



# The Utah Taxpayer

from the Utah Taxpayers Association

Newsletter  
May 2026



## President's Message -We Need to Rethink Education Funding Mechanisms

The Jordan District School Board recently reviewed the results of a survey of its residents to determine whether it should ask voters to approve a \$120 million bond. The bond would fund \$20 million field houses at each of the district's six high schools. Supporters cite several reasons for the proposal, including giving students more access to facilities at times other than late at night or early in the morning, and encouraging students to remain in district schools rather than transferring to schools that have already built field houses and prioritized athletics.

The survey found that more than half of respondents would support or somewhat support moving forward with the bond, despite it resulting in an increase of nearly \$100 per year on the property tax bill of every resident in the district. The bond would be paid off over 16 years, meaning the total cost for each household would be about \$1,600—for a field house they will likely never use.

[Read more here.](#)

## Register Now! 2026 Taxes Now Conference!

Our 2026 Taxes Now Conference will take place on **Friday, May 15th, 2026** at the **Grand America Hotel**.

Hear from experts on a variety of issues, and join us for lunch with our keynote speaker to be announced.

4 hours of CLE/CPE credit will be offered.

\$100 for members and \$135 for non-members to attend. A light breakfast, beverages and a plated lunch will be included.

[Register Here!](#)





## The 2026 School Spending Report - Taxpayers Pay More Into Schools While Enrollment Continues to Drop

The Utah Taxpayers Association has released its 2026 School Spending Report, offering an annual look at the billions of taxpayer dollars flowing through Utah's public education system—and how those dollars are

spent on a per-student basis.

One of the report's most notable findings is a continued divergence between enrollment and spending.

Statewide enrollment declined by more than 11,500 students in 2026, yet both total funding and per-student spending increased. This continues a multi-year trend of more dollars being distributed across fewer students.

[Read more here.](#)

## Sen. Curtis Introduces the Fiscal Commission Act

Utah Senator John Curtis is leading a bipartisan effort in Washington to address one of the nation's most pressing long-term challenges: the growing federal debt.

Alongside Senator Angus King and a coalition of lawmakers from both parties, Curtis has introduced the Fiscal Commission Act, legislation aimed at bringing structure, accountability, and urgency to federal fiscal policy.

At the heart of the proposal is the creation of a bipartisan, bicameral fiscal commission tasked with developing actionable solutions to stabilize federal spending and reduce the national debt, which now exceeds \$38 trillion. This is not a symbolic exercise. The commission would be required to produce legislative recommendations and vote on them by May 2027, giving Congress a defined timeline to confront the issue.



[Read more here.](#)

### Your Association Accomplishments in April:

Finalized Planning for the Taxes Now Conference

Planning the Teed Off on Taxes Golf Tournament

Published The Beehive Family Report

Attended St George League of Cities and Towns Meeting

### In the News:

**Utah Families Spend Nearly 2 1/2 Hours Each Workday Paying Taxes**  
-Utah Policy

**Billy Hesterman Talks about How Much of Our Workday is Spent to Pay Taxes**  
-KSL

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