

2024 HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY PRIORITIES

FOR UTAH

A Bold Vision, A Bright Future



FOR UTAH

A Note from the Utah House Majority Caucus

Beginning with Utah's early inhabitants, explorers, and pioneers, we have always acted boldly to secure a bright and prosperous future for Utah. Today, Utah enjoys an elite economy, abundant natural resources, and unmatched opportunity. No wonder we are one of the nation's fastest growing states.

Our focus on families, common-sense solutions, fiscal prudence, and long-term thinking remains foundational to our success and prosperity. We refuse to stray from our core values, and we commit ourselves to a bold, yet balanced, approach to solving challenges. This legislative session, we will pass policies that address today's problems and create generational benefits for our constituents, for our future, and **for Utah.**

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PEOPLE

ELEVATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UTAHNS

Utah is extraordinary because our people and families are extraordinary. We are industrious, compassionate, and visionary. This session, we will champion policies for families, expand opportunities, bolster our buzzing economy, support students and teachers in the classroom, and prioritize the health and wellness of all Utahns.



FAMILIES

TAXPAYERS



**HEALTH &
WELLBEING**

**STUDENTS &
TEACHERS**



FAMILIES

As the most basic and fundamental unit of society, families are the bedrock of our thriving communities. Pro-family policies drive economic opportunity, promote happiness, foster social stability, and support the overall health of our people. However, Utah families, just like families around the country, face new and evolving challenges. We will adopt policies for Utah families to help them thrive in all facets of life.

FOR UTAH:

- *Support families with children*
- *Eliminate unnecessary regulations that limit child care*
- *Increase awareness about the importance of strong families*

“ STRONG FAMILIES ARE THE FOUNDATION OF UTAH’S SUCCESS. TO CONTINUE ON THE PATH OF PROSPERITY, IT’S OUR JOB TO GET GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY, FIND COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES WE FACE, AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT EMPOWER UTAH’S FAMILIES.

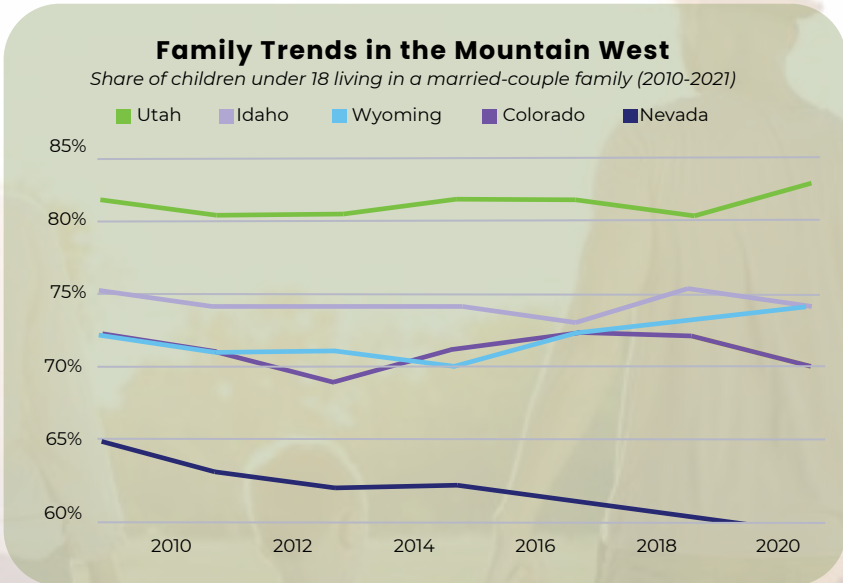
Rep. Candice Pierucci

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CHILDREN

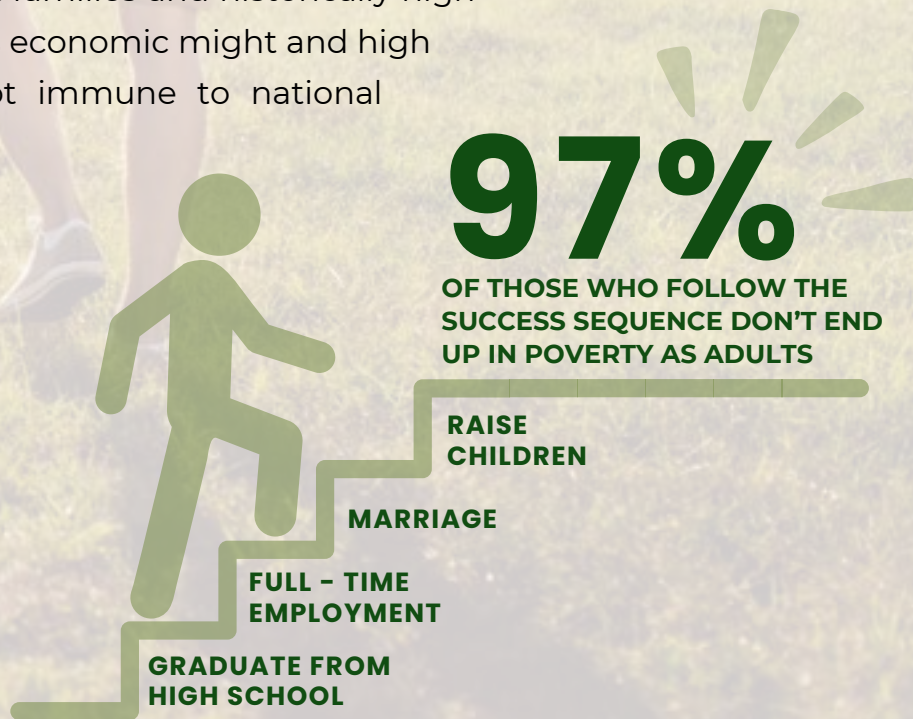
The cost of caring for children, inside or outside of the home, remains a top challenge for Utahns due to inflation and cost-of-living increases. Even Utahns who can afford to pay for child care face challenges as over regulation and a limited supply of child care facilities have led to long waitlists, leaving care out of reach for many Utah families. We will pursue policies that support families with children.



United States Census

SUCCESS SEQUENCE

Researchers credit Utah’s tight-knit families and historically high birth rates with fostering the state’s economic might and high quality of life. However, we’re not immune to national trends of declining emphasis on the family. A growing body of research finds that adults who follow a specific sequence of life events live happier, more prosperous lives. We will find policy solutions to strengthen this sequence and help current and future Utah families thrive.





“
UTAH’S ECONOMY IS SECOND TO NONE, BUT THAT DOESN’T MEAN WE CAN SIT BACK AND RELAX. WE MUST CONTINUE TO DREAM BIG SO THAT UTAHNS AND UTAH BUSINESSES CAN CONTINUE TO PROSPER.
”
Rep. Cory Maloy

TAXPAYERS

As soon as pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley, they got to work. They planted seeds, developed water resources, and made the arid landscape blossom. Today, we carry their legacy of hard work, cooperation, and industriousness. More than a century of long-term planning, low taxes, fiscal prudence, and conservative business-friendly and family-friendly policies have anchored Utah as a modern-day economic powerhouse. This session, we will pass policies to foster economic success, support our workforce needs, and lower the cost of living **for Utahns.**

FOR UTAH:

- *Lower regulatory burdens*
- *Reduce the tax burden for Utahns*
- *Promote business-friendly policies to boost Utah’s elite economy*

TAXES

Amid historic inflation fueled by reckless federal fiscal policies, Utah families are feeling the pinch at the grocery store, gas station, and everywhere in between. The best way to reduce these pressures is to let families govern their finances, not government. Last year we opened the door to allow voters to remove the sales tax on food. This year, we will continue to improve government efficiency so we can ease tax burdens and make life more affordable for Utahns and inviting for business.

**OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS,
THE LEGISLATURE CUT
TAXES BY
\$1.15
BILLION**

**“THE TAX SYSTEM
... MUST PROMOTE
OPPORTUNITY, LIFT
UP THE WEAK,
STRENGTHEN THE
FAMILY.”**

President Ronald Regan

WORKFORCE

Utah’s young, highly educated workers serve as a magnet for the country’s top employers. As we continue to develop a skilled workforce for tomorrow’s jobs, we will also work to cut bureaucratic red tape and other needless barriers to career entry.



UTAH ACCOLADES

**TOP 10 BEST
STATE TO DO
BUSINESS**

Wallet Hub

**BEST SMALL CITIES
FOR STARTING
A BUSINESS**

Wallet Hub

**BEST STATE
TO START A
BUSINESS**

Wallet Hub

**BEST ECONOMIC
OUTLOOK – 16TH
YEAR IN A ROW**

Rich States, Poor States, ALEC

**#1 STATE FOR
GDP GROWTH**

Forbes August 2021

**BEST OVERALL
ECONOMY**

US News and World Report

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Dubbed “The Friendly State” in 1948, Utahns have maintained their sunny reputation while earning plaudits as some of the healthiest and happiest people in America. However, Utahns face new headwinds with rising healthcare costs and growing mental healthcare needs. We will expand capacity for quality healthcare, spur innovation, and safeguard healthcare programs **for Utahns.**

FOR UTAH:

- *Improve coordination and expand capacity of the mental healthcare system*
- *Optimize mental and behavioral health licensure requirements to address our shortage of mental health providers*
- *Adopt measures to reduce and prevent homelessness*

“

“A HEALTHY UTAH IS A HAPPY UTAH. WE CONTINUE TO PRIORITIZE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING OF ALL UTAHNS BY MAKING INVESTMENTS TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND SYSTEMS OF HEALTHCARE.”

Rep. Steve Eliason

”



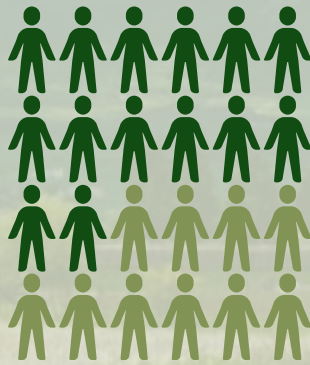


MENTAL HEALTH

Demand for mental healthcare is increasing, especially among Utah’s youth. Meanwhile, Utah faces a shortage of qualified mental health providers in all 29 counties. We will build upon past investments to expand access to appropriate mental healthcare **for Utahns.**

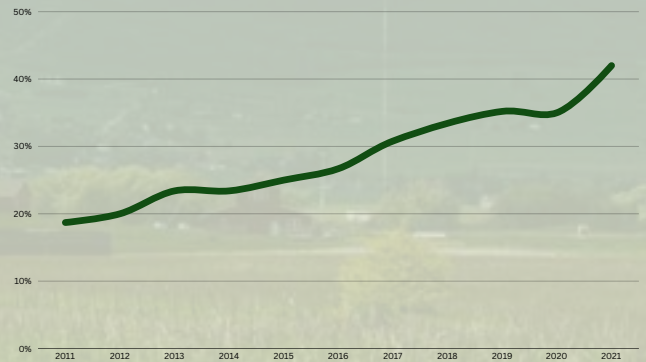
58%

OF CHILDREN IN UTAH WITH CLINICALLY DIAGNOSED MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS DID NOT RECEIVE TREATMENT WITHIN 3 MONTHS



National Survey of Children’s Health

Young Adults in Utah with Poor Mental Health
Ages 18-25, 2011-2021



Utah Department of Health and Human Services

HOMELESSNESS

Although Utah ranks well below the national average, chronic homelessness imposes immense health, public safety, and economic burdens on individuals and local communities. We will work with counties and cities to end unsanctioned camping, improve housing affordability, and mitigate the effects of homelessness on local communities.



DURING THE LAST TWO SESSIONS, THE LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATED
\$175 MILLION
TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN UTAH

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

“
EVERY TEACHER, EVERY PARENT, AND EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE SAFE WHEN THEY GO TO SCHOOL. THE ONLY THING WE NEED OUR KIDS TO FOCUS ON IN THE CLASSROOM IS LEARNING.
”

Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox



STUDENTS & TEACHERS

Utah has the best teachers and brightest students in the nation. While other states drift away from the fundamentals of a good education, Utah is focusing on the basics. We will put students, parents, and teachers first – not institutions or programs. Our policies will support teachers and prepare students for a bright future in the Beehive State.

FOR UTAH:

- *Improve physical security and student and teacher safety at schools*
- *Reduce financial burdens on students and parents*
- *Get back to the basics in the classroom*
- *Keep parents informed and involved in their child's education*
- *Explore ways to further improve teacher recruitment and retention*



**DURING THE 2022-
2023 SCHOOL YEAR,
SafeUT RECEIVED**

791 TIPS

**FOR POTENTIAL SCHOOL
THREATS OR ACTS OF
VIOLENCE**

SafeUT's 2022-2023 Annual Report

SAFETY & SECURITY

Tragic attacks on schools across the country make it clear: We cannot afford complacency. Families deserve the peace of mind that comes from knowing our schools are safe places for students to learn and grow. Last year, we appropriated \$75 million to improve school security all across the state. This year, we will adopt additional measures to keep our students and teachers safe. In the Beehive State, we want educators focused on teaching and students focused on learning.

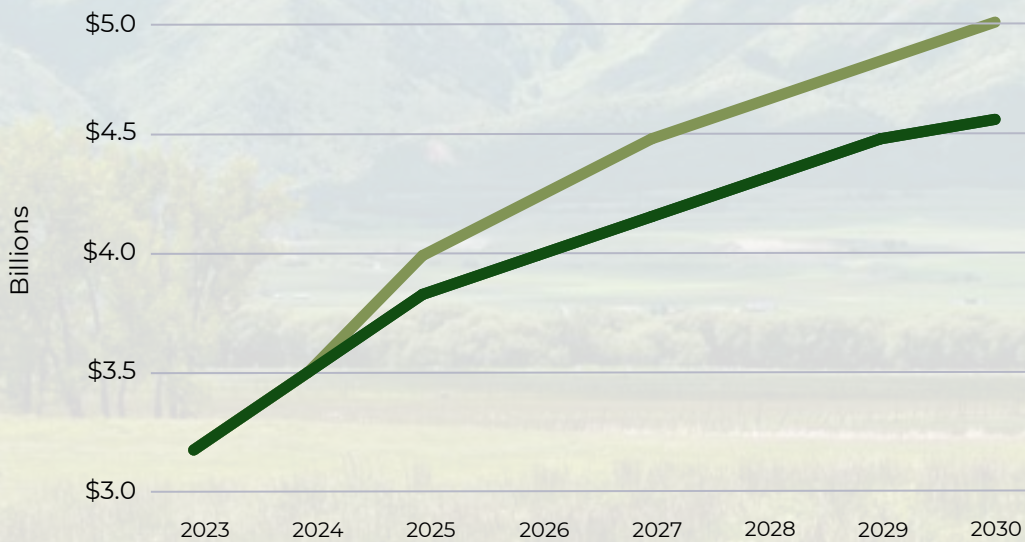
BACK TO THE BASICS

The best educational outcomes occur when teachers, students, and parents are all working together. Over time, teachers have been spread thin with growing, unmanageable workloads. New teachers and those with decades of experience are overextended. We will focus on removing unnecessary burdens and headaches, keeping parents informed and involved, and allowing teachers to do what they do best: teach.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Last year, we built a roadmap to safeguard education funding in Utah. Now, voters will decide if our state should add those safeguards to the Utah Constitution. Meanwhile, we will continue our work to ease financial burdens on students and teachers by tackling curricular school fees.

Public Education Funding



■ Public education funding if voters **approve** safeguards in the Utah Constitution

■ Public education funding if voters **do not approve** safeguards in the Utah Constitution

SINCE 2019, UTAH HAS INVESTED OVER
\$16 BILLION
IN PUBLIC EDUCATION



TEACHER RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Teacher retention is up across the state due to higher salaries funded by the Legislature and local districts' innovative approaches to improving the education workplace. We will continue to pursue policies that make teaching a desirable and rewarding career in our state.



STARTING PAY FOR TEACHERS IN WESTERN METRO AREAS

* Average taken from 8 school districts along the Wasatch Front





RESOURCES

PROTECTING AND MAXIMIZING RESOURCES FOR UTAHNS

No one cares more about Utah than Utahns. We owe much of our success to the careful and responsible management of the state's abundant natural resources. As Utah grows, we will rely on new technologies and a history of ingenuity to do more with less. We will defend the state's resources so future generations can thrive and continue our history of thoughtful stewardship.



WATER



ENERGY



LANDS



STEWARDSHIP

“
WATER IS CRITICAL FOR NEARLY EVERY COMPONENT OF LIFE – IT’S WHAT WE DRINK, HOW WE GROW OUR CROPS, AND WHERE WE RECREATE. NO ACTION IS TOO SMALL WHEN IT COMES TO CONSERVING AND SAFEGUARDING UTAH’S WATER.
”

Rep. Casey Snider

WATER

Last year’s historic snowfall provided a much-needed boost to the state’s reservoirs and aquifers. However, the state still has not recovered from decades of extreme drought. Our future depends on smart and sustainable water policies. We will promote conservation while making critical investments in water infrastructure and technology. And, as Utah grows, we will work to increase and extend the state’s water supply.

FOR UTAH:

- *Establish long-term systems to invest in water infrastructure and conservation technology*
- *Continue statewide conservation efforts through incentives and educational programs*
- *Determine Utah’s reliable supply of water using better data and accounting for increased demand*

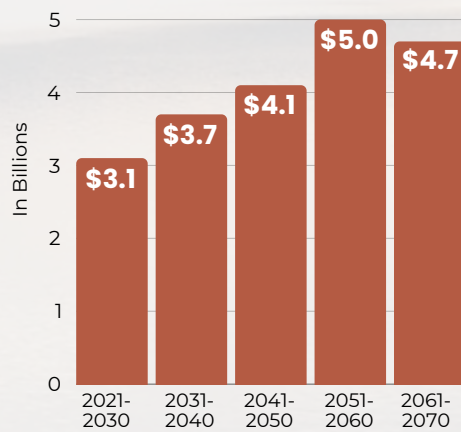


WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Like roads or power lines, water infrastructure is a necessary component of modern life. The historic patchwork system of project development throughout the state has left our water infrastructure lagging behind our growth. As our population continues to grow, it is crucial the state provides a unified plan for water development and identifies adequate funding for future water infrastructure needs.

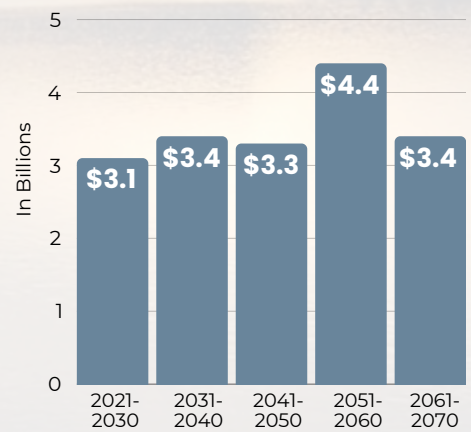
REPAIR & REPLACEMENT OF AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

\$20.6 BILLION



NEW INFRASTRUCTURE, WATER SUPPLIES, AND WATER SUPPLIER CONSERVATION COSTS

\$17.6 BILLION



Utah State Water Plan, 2021

\$38 BILLION

IS NEEDED IN REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND NEW SUPPLY PROJECTS

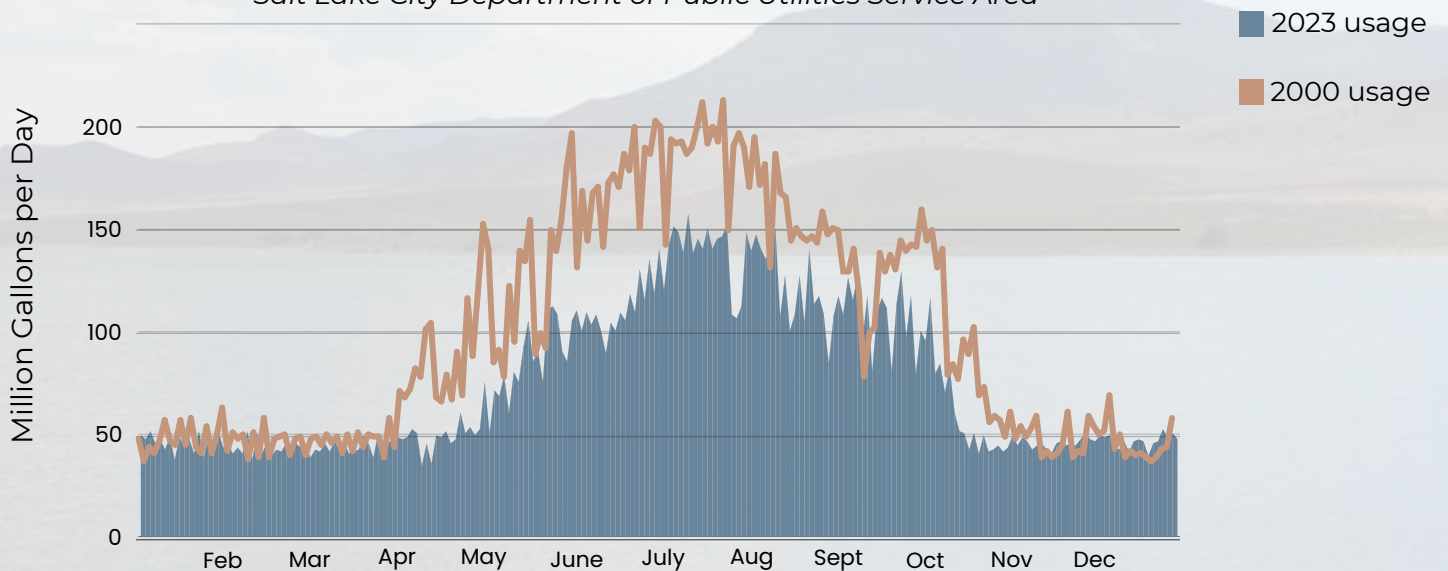
THE STATE HAS HISTORICALLY BORNE ABOUT 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE. DUE TO FEDERAL NEGLECT, THE STATE BURDEN IS EXPECTED TO GROW.

WATER CONSERVATION

Conservation is critical to Utah's water future. Even after an incredible water year, Utahns' conservation habits stuck with consistent reductions in their personal water use. Changing the narrative and habits around water conservation will require a concerted and sustained effort. Utah leaders will continue to foster a culture of conservation through incentives, education programs, and public outreach campaigns to shift the way we manage water.

Daily Water Use 2023 Compared to 2000

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities Service Area



WATER MEASUREMENT

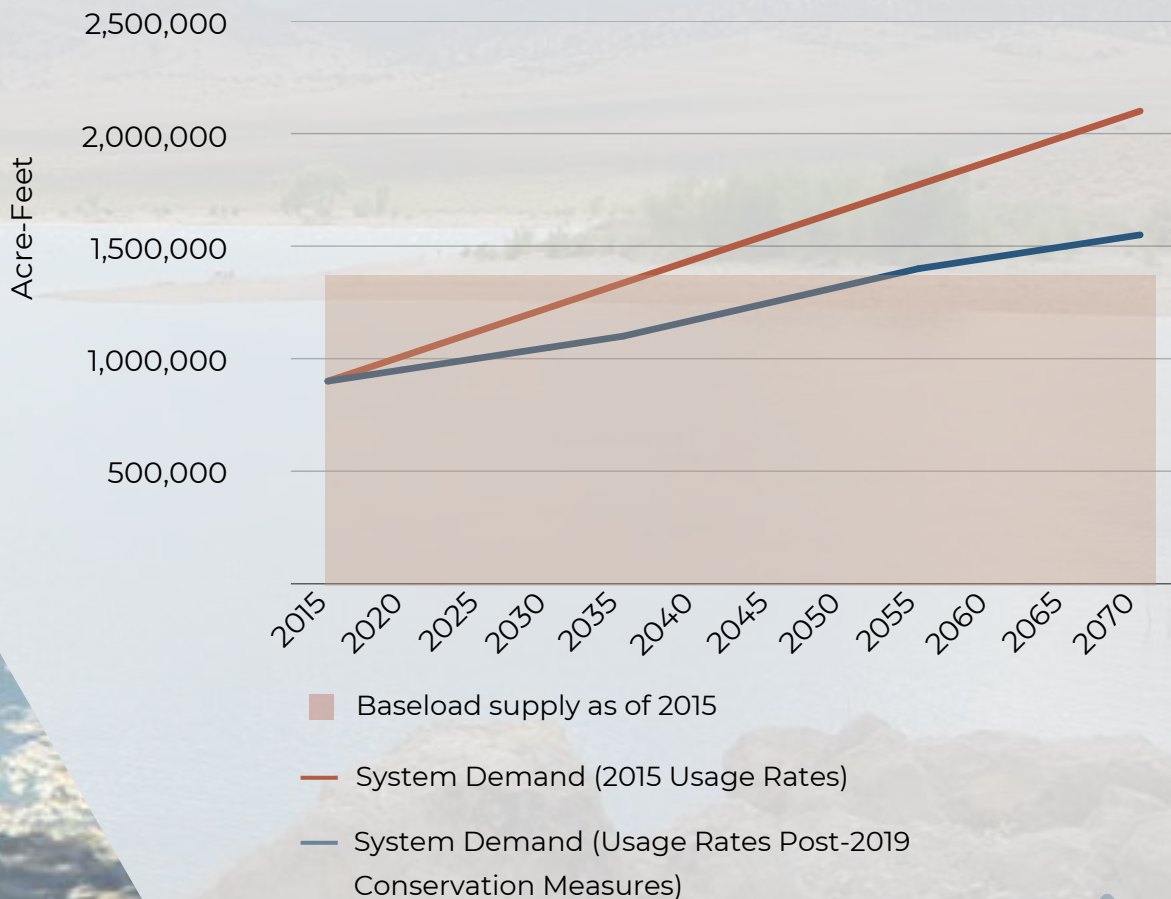
Good water management requires good data. However, a recent legislative audit found that Utah currently lacks the necessary measurement tools to provide accurate data. We will provide resources to accurately account for the amount of water flowing through our system, providing better information to water managers, and improving our long-term water management plans.

WATER SUPPLY

Completed in 1993, Jordanelle Reservoir added enough water storage capacity for 500,000 homes across the state. Three decades later, 1.6 million additional residents still rely on that supply. Recent conservation efforts have extended current water supply by 20 years. To keep Utah strong and resilient, we must evaluate water supply to meet increasing demand.

EVEN WITH CONSERVATION EFFORTS, DEMAND WILL EXCEED SUPPLY BY 2055

Water Supply vs System Demand for the State of Utah



ENERGY

Utah's abundant energy resources and generation capacity provide reliable, affordable, and dispatchable power to energize our homes and economy. Utah has embraced an all-of-the-above approach that welcomes traditional and renewable energy sources as well as innovative new potential energy systems. We will continue to push back against onerous federal regulations and shifting demands from outside entities that threaten this approach, and we will ensure Utah's energy policy is driven by Utah interests.

FOR UTAH:

- *Reevaluate energy policies to meet Utah's needs*
- *Protect Utah's ability to produce reliable, affordable, and dispatchable baseload power*
- *Investigate advanced nuclear power options for Utah*

“
UTAH'S ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE APPROACH TO ENERGY HAS POWERED OUR STATE FOR DECADES. WE KNOW THAT WE MUST BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE RESOURCES WE'VE BEEN GIVEN. WE CANNOT JUMP TO FULL RELIANCE ON UNREALISTIC ENERGY SOURCES. WE'LL TAKE A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO ENSURE THE LIGHTS TURN ON WHEN YOU FLIP THE SWITCH.

Rep. Colin Jack

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PROTECTING UTAH'S ENERGY

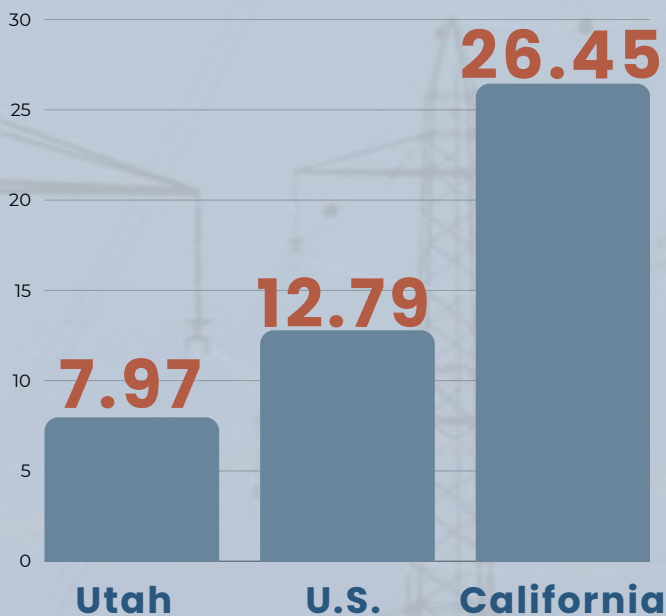
Washington, D.C.'s irrational energy policies have found a home in California and other neighboring states. These policies increase our reliance on electric vehicles and appliances while diminishing our capacity to generate reliable power, driving up power costs and threatening the stability of the grid. We will implement policies to ensure Utah energy providers meet Utah needs.



Utah has the lowest average monthly energy bill per household in the nation

Forbes Magazine

Commercial Energy Rates in cents per kWh



U.S. Consumer Price Index

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
IS REQUIRING ALL UTAH
COAL-FIRED POWER
PLANTS TO SHUT DOWN IN**

9 YEARS

**HOWEVER, IT TAKES UP TO
20 YEARS
TO PERMIT AND BUILD A
CLEAN, RELIABLE BASELOAD
POWER PROJECT**

NUCLEAR POWER

Nuclear power is clean, reliable, and dispatchable. A recent Deseret News and Hinckley Institute poll found that 65% of all Utah adults support nuclear power in the state. Additionally, renewed investor interest and advances in technology have opened the door to increase grid capacity and reliability with safer and lower impact nuclear power.



LANDS

We care deeply about our lands. As proven stewards, we know Utahns can best govern Utah. We will advance efforts to ensure Utah has a primary role in land management decisions.

“

AS UTAHNS, WE KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR UTAH AND FOR OUR LANDS. INVESTING IN PROPER OWNERSHIP OF OUR LAND ISN'T ABOUT PICKING FIGHTS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IT'S ABOUT TAKING CONTROL TO ENSURE OUR LANDS ARE MANAGED IN A WAY THAT WILL PROVIDE BENEFITS TODAY AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Rep. Walt Brooks

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FOR UTAH:

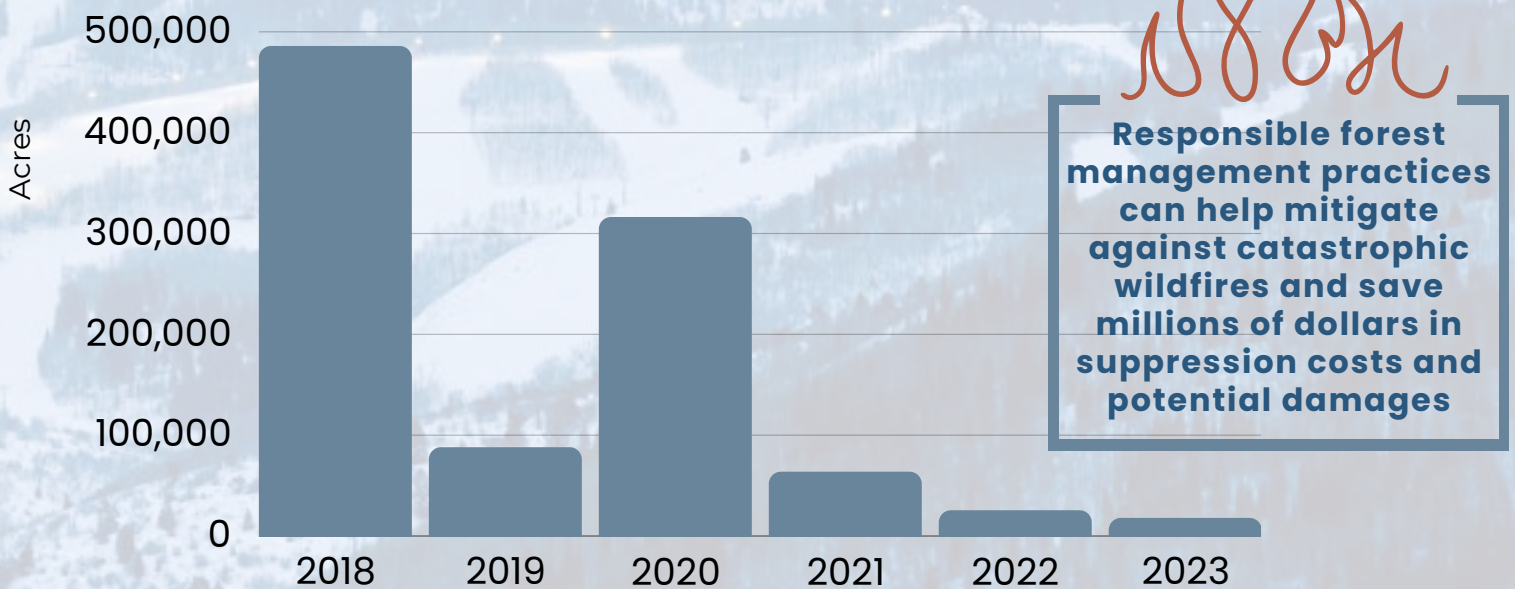
- *Manage Utah's forests through continued investment in joint land management programs*
- *Reevaluate the State Institutional Trust Lands program to maximize benefits for Utah students today and in the future*



STATE LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Over the past three years, we have worked with local and federal partners to better Utah's land management and conservation programs. This has helped the state reduce forest management costs, mitigate wildfire risk, and bolster forest health. As a state, we will continue to make investments in our proactive forest management through local, state, and federal cooperation.

Utah Forest Acreage Burned



Responsible forest management practices can help mitigate against catastrophic wildfires and save millions of dollars in suppression costs and potential damages

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

STATE LANDS

State Trust Land management decisions last for generations. They should benefit Utah students and leave our state with a strong position in the future. We will not let short-term gains risk our long-term success.

STEWARDSHIP

We believe in being good stewards of our lands and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our natural wonders. Utah has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources that make our state a great place to live, work, and play. We must ensure that Utah's forests, rivers, and air remain clean without compromising our ability to use these resources to improve quality of life and further our state's prosperity.

FOR UTAH:

- *Harness innovative and new technologies*
- *Establish an Environmental Stewardship Caucus*
- *Support responsible energy and resource development*

“
WE BELIEVE WE CAN PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY MAXIMIZING OUR ABUNDANT RESOURCES. THROUGH PRACTICAL AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, WE CAN REDUCE EMISSIONS WITHOUT LIMITING ENERGY AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

Rep. Bridger Bolinder

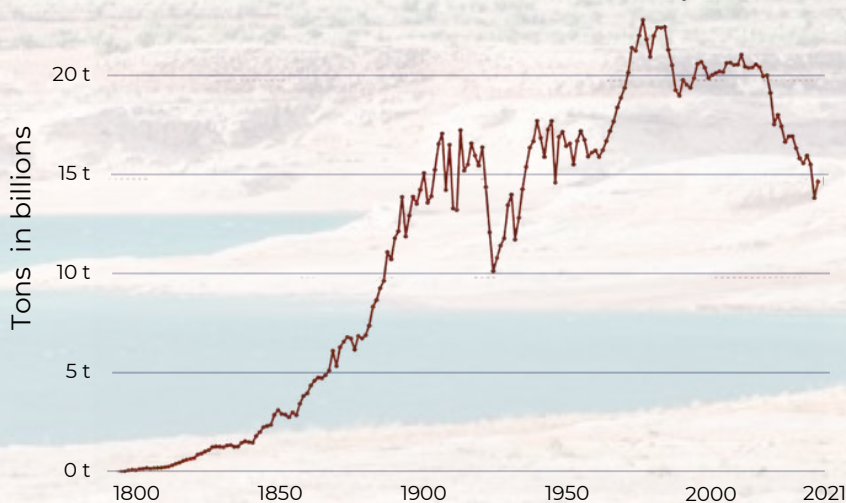
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INCENTIVIZING TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

Technological innovation leads to cleaner and more efficient forms of production. Over the past 50 years our nation's output has grown and our prosperity has increased, yet our emissions, including CO2, have seen a marked decline. As we seek to improve our environment and care for our natural resources, we must recognize that technological development and innovation in fossil fuels are part of the solution to our environmental challenges.

Per Capita CO2 Emissions

Carbon dioxide emission from fossil fuels and industry



Global Carbon Budget 2022

**CARBON EMISSIONS LEVELS
ARE LOWER
THAN THEY WERE IN THE
1970s
THANKS TO
TECHNOLOGICAL
INNOVATION**



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP CAUCUS

As conservative legislators, we are committed to protecting our state's natural resources for future generations while also supporting responsible energy and resource development. We believe a strong economy and a healthy environment are not mutually exclusive, and we are committed to finding solutions that achieve both goals.



ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

IMPROVING SYSTEMS, PROCESSES, AND INSTITUTIONS FOR UTAHNS

Our government must be accountable to the people it represents. By protecting the state from federal over-regulation and mismanagement, trimming avoidable bureaucracy at the state level, maintaining a top-tier election system, and fortifying public safety, we will ensure an efficient and responsive government in the Beehive State.



**FIGHTING
FOR UTAH**

**GOVERNMENT
EFFICIENCY**



**PUBLIC
SAFETY**

**HIGHER
EDUCATION**



FIGHTING FOR UTAH

Over the past decades, the federal government has regularly overstepped its constitutional role, imposed burdensome regulations, and acted against the best interests of Utah. We will ensure that vital Utah programs are not compromised by federal mismanagement or beholden to unnecessary regulations that do not benefit Utahns; and when the federal government takes steps that harm our state, we will fight back **for Utah**.

“**U.S. SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS DECLARED “STATES ARE SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNS. SOMETIMES THEY HAVE TO ACT LIKE IT.” FOR THE WELLBEING OF OUR STATE AND OUR PEOPLE, WE INTEND TO DO JUST THAT.**

Rep. Ken Ivory

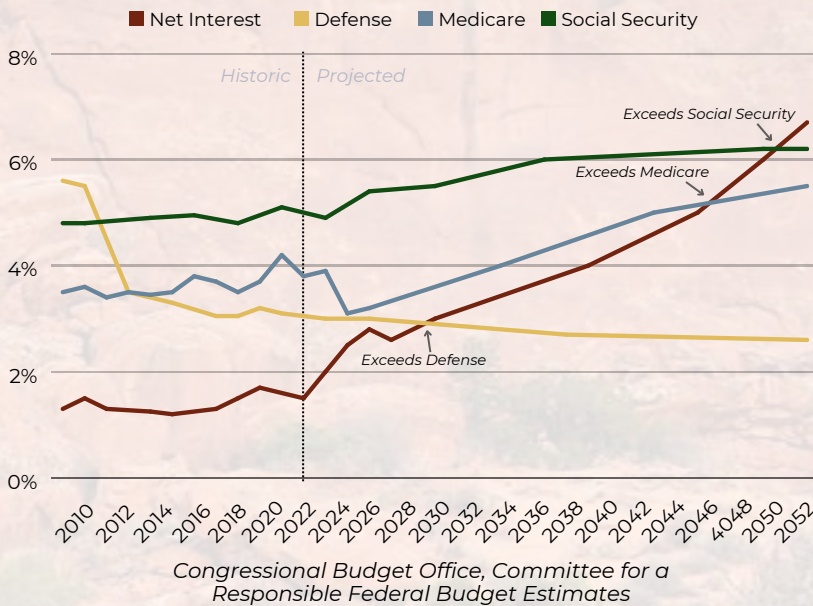
FOR UTAH:

- *Adopt funding contingency plans to safeguard critical state programs*
- *Push back against federal overreach through the judicial system*
- *Improve transparency in state agency federal grant reporting*
- *Ensure Utah is prepared for a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Chevron doctrine*

FEDERAL FUNDS CONTINGENCY PLAN

Reckless fiscal mismanagement in Washington, D.C. puts numerous state-run programs at risk. Rising interest payments have started crowding out other federal spending, including funding to states. As Washington's financial outlook worsens every day, we will create contingency plans to safeguard critical programs when the federal government cannot keep its promises.

Spending on Interest to Exceed All Other Programs



THE NATIONAL DEBT HAS SURPASSED \$34 TRILLION

U.S. Treasury Department

FEDERAL OVERREACH

Whether it's related to public lands, energy, or other key interests of the state, the Legislature will continue to fund and pursue all avenues of litigation to assert the powers granted to Utah by the 10th Amendment and ensure Utahns' rights and livelihoods are protected. The impractical and delusional management plans currently being imposed on our state by federal bureaucrats deprive Utahns of our ability to recreate on our public lands, damage our economy, and deprive us of our sovereignty. We will continue to push back against federal overreach in all forms to ensure governing decisions are made by Utah, **for Utah.**

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Good governance requires accountability and efficient and effective use of taxpayer funds. We will trim excess in the state government to streamline services and deliver faster, better results **for Utah.**

“
TO CURB THE EXPANSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUCRACY, IT IS TIME THE LEGISLATURE TAKES SERIOUS STRIDES TO BOTH ELIMINATE INEFFECTIVE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS AND PREVENT THE CREATION OF UNNECESSARY BOARDS IN THE FUTURE.

Rep. Cal Musselman

”

FOR UTAH:

- *Identify and eliminate inefficient uses of taxpayer funds*
- *Reduce and eliminate unnecessary government boards and commissions*
- *Oversee implementation of election reforms*
- *Hold government agencies accountable for implementing audit recommendations*

CUT UNNECESSARY SPENDING

Utah always passes a balanced budget, but maintaining this tradition of efficient government spending requires constant vigilance. We will scour our budgets to eliminate unnecessary spending so we can keep taxes low for Utahns.

THERE ARE OVER

400

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
IN UTAH'S GOVERNMENT**

*Office of Legislative Research
and General Counsel*

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

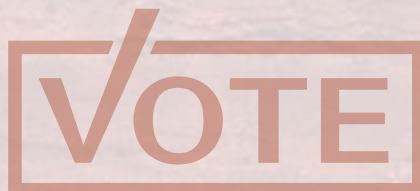
Utah government has too many boards and commissions. Years of well-intentioned efforts to solve specific problems have led to over 400 boards and commissions that oversee and regulate everyday life. A number no longer serve an essential function and add unneeded bureaucracy to the Beehive State.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Last year the Legislature passed several reforms, including audits of every general election, to ensure that our election system remains one of the best and most efficient in the nation. This year we will oversee the implementation of these reforms so coming elections, including the 2024 general election, run as they should.

**“LET EACH CITIZEN
REMEMBER AT THE
MOMENT HE IS OFFERING
HIS VOTE...THAT HE IS
EXECUTING ONE OF THE
MOST SOLEMN TRUSTS IN
HUMAN SOCIETY FOR
WHICH HE IS
ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD
AND HIS COUNTRY.”**

Samuel Adams





PUBLIC SAFETY

Robust public safety is critical for our flourishing economy, strong communities, and high quality of life. Our growing population and the wave of rising crime nationwide demand an increased focus on public safety. However, Utah's tight labor market has exacerbated staffing shortages in law enforcement and corrections agencies. We will work to increase law enforcement recruitment and retention, improve safety and security at the state prison, and adopt policies that deter crime, reduce recidivism, and strengthen public safety.

FOR UTAH:

- *Strengthen accountability in the criminal justice system to promote public safety*
- *Target drug distributors and repeat criminal offenders to deter crime*
- *Enhance tools and resources to reduce recidivism*
- *Improve safety and security at state correctional facilities*

“KEEPING UTAHNS SAFE AND PROTECTED IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE GOVERNMENT. JUST LIKE EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES NEED TO BE EVALUATED AND IMPROVED REGULARLY.

Rep. Karianne Lisonbee

”



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

There are clear gaps in the criminal justice system. We will not stand idly by as increasingly lethal drugs, such as fentanyl, kill people across the state. We will keep Utah one of the safest states in the nation by targeting drug distributors and repeat criminal offenders, supporting victims, and holding courts and the rest of the criminal justice system accountable for reducing recidivism and promoting public safety.

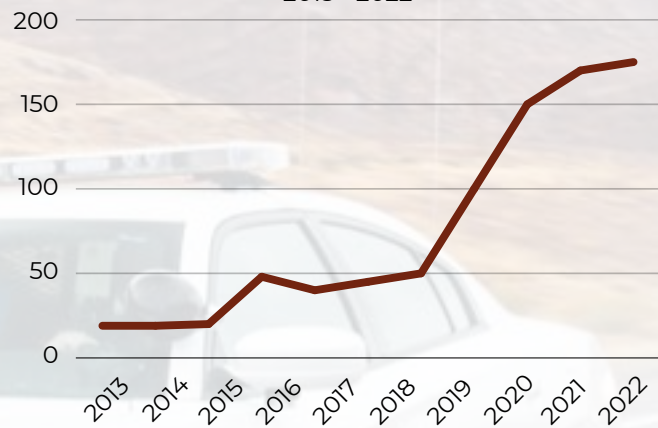
50%

OF ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE DEATHS IN UTAH IN THE PAST YEAR WERE CAUSED BY FENTANYL

Department of Health and Human Services

Fentanyl Overdose Deaths

2013 - 2022



Department of Health and Human Services

CORRECTIONS

Staffing shortages and other challenges threaten the safety and security of staff and inmates at the Utah State Correctional Facility. We will ensure the Department of Corrections has the tools and resources to meet staffing needs, improve safety and security, and prepare offenders to successfully reintegrate into society upon release.

54%

OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS AT THE STATE PRISON WERE VACANT IN 2023

HIGHER EDUCATION

Utah's institutions of higher education are key in preparing students to join our dynamic workforce, build strong communities, and engage effectively with our civic institutions. To stay true to that work, our colleges and universities must focus on their core missions of embracing academic excellence, fostering innovation, and cultivating a free marketplace of ideas.

“
**THROUGH INDUSTRY
ALIGNED PROGRAMS,
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE,
EXPOSURE TO DIVERSE
PERSPECTIVES,
AFFORDABLE ACCESS,
AND UNWAVERING
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
FOR FACULTY, STAFF, AND
STUDENTS, UTAH CAN
MAINTAIN HIGHER
EDUCATION AS A STRONG
DRIVER OF PROSPERITY
FOR THE STATE AND FOR
UTAH FAMILIES.**

Rep. Karen Peterson

FOR UTAH:

- *Provide support for and prepare all students to be workforce-ready and civic-minded*
- *Increase the value of higher education through more efficient programs*
- *Ensure institutions cultivate a free marketplace of ideas*



PREPARING STUDENTS

The primary focus of our colleges and universities is to prepare and support all students to become the workforce and citizenry of tomorrow. This must guide higher education leaders as they make decisions and address challenges. Finding ways to improve the student experience by reducing the time and money needed to earn a degree will benefit Utah students, families, communities, and businesses.

“THE HALLMARK OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS ITS POSITION AS THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS, WHERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAY FREELY EXPRESS ALL IDEAS AND VIEWPOINTS, BUT ALSO WHERE THE MERITS OF THOSE IDEAS ARE SUBJECT TO RIGOROUS SCRUTINY AND MUST WITHSTAND THE CHALLENGE OF OPEN DEBATE AND CRITICAL EXAMINATION.”

Utah Board of Higher Education



**UTAH HAS THE
SECOND LARGEST
CONCENTRATION OF
WORKERS WITH
INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS
OR TWO YEAR DEGREES**

FREE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS

Cultivating viewpoint diversity and protecting the right to free expression at our colleges and universities is essential. To do this, our institutions of higher education should actively champion and safeguard free speech and academic freedom, and must maintain institutional neutrality by refraining from ideological litmus tests for career and academic advancement. By fostering a free marketplace of ideas on our campuses, we equip students with the tools to engage in robust expression, understand the nuances of free speech, and navigate the responsibilities that come with it.



FUTURE

ENSURING A BOLD AND BRIGHT FUTURE FOR UTAHNS

Ever since pioneers planted their roots here, Utah has experienced change and growth. Settlers quickly expanded outward and upward, embraced opportunity, welcomed new technologies, and their communities grew stronger. At our core, Utahns are adaptable. We will anticipate challenges and invest in proactive policy solutions to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future **for Utah.**



HOUSING



TRANSPORTATION



TECHNOLOGY



HOUSING

As we look to the future, we must create opportunities for our children and grandchildren to establish a home in Utah. The challenge of housing a growing population is one that the state, cities and counties, and the private sector must work together to solve. We will facilitate infrastructure investment and streamline regulations to increase housing supply and improve housing affordability.

FOR UTAH:

- *Identify innovative ways to facilitate investment in housing*
- *Streamline processes to increase housing supply*

“
AS CITIES, COUNTIES,
THE STATE, AND HOME
BUILDERS WORK
TOGETHER TO MAKE
HOMEOWNERSHIP
POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY
FOR FIRST-TIME HOME
BUYERS, THE
AMERICAN DREAM OF
HOMEOWNERSHIP CAN
CONTINUE TO BE A
REALITY.

Rep. Stephen L. Whyte

”





INFRASTRUCTURE

Finding innovative ways to facilitate investment in infrastructure will allow housing in Utah to be built more efficiently and improve housing affordability in our state.



74%

OF U.S. ADULTS CONSIDER
HOMEOWNERSHIP A KEY
COMPONENT OF THE
AMERICAN DREAM

Bankrate.com

REGULATION

Homeownership is a key driver of strong communities, prosperous families, and living the American dream. In partnership with local officials, state leaders, and the private sector, we have made huge strides to close the housing availability gap for Utah by streamlining the development process to increase supply of affordable housing. We will continue our work to make homeownership achievable **for Utahns.**



“
FROM NORTH TO SOUTH,
UTAHNS ENJOY A HIGH
QUALITY OF LIFE. WE WILL
CONTINUE TO PLAN AND
INVEST IN OUR
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO
ENSURE THAT OUR
INFRASTRUCTURE KEEPS UP
WITH OUR WAY OF LIFE.

Rep. Kay Christofferson

TRANSPORTATION

Utah is lauded for its world-class roads and transportation projects. As our transportation needs grow, we must expand capacity while maintaining quality. We are committed to improving the whole transportation system through investments in highways, public transit, and active transit to fit the needs of every Utahn.

FOR UTAH:

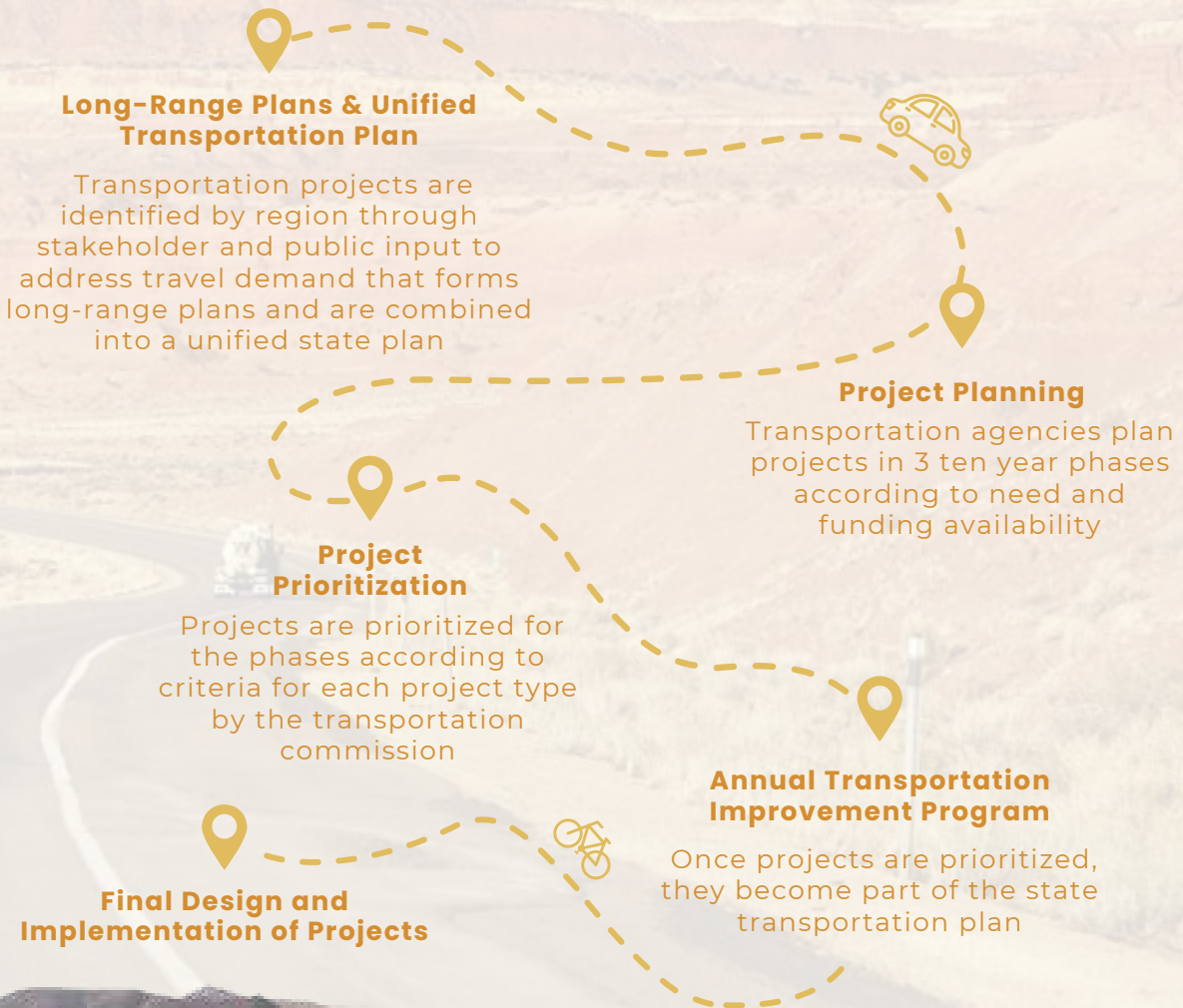
- *Continue to plan, develop, and build all modes of transportation*
- *Continue to invest in all modes of transportation infrastructure*



TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

As our state grows, investments in transportation are essential to maintain Utah's high quality of life. The way we make these investment decisions must account for growth where it is happening, and the investments themselves must consider all options for getting Utahns to the places they work, live, and play.

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT DECISION-MAKING



TECHNOLOGY

The future is here. The rapid rollout of artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT and other popular AI models has accelerated calls for policy guardrails that protect Utahns, facilitate innovation, and allow these technologies to flourish. We will work to strike a healthy balance between protecting personal information and harnessing the benefits of AI technology.

FOR UTAH:

- *Develop safeguards for AI and data privacy*
- *Provide innovative regulatory space for AI companies to develop new technologies*

“OUR INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE AND THRIVING TECH SECTOR GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ECONOMY AND INDUSTRIOUS SPIRIT. AS WE TAKE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN OUR BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT, WE MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT AGAINST POTENTIAL THREATS.”

Rep. Jefferson Moss



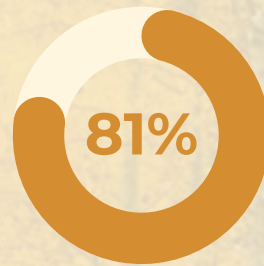
DATA PRIVACY

The growth of technology over the past decades in everything we do has created an ever expanding set of data privacy concerns. We will build upon the data privacy protections we passed last year in the Consumer Data Privacy Act to enable Utahns to know and control how their personal data is used.

HOW DO AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT DATA COLLECTION?



OF PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW USER DATA IS COLLECTED



OF PEOPLE SAY THE RISKS OF COMPANIES COLLECTING PERSONAL USER DATA OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS

Pew Research Center

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Advances in artificial intelligence have pushed us deep into uncharted territory. The advent of advanced AI models promises to boost productivity and enhance our everyday lives; however, potential risks like misinformation and deep fakes pose a threat to public wellbeing. We will work with the private sector to foster innovation and safeguard the public interest as AI technologies develop.

PEOPLE

RESOURCES

**ACCOUNTABLE
GOVERNMENT**

FUTURE





House Majority
State of Utah