

NOVEMBER 2022

# THE 2022 PORK BARREL

A REPORT BY THE UTAH TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

*AN ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF THE UTAH STATE BUDGET TO PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY*





# THE PORK BARREL

## PURPOSE

The first annual edition of “The Pork Barrel” seeks to shine a new light on state government spending in Utah. Our hope is that this sunshine will allow taxpayers to consider and debate the various drivers of spending in Utah. We look forward to future editions where different areas of spending can be explored.

# WHY REVIEW GOVERNMENT SPENDING?

## TAXATION IS A FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING

When government is not constrained it continues to grow and expand. State and local government in Utah is no exception. For example, over the last 5 years the Utah state budget has grown more than 74%. That might be surprising to some, but it is true. General Fund and Education Fund spending, which is what the legislature has control over, has grown from \$6,676,808,900 in 2018 to \$11,624,106,100 in 2023. That is an increase of \$4,947,297,200 or 74.10%.

After the Utah Taxpayers Association was founded in 1922, the first issue of the monthly newsletter, the “Utah Taxpayer” was published in January of 1923. One of the subtitles in the heading was, “Economy In the Expenditure of Public Money”. Members of the Association knew back then, just as we know today, that taxes are a function of government spending. Just as out of control spending can lead to higher taxes, constrained spending growth and discipline can lead to lower taxes for all taxpayers.

In the 2022 report, we highlight a few areas: one-time spending, ongoing spending, Cultural and Community Engagement, Transportation and Higher Education buildings. In future years we will review other areas of the budget.

# BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

Utah's Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst offers many excellent tools for budget transparency at [budget.utah.gov](https://budget.utah.gov).

Some of the tools available are:

- Beginning with the 2022 General Session, there is now a list of all Requests for Appropriations (RFAs) categorized by the legislator that is making the request:
  - <https://le.utah.gov/sessions/requestsAppropSpon.jsp>
- Beginning with the 2022 General Session, there is now a Funding Item Follow Up Report:
  - <https://le.utah.gov/lfa/fifollowuplist.html?reportyear=2022>
- Beginning with the 2016 General Session, a very detailed budget visualization tool:
  - <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/ivan8177/viz/BudgetoftheStateofUtah/UtahsTotalBudget?:embed=yes&:showVizHome=no&:tabs=no&:toolbar=no>



# ONE-TIME VS ONGOING SPENDING

The budget at the state level is comprised of two categories of spending:

## ● ONE-TIME SPENDING

The general definition of one time spending is the expenditure of funds that are believed to be temporary or “one-time” in that they are not expected to be ongoing in the future.

## ● ONGOING SPENDING

The general definition of ongoing spending is the expenditure of funds that are believed to be recurring and reliable and are expected to continue into the future.

Each year, elected officials at the state level make a decision on how much revenue is one-time and how much is ongoing. This decision is critical for taxpayers, since tax reduction should always be paired with ongoing revenue and not one-time revenue.

# ONGOING GENERAL AND EDUCATION FUND SPENDING

**\$5BN**

## DOLLAR INCREASE

Between FY2018 and FY2023, there was an increase of \$4,947,297,200 in spending.

**74.1%**

## PERCENTAGE INCREASE

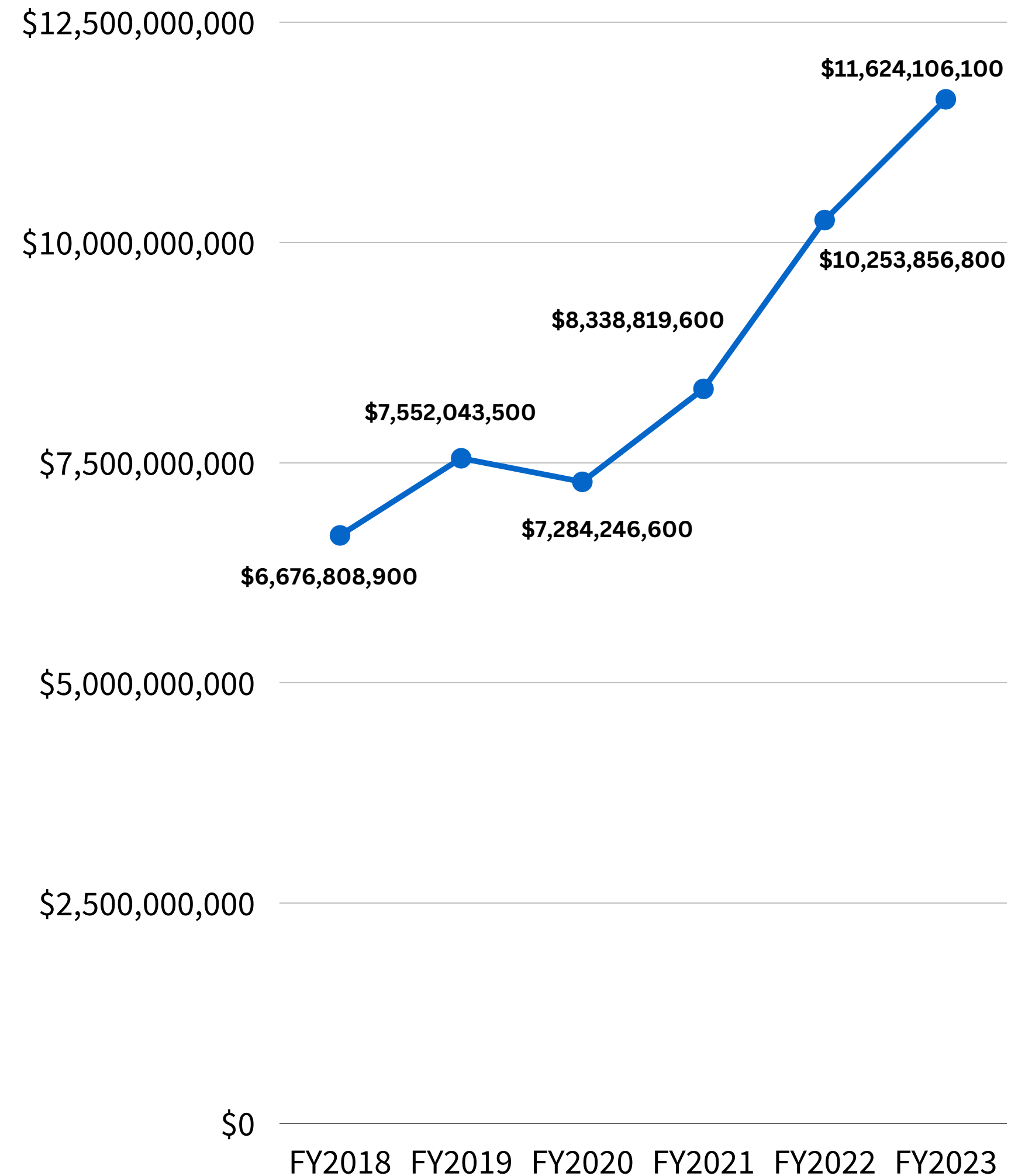
Ongoing spending increased by more than 74% overall between FY2018 and FY2023.

**9.68%**

## CAGR

Ongoing spending increased by almost 10% each year.

*Source: Budget of the State of Utah and Related Appropriations, 2018-2022*

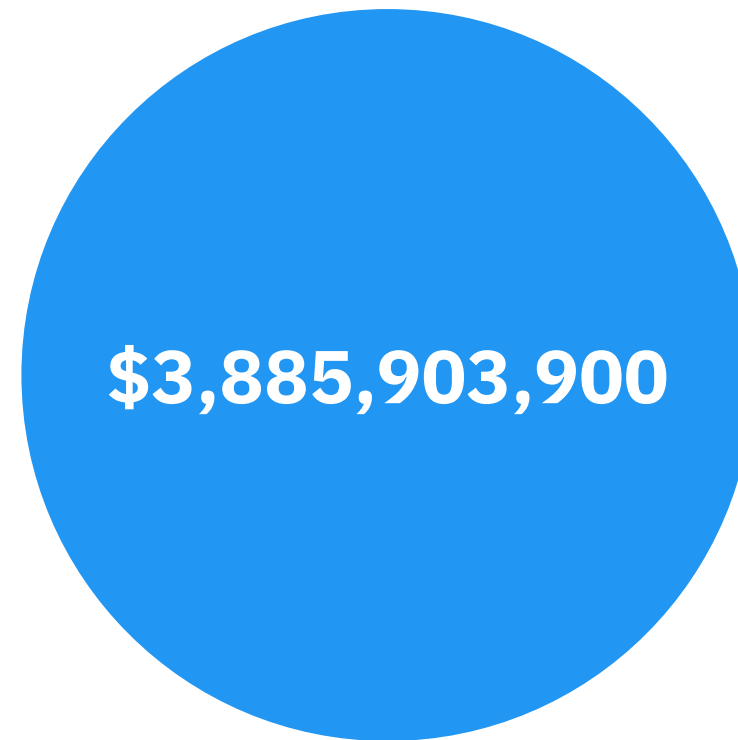


# ONE-TIME SPENDING

2021 GENERAL SESSION



2022 GENERAL SESSION



**\$6,521,429,600**

One-time spending totaled **\$6,521,429,600** over the General Sessions of 2021 and 2022. This is *in addition* to the ongoing spending previously shown.

A comprehensive list of the appropriations from the 2021 and 2022 General Sessions can be found at <https://utahtaxpayers.org/comprehensive-list-of-one-time-budget-items-for-fiscal-year-2021-and-2022/>.

One-time spending between the 2021 and 2022 General Sessions increased by \$1,250,378,200, or 38.35%.

# CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**\$35M**

## DOLLAR INCREASE

Spending on Cultural and Community Engagement has increased by \$34,946,500 from 2018 to 2023.

**181.5%**

## PERCENTAGE INCREASE

The total spending on Cultural and Community Engagement increased by 181.46% from FY2018 to FY2023.

**18.82%**

## CAGR

Spending on Cultural and Community Engagement increased by an average 18.82% each year from FY2018 to FY2023.

\$60,000,000

\$40,000,000

\$20,000,000

\$0

**\$54.2M**

**\$19.2M**

**\$22.1M**

**\$26.7M**

**\$35.3M**

**\$38.3M**

**FY2018**

**FY2019**

**FY2020**

**FY2021**

**FY2022**

**FY2023**

*Source: Budget of the State of Utah and Related Appropriations, 2022*



# CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Department of Cultural and Community Engagement aims to enhance life 'through celebration, innovation, science, music, art, literature, and traditions'.

Although total dollar amounts are small by comparison to other budget categories, both ongoing and one-time appropriations to this department have increased.

Here we highlight a few FY2023 appropriations which have contributed to the rising budget in this category.

*Sources: Budget of the State of Utah and Related Appropriations, 2022; [community.utah.gov](http://community.utah.gov)*

**\$8M**

## ARTS AND MUSEUMS CULTURAL GRANTS AND PASS-THROUGH

Appropriated for "consistent investment in Utah's nonprofit cultural industry to weather any storm and expand recipients' ability to attract visitors". Applicants must apply for grants; almost 300 were awarded in FY 2023.

**\$750K**

## GOLDEN SPIKE MONUMENT

\$750,000 one-time appropriation for a legacy project to "commemorate the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869".

**\$230K**

## CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM EXPANSION

\$230,000 appropriation for "two full-time staff members to train volunteer stewards to survey and monitor sensitive historic and cultural sites around the state".

# TRANSPORTATION BUDGET



**\$2.1BN**

Between the 2021 and 2022 General Sessions, \$2.1bn was appropriated to transportation investment from the General Fund. This was a combination of both one-time and ongoing spending, meaning this should *not* be a continued increase.

\$725m sales tax revenue and \$800m gas tax revenue are also contributed to transportation annually. These amounts are not included in this figure.

## Sources:

<https://budget.utah.gov/lanes-trains-and-automobiles/>

<https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/static/HB0433.html>

<https://le.utah.gov/~2022/bills/static/HB0003.html>

<https://le.utah.gov/~2022/bills/static/SB0006.html>

## 2021 SESSION



**HB433**

HB433 appropriated \$834.6m from the General Fund for road and transit projects, including \$28m for local roads.

## 2022 SESSION



**HB003**

HB003 appropriated \$1bn in one-time spending for new transportation projects. This was all cash funding, and took advantage of increased revenue caused by federal stimulus.



**SB006**

SB006 appropriated *cash* for projects that had previously authorized debt financing. The dollar amounts stayed the same. This action was intended to reduce the amount of interest the state would owe on debt-financed projects.

As noted on [budget.utah.gov](https://budget.utah.gov):

*"While policymakers approved sufficient cash for all these projects, they did not rescind the debt authorization from statute and should consider doing so in the 2023 General Session."*

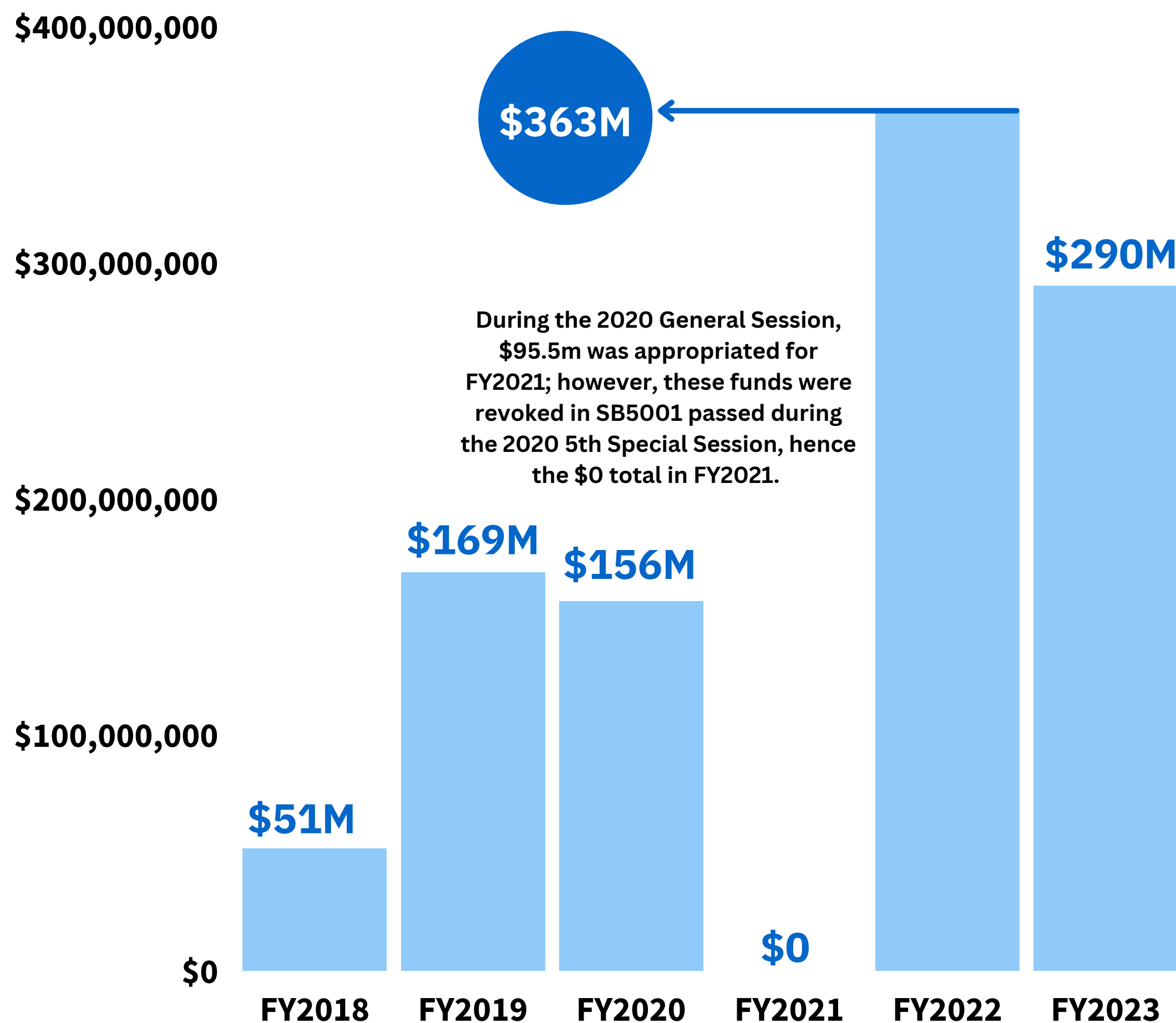
# HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL BUDGET

The Higher Education Capital Budget is a portion of the Capital Budget used to build new buildings at state-owned colleges and universities. These funds are often supplemented with private donations.

This graph shows total spending on Higher Education Capital projects over the *last six years*, comprising both ongoing and one-time expenditures.

SB102 from the 2019 General Session approved \$120m in ongoing spending for the Higher Education Capital Projects Fund and Technical Colleges Capital Projects fund, meaning this significant increase in spending will continue.

Source: Interactive Budget Visualization, [budget.utah.gov](http://budget.utah.gov)



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