The Utah Taxpayer

from the Utah Taxpayers Association

Newsletter
July 2026



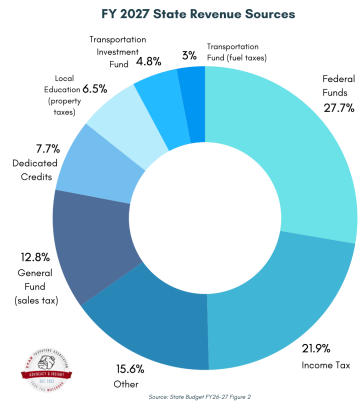
President's Message - The Tax That Helped Launch a Nation

On a cold December night in 1773, dozens of Boston colonists, many disguised to conceal their identities, boarded three East India Company ships in Boston Harbor. Once aboard, they opened 342 chests of tea and dumped them into the water.

It was dramatic, destructive and deliberate. But it was not simply a protest over tea. It was a protest over a government claiming the power to tax people who had no direct voice in the decision.

Read more here.

Utah's New $31.6 Billion Budget



Utah starts a new fiscal year on July 1. This year, Utah lawmakers have approved a $31.6 billion budget for the coming fiscal year. Our latest budget overview highlights where the money comes from, which areas of government are receiving the largest share of funding, and how lawmakers' spending priorities have shifted from last year.

While Utah continues to maintain a balanced budget and fund essential government services, we remain concerned about the long-term growth of state spending. We encourage lawmakers to continue thoughtfully looking for opportunities to slow the growth of ongoing spending so more of Utah families' and businesses' hard-earned money stays in their pockets.

Read our FY2027 Utah State Budget Overview here.



The Growing Role of Non-Primary Residential Property Taxes in Utah

At the June interim meeting of the Legislature's Revenue and Taxation Committee, the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute presented a timely report on a growing piece of Utah's property tax system: non-primary residential property.

These properties include vacation homes, cabins and short-term rental properties. Unlike a primary residence, which receives Utah's 45% residential property tax exemption, non-primary residential property is taxed at its full market value. That difference matters. The Gardner Institute used the example of two homes each valued at $500,000. Under the 2024 statewide average property tax rate, the primary residence would have a taxable value of $275,000 and owe about $2,551 in property taxes. The non-primary residence, taxed on the full $500,000 value, would owe about $4,638.

Read more here.

Beer Taxes in Utah On the Rise Again



The tax on beer in Utah will increase starting July 1, as the tax will again go up by 25 cents, the same amount it has increased in each of the previous two years.

The increase, which makes Utah's tax $13.85 per 31-gallon barrel, comes from legislation passed by the State Legislature in 2024 that raised taxes on beer from $13.10 per 31-gallon barrel to $14.10 per 31-gallon barrel by July 1, 2027. The bill, HB 548, called for a 25-cent increase each year for four years and will keep the state in its current position as the 12th-highest state for beer taxes in the nation.

Read more here.

Your Association Accomplishments in June:

Hosted a successful Teed Off on Taxes Golf Tournament

Began engaging with entities planning property tax increases

Met with legislative staff regarding taxpayer transparency

Attended June legislative interim meetings

Met with stakeholders regarding November ballot tax campaign

In the News:

South Salt Lake businesses are taking a hit after new utility fee is passed
-Fox 13

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