

House Majority
State of Utah

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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MARTHA HUGHES CANNON

After much anticipation, the beautiful Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon statue was unveiled Monday afternoon. Martha Hughes Cannon will be at the Utah State Capitol until we are able to send her to the U.S. Capitol to represent Utah. Martha Hughes Cannon was a physician, suffragist, and the first female state senator. The leadership, accomplishment, and legacy of Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon will carry on for generations to come.

HOUSE MAJORITY
NEWSLETTER

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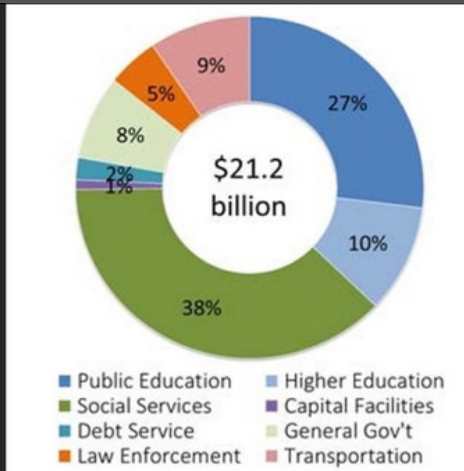
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POLICY PRIORITY- EDUCATION

Each week, we will highlight a legislative policy priority. Education is a top concern for Utahns and it's a top concern for the Utah Legislature. In fact, over the last 5 years, the Legislature has increased funding for public education by over \$1 billion (pre-2020 General Session). Utah ranks fifth in the nation for the largest portion of our overall budget going towards education. In 2020, amidst budget shortfalls due to COVID-19, Utah was the only state that actually increased funding for public education. In the 2020 General Legislative Session, lawmakers passed HB 357 Public Education Funding Stabilization to protect, grow, and stabilize education funding.



Total Budget
by Use,
FY 2021



The Legislature also values and prioritizes higher education. In 2020, SB 111 Higher Education Amendments paved the way for an improved system of higher education, creating the Utah Board of Higher Education. This new board combined both our technical colleges and higher education institutions into one, creating seamless education pathways, increased coordination, and a providing a recentered focus on Utah's students. This reformed structure will help us better meet the needs of our students and our workforce.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Utah's COVID-19 Case Counts from September 8 - September 11
Monday, September 14

- 58,438 positive cases, an increase of 563 from the previous day
- 721,682 total tests administered
- 134 current hospitalizations
- 436 total deaths, 3 more than the previous day
- 48,934 recovered cases

Tuesday, September 15

- 59,000 positive cases, an increase of 562 from the previous day
- 725,612 total tests administered
- 128 current hospitalizations
- 436 total deaths, 0 more than the previous day
- 49,327 recovered cases

Wednesday, September 16

- 59,747 positive cases, an increase of 747 from the previous day
- 729,731 total tests administered
- 115 current hospitalizations
- 437 total deaths, 1 more than the previous day



Thursday, September 17

- 60,658 positive cases, an increase of 911 from the previous day
- 735,138 total tests administered
- 120 current hospitalizations
- 437 total deaths, 0 more than the previous day
- 50,108 recovered cases

Friday, September 18

- 61,775 positive cases, an increase of 1,117 from the previous day
- 743,737 total tests administered
- 131 current hospitalizations
- 437 total deaths, which is the same as the previous day
- 50,492 recovered cases

Utah's 7-day rolling average for positive tests is 726 per day. The rolling 7-day average for percent of positive laboratory tests is 12.5%.

Utah County and the two universities are leading these high numbers.

For more information please visit [. You can also call 1-800-456-7707 to receive help.](#)



UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Below is the latest news release on Utah's unemployment insurance claims from the Department of Workforce Services. A few key points to highlight from last week (September 6-12):

- Traditional unemployment insurance new claims decreased by 12% from the previous week to 2,298 claims
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance new claims decreased by 7% from the previous week to 709 claims
- Extended Unemployment Claims increased by 2.3% from the previous week to 1,186 claims
- Total new claims for all three programs ended the week at 4,193 (see claim graph below)
- Combined weekly claims for all three programs was at 50,025
- Total combined numbers from March 15 to September 12
 - New claims: 299,754
 - Benefits paid: \$1,447,224,694 (includes Lost Wages Assistance payments)



This last week, more than \$24 million went out in payments to eligible claimants for the Lost Wages Assistance. This represents a large portion of the first three weeks of the six weeks Utah was approved to payout in additional funds. We are preparing for the final three weeks of payments to go out within the next two weeks.

We are continuing to encourage all those unemployed to actively look for work. A great opportunity to connect with hiring employers will be at our next Virtual Job Fair, Sept. 24. See the attached flyer.

"AMERICA'S ECONOMIC STAR"

A few months ago, the Wall Street Journal published an article, "[Why Utah Has Become America's Economic Star](#)," explaining that the Utah Legislature's belief in low taxes and encouragement of business development and job creation has led to Utah's economic success. Utah has received many accolades and ratings for our strong economy. See more [here](#)!



UTAH HERATAGE AND ARTS PODCAST



Want to know how Utah's culture and arts industries have been affected by COVID-19? Listen to this week's podcast, featuring Crystal Young-Otterstrom, Executive Director of Utah Cultural Alliance, to find out!

[Listen here!](#)

CENSUS UPDATE

Complete the 2020 Census! Spread the word to your family and friends. Visit <https://census2020.utah.gov/> to fill it out and learn more!

“The census plays a part in every day for Utahns from education and roads to healthcare and politics. The outcome of the census can determine electoral representation down to the local level, including school boards and city councils. Infrastructure decisions and funding, from road repairs to transit development, use information based on census counts. Public safety uses these numbers to guide decisions about service areas, fire stations, police precincts and hospitals. The census impacts every part of life in Utah, so be counted because you matter.”



ELECTION INFO



Election Information Ballots are being mailed out the beginning of October. You should expect your ballot to arrive in the mailbox around October 13. Make sure you are registered to vote at <https://vote.utah.gov/>.