

House Majority
State of Utah

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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FAMILY FALL ACTIVITIES

After long hours of Zoom calls or online school, it is easy to find oneself cooped up and overwhelmed. One of the best ways to relieve stress is to get out and explore nature. Family fun, socially distant, scenic drives help us experience the beauty of Utah and see the jaw dropping leaves that are changing this time of year. Click [here](#) to see suggestions on byways to drive and other safe ways to experience fall.

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POLICY PRIORITY- EDUCATION FUNDING



In November, voters will decide on several constitutional amendments. Constitutional Amendment G amends the Utah Constitution to allow income tax revenues to be used for education and for programs for children and people with a disability. If approved by voters, education funding will be protected, stabilized, and account for growth and inflation each year. More information on this proposal can be seen below.

Stabilizing Education Funding for a Better Tomorrow

Proposal to Reinforce Funding Supporting Public Education, Children & Individuals with Disabilities

Overview

- Income tax revenues are historically unstable. Although income tax revenues have grown steadily during much of our current economic expansion, Utah saw a 12% peak in 2007 following a 10% and 9% downward shift in 2009 and 2010.
- There is no dedicated system to protect education funding during economic downturns.
- The Legislature is not required to factor enrollment growth or inflation into education funding.
- The proposed solution modifies the constitution to allow income tax revenue to serve children and individuals with disabilities while still protecting, stabilizing and growing public education funding.
- The proposal includes **NO** tax increases.

The Proposal

This Proposal Protects, Grows and Stabilizes Public Education (K-12) Funding



Protects

- Moves Minimum School Program funding to a constitutionally protected account for K-12 education – approximately \$3.4 billion beginning in FY 2022.
 - The constitution protects Uniform School Fund expenditures to ensure they are dedicated to K-12 public education.



Grows

- Automatically adjusts education funding for enrollment growth and inflation. Funding beyond this base is appropriated through the regular legislative appropriations process.
 - Includes enrollment growth and the annual inflation for the Minimum School Program in the base budget, which includes the weighted pupil unit (WPU).



Stabilizes

- Reserves revenues to meet educational funding commitments (enrollment growth and inflation) during economic downturns.
 - Creates an ongoing public education budget stabilization account.
 - Reserves a portion of ongoing revenue to meet future education needs (beginning in FY 2022).
 - Aims to sustain education through an approximate 24-month downturn.
- Increases flexibility at the local level by allowing local school districts to use property tax revenue for operational expenses during economic downturns.

If voters approve the amendment

This proposal will go into effect

Constitutional Amendment



Lets Utah Voters Decide

- The proposal takes effect if Utahns approve it during the 2020 general election.



Expands the Constitutional Earmark

- Allows the use of income tax revenue to support services for **children** and **individuals with disabilities**.
 - Such services includes social services that supplement educational needs, including supporting the physical and mental health of students.

FLU SHOTS

With seasons changing, flu season is quickly approaching. It's important that Utahns continue to work hard to stay safe and healthy. Some of the best preventative measures you can take are to get your annual flu shot, regularly wash your hands, and wear a mask whenever in public.

Depending on your insurance, flu shots are either free, or \$30 at max. To find a flu shot clinic near you click [here](#).



2ND HAPPIEST STATE IN THE COUNTY

WalletHub recently voted Utah as the 2nd Happiest State in the Country. On this, Speaker Wilson said, "Things aren't always perfect, but I feel lucky to live in such a beautiful state with so many good people. Utah truly is the best place to live, work, and play." To read more click [here](#).



COVID-19 UPDATE

Utah's COVID-19 Case Counts from September 28 - October 2
Monday, September 28

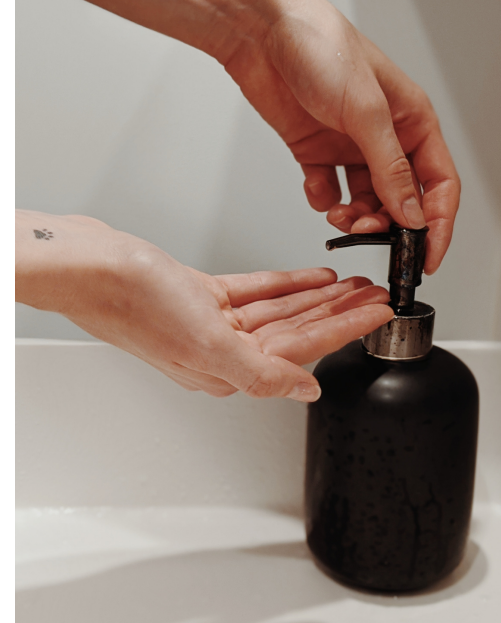
- 71,442 positive cases, an increase of 827 from the previous day
- 6,212 new tests administered 167 current hospitalizations
- 453 total deaths, 0 more than the previous day
- 54,530 recovered cases
- 14.0% positive rate

Tuesday, September 29

- 72,136 positive cases, an increase of 694 from the previous day
- 4,403 new tests administered 183 current hospitalizations
- 457 total deaths, 4 more than the previous day
- 54,844 recovered cases
- 13.7% positive rate

Wednesday, September 30

- 73,042 positive cases, an increase of 906 from the previous day
- 8,106 new tests administered 203 current hospitalizations
- 459 total deaths, 2 more than the previous day
- 55,141 recovered cases
- 13.6% positive rate



Thursday, October 1

- 74,050 positive cases, an increase of 1,008 from the previous day
- 6,248 new tests administered
- 201 current hospitalizations
- 459 total deaths, 0 more than the previous day
- 55,510 recovered cases
- 13.6% positive rate

Friday, October 2

- 75,157 positive cases, an increase of 1,107 from the previous day
- 9,365 new tests administered
- 218 current hospitalizations
- 474 total deaths, 15 more than the previous day
- 56,167 recovered cases
- 13.7% positive rate



Utah's 7-day rolling average for positive tests is 945 per day. The rolling 7-day average for percent of positive laboratory tests is 13.7%.

It is now more important than ever to practice social distancing, wear a face mask, wash your hands, and stay home when sick. Please do your part to protect yourself and those around you.

To see updated data and accurate information, visit the new Unified Response Scoreboard [here](#).

UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Below is the latest news release on Utah's unemployment insurance claims from the Department of Workforce Services. A few additional points to highlight from last week (September 20-26):

- Traditional unemployment insurance new claims decreased by 3.3% from the previous week to 2,469 claims
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance new claims decreased by 6.9% from the previous week to 683 claims
- Extended Unemployment Claims increased by 10% from the previous week to 1,306 claims
- Total new claims for all three programs ended the week at 4,458 (see claim graph below)
- Combined weekly claims for all three programs was at 44,306
- Total combined numbers from March 15 to September 26
 - New claims: 309,698
 - Benefits paid: \$1,523,186,538 (includes Lost Wages Assistance payments)



This week the department launched the UT Job Support campaign to help connect job seekers to the hottest jobs available. They are working with key industry partners to identify their top jobs with openings and to connect those on unemployment to these opportunities. Do not wait for your benefits to run out to find your next job opportunity. The Hot Job web portal is now live at jobs.utah.gov.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Department of Workforce Services 2020 Annual Report

Outlines the work of our eight public-facing divisions, 19 programs and 13 boards and commissions. This report provides key outcomes and data, and shares achievements and challenges of our staff throughout the year.

9th Annual Intergenerational Poverty Report

This report on Intergenerational Poverty, Welfare Dependency and Public Assistance is a compilation of the latest data available from 2019 and provides an update on Utah's progress within the four focus areas of a child's well-being: early childhood development, family economic stability, health and education.



Apprenticeship Utah 2020 Inaugural Report

As the inaugural report of apprenticeships in Utah, this report provides an overview of current opportunities, key stakeholders, data, challenges and barriers to growing apprenticeship sponsors and apprentices, as well as recommendations for improving apprenticeship programs.

ELECTION INFO

Ballots will be 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/>.



THIS WEEK'S PODCAST- CENSUS



Every wonder why we conduct a census? How about why it's important to our elections? Listen to this week's episode to find out more!

[Click here to listen on Spotify.](#)