



The Utah Taxpayer

from the Utah Taxpayers Association

Newsletter
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President's Message - Who is considering raising taxes in 2026?

A recent joke I read went: “There are two things you can count on in life: death and taxes. But death only happens once.”

The joke isn't wrong. At the same time, we do enjoy many government services while we are alive, and those services cost money. Someone has to pay for them. We rely on police and fire protection, roads, schools, clean drinking water systems, and many other public services. The costs for these things hardly ever go down. That is why it is important for taxpayers to work with their elected officials to ensure the must-haves are funded and the luxuries

that tempt government officials are avoided.

[Read more here.](#)

A Taxpayer Blueprint for Data Centers in Utah

As the conversation around data centers has heated up recently, we thought it would be beneficial to state our blueprint for how these types of ventures should be treated when it comes to taxes. Utah should want to be competitive in this space. Data centers can bring major capital investment, construction activity, high-paying jobs, infrastructure upgrades, and long-term additions to the tax base. But as with any fast-growing industry, policymakers should be careful. The goal should not be to punish data centers, nor should it be to hand out overly generous special deals. The goal should be sound tax policy.



That means Utah needs a clear blueprint for how data centers should be treated.

[Read more here.](#)



Tax the rich? We already do!

A common argument from the spending lobby is that the government needs to start making the “rich” pay more in taxes. They claim the rich get away with paying little or nothing, and that if the government fixed that problem, it could solve many of the country's challenges.

It is a standard argument, and it resonates with some people. “Tax the rich” may sound good on a bumper sticker, but the truth is that the argument just isn't accurate.

In a recent study published by the Washington, D.C. based Tax Foundation, researchers found that the top 1 percent of taxpayers, about 1.5 million tax returns, accounted for nearly as much income tax paid as the bottom 95 percent combined, or about 145 million tax returns. The report further found that the top 1 percent of taxpayers paid \$823 billion in income taxes, while the bottom 95 percent paid \$872 billion.

[Read more here.](#)

Your Association Accomplishments in May:

Hosted a successful Taxes Now Conference

Finalized details for our Teed Off on Taxes Golf Tournament

Released Annual School Spending Report

Interviewed Primary Election Legislative Candidates

Attended Interim Meetings

In the News:

Committee approves first substitute to separate library levies on property notices in Salt Lake County

-Citizen Portal

Watchdog group calls for increased transparency in Utah education spending

-KSL

Utah school district spending flagged on food, movies, travel, luxury blankets

-KJZZ

Utah Taxpayers Association reports nearly \$40K average pay gap between teachers and administrators

-KSL

Utah districts drop big bucks on pizza, perks and plush blankets

-Hoodline

5 things to know about MIDA as it works to usher in a massive data center

-Utah News Dispatch

Tax increase via citizen initiative? The vote threshold may get higher

-Fox13

Utah Taxpayers Association | 307 W 2nd South Suite 4005 | Salt Lake City, UT 84101 US

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