



Utah Taxpayers Association

2014 Actions and Results

What have we done for you lately?

2014 Highlights

- **Successfully lobbied 89% of high priority bills during 2014 legislative session.** Monitored 130 tax related bills during the 2014 legislative session and successfully lobbied 89% of high priority bills.
 - **Hosted the first debate between Utah's 4th district congressional candidates.** All major Utah media outlets covered the heated debate between Republican candidate Mia Love and Democrat candidate Doug Owens.
 - **Hosted the 36th Annual Utah Taxes Now Conference.** Over 200 attendees participated in discussions of Utah tax policy. Topics included balancing the state budget, telecom utility fees and education funding.
 - **Successfully halted a \$1.8 billion tax increase in UTOPIA's 11 cities.** As part of a proposed UTOPIA partnership with an Australian firm, a mandatory utility fee on every rooftop would have raised taxes by \$1.8 billion in UTOPIA's 11 cities.
 - **Produced the 2014 School District Spending Report.** Report compares per pupil spending for classroom instruction, administration and other costs for all 41 school districts and charter schools.
 - **Analyzed the budgets of all 41 school districts, the 40 largest Utah cities, and all 29 counties.** Held local officials accountable for wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars.
 - **Attended Truth In Taxation Hearings throughout Utah to oppose property tax increases.** 42 TnT meetings were held throughout state for school districts, cities, counties, and special districts. Successfully reduced the rate of proposed property tax increases in West Point and Clinton cities.
 - **Endorsed Pleasant Grove City's \$12.7 million General Obligation Bond.** Endorsed Pleasant Grove's GO Bond for a new public safety building based on current building safety code violations and the city's fiscal resourcefulness. The bond failed with just more than 52% of voters opposed.
 - **Endorsed Eagle Mountain's November ballot proposition to sell the city's electric system.** Campaigned to sell the city's electric system, continuing to promote privatization of government services. The proposition passed with more than 70% of voters in favor.
 - **Supported increased requirements for State Tax Commissioners.** Successfully passed SB 19 to significantly increase Tax Commissioner qualifications and SJR 7 to remove the partisan requirements for Tax Commissioners.
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Halted UTOPIA \$1.8 Billion Tax Increase

\$1.8 Billion Tax Increase!
SAY NO AT UNOPIA.org

UTOPIA?
UNOPIA!

Paid for by Utah Taxpayers Association www.UNOPIA.org

UTOPIA, the failed eleven-city municipal telecom system, considered a deal from an Australian firm that would complete build out and maintenance of the telecom system by levying a utility fee on every rooftop in the eleven cities.

Your Utah Taxpayers Association has been a continued voice of opposition to the failed system. City councils in UTOPIA's eleven cities voted this summer on whether or not to move forward with the proposed deal. Your Taxpayers Association led a campaign to oppose the deal. Due to our efforts, five cities have already opted out and the remaining cities are unlikely to move forward with the proposed deal.

First Mailer

Centerville plans to tangle you up in UTOPIA.



UTOPIA is the local equivalent of Obamacare. Government shouldn't force us to purchase a product we don't want at a price we can't afford.

Sen. Howard Stephenson

Second Mailer

UTOPIA = Obamacare for your internet.

"UTOPIA is the local equivalent of Obamacare. Government shouldn't force us to purchase a product we don't want at a price we can't afford."

Sen. Howard Stephenson

HELP STOP UTOPIA

SIGN THE PETITION calling on city officials to **REJECT** the UTOPIA deal.

www.UNOPIA.org

And they plan to have you pay for it for 30 years.

Uh, no.

YUP. \$1.8 Billion Tax Increase. In June, the Centerville City Council will vote to join 10 other cities in creating the worst government boondoggle in the history of Utah and imposing the largest municipal tax increase ever in the Beehive State.

You must help stop it. The Centerville UTOPIA deal will mean:

- ✓ A new tax to be imposed on **all** citizens of participating cities – whether or not they want the UTOPIA service – and whether or not residents can afford to pay for it.
- ✓ UTOPIA enforcers will be granted the power to cut off your water if you don't pay for UTOPIA in full and on time every month.
- ✓ UTOPIA will require a tax increase exceeding **\$1.8 Billion** over 30 years with policies and penalties placed in the hands of **unelected bureaucrats**.

STOP JOIN US IN PUTTING A STOP TO THIS BAD IDEA. Go to: www.UNOPIA.org and sign the petition calling on city officials to reject the UTOPIA deal.

UTOPIA requires a \$1.8 Billion Tax Increase.

You have to pay for UTOPIA even if you don't want or need it.

And who benefits most from all that money? Australians.

You okay with a \$1.8 Billion tax increase? In June, your City Council will vote on whether to join 10 other cities in support of UTOPIA – imposing the **largest single municipal tax increase EVER** in the Beehive State. The City Council will back off if enough of us make a stink. Do it now. You see, the **UTOPIA deal will mean:**

- ✓ A new tax to be imposed on **all** citizens of participating cities – whether they want the UTOPIA service or not – and whether or not residents can afford to pay for it. **It works out to \$240 for every man, woman and child.**
- ✓ UTOPIA's enforcers will be granted the power to cut off your water if you don't pay your UTOPIA bill in full and on time every month. Does that sound like America to you?
- ✓ UTOPIA will require a tax increase exceeding **\$1.8 Billion** over 30 years with policies and penalties placed in the hands of **UNELECTED BUREAUCRATS!**

STOP WE CAN PUT A STOP TO THIS BAD IDEA. Go to: www.UNOPIA.org and **SIGN THE PETITION** Calling on City Officials to **REJECT** the UTOPIA Deal.

Supported the sale of Eagle Mountain's electric system

Your Taxpayers association supported Eagle Mountain City's November ballot proposition to sell the city's electric system to a private company. The association led a campaign and the proposition passed with over 70% of voters in favor.

VOTE FOR THE SALE OF THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM

PROPOSITION 8
 PAID FOR BY UTAH TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Endorsed Pleasant Grove's General Obligation Bond

Pleasant Grove City proposed a \$12.7 million general obligation bond for a new public safety building. Your Taxpayers Association endorsed the bond because the current buildings violate city code, and Pleasant Grove demonstrated fiscal restraint. Even though the city demonstrated clear need for the bond, voters voted against the bond with 52% opposed.

Tax Alerts

- Tell UTOPIA cities uNOpia to UTOPIA
- Vote YES on Amendment A
- Vote FOR the SALE of the electric system

Position Papers, Editorials & Research

- New Study: Gives More Reason to Oppose Tax Subsidies for a Convention Center Hotel
- Utah Ranks in the Top Ten in the 2014 State Business Tax Climate Index
- The USTAR Audit: A Follow Up
- Obamacare's Insurance Tax's Impact on Utah
- SLC Golf System Headed for Financial "Death Spiral"?
- 3rd Party Economic Report: UTOPIA Deal Bad For Taxpayers
- Uncertain Future for \$1.8 Billion uNOpia Tax
- New State Auditor Report: Utah Legislature needs to better define "new growth"
- Orem's CDA Would Take \$44 Million from Alpine School District
- Vote FOR Amendment A
- Taxpayers Association Working to Limit Automatic Property

PUBLICATIONS

- School Spending Report
- How Utah Compares
- Fast Tax Booklet
- Legislative Scorecard
- Legislative Watchlist
- Monthly Newsletter
"The Utah Taxpayer"

IN THE MEDIA

- Cited over 100 times in the Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret News and other Utah newspapers
- Conducted over 50 television and radio interviews
- Cited by numerous national organizations
- Over 1,500 Twitter followers
- Over 600 Facebook fans

Feedback from the Campaign Trail

"Eagle Mountain has owned gas and electric utilities since its incorporation in 1996. Our rapid population growth has resulted in the equally rapid growth of debt. On November 4th, Eagle Mountain City voters spoke overwhelmingly in support of selling the city's electric system. I believe that the principled conservative voice of the Utah Taxpayers Association played a key role in the outcome of the election. For that, I am greatly appreciative."

-Mayor Chris Pengra, Eagle Mountain City

Hosted 36th Annual “Utah Taxes Now” Conference Successful Pre-Legislative Conference and Golf Tournament



More than two hundred people attended the 2014 “Utah Taxes Now” Conference. Legislative leadership and Governor Gary Herbert joined the Conference discussing Utah tax policy and the state budget.

During lunch your Taxpayers Association hosted the first debate between Utah’s 4th District Congressional candidates, Republican Mia Love and Democrat Doug Owens. All the major Utah media outlets covered the heated debate.

14th Annual “Teed Off on Taxes” Golf Tournament

In June, one hundred golfers got out of the office and onto the green to support the Utah Taxpayers Association. This annual fundraiser brings together taxpayer friendly local leaders for a day of fun.

2014 Pre-Legislative Conference

In January, Legislators and opinion leaders helped welcome the 2014 legislative session by previewing important tax issues facing the Legislature. Scores of legislators and Association members participated in the successful conference.



What Others are Saying About Your Taxpayers Association

“The Utah Taxpayers Association is one of the ‘big dogs’ on the hill and has the ear of many legislators. They work hard to inform legislators, giving them information that helps to form important tax policy decisions.”



Kory Holdaway,
Former Utah State
Representative

“The Utah Taxpayers Association is simply the most effective watchdog for Utah business. They are relentless in their work to grow Utah’s economy without undue government intervention and taxation. Their current work to reform Utah’s municipal tax distribution system will have a



dramatic effect on raising the average wage of Utah workers and attract high tech, high paying industries to Utah. No one in Utah does it better.”

Paul Clayson
Chairman and CEO of
Valuation Impact
