 beds) for re-entry support
- ✓ Look at a lower-security facility to save on costs to provide mental health, substance use, job training and wraparound services for low-level offenders in order to reduce recidivism.



SALT LAKE COUNTY