The Utah Taxpayer

from the Utah Taxpayers Association

Newsletter
September 2026



President's Message - Vote YES on Amendment B this Election

In this election season, Utahns will see two constitutional amendments on their ballots. The first, Amendment A, deals with changes to public notice requirements for items placed on the ballot. The second, Amendment B, would protect taxpayers from citizen ballot initiatives that seek to raise taxes.

Amendment B will ask voters to change Utah's Constitution to increase the approval threshold for citizen-led initiatives that raise taxes from 50% to 60%. The thinking behind this proposal is straightforward: Utah families should have additional protection from large tax increases that could be promoted and funded by out-of-state organizations or special-interest groups seeking additional government spending.

Read more here.

2026 September Highest Paid Executive Branch Employees - Utah's Governor Gets a 29% Pay Raise in 2026



Utah Governor Spencer Cox received a significant pay raise this year following the passage of Senate Bill 235 during the 2026 General Session.

The governor, who now earns an annual salary of $249,250, was not the only constitutional officer to receive a pay increase. The attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, and lieutenant governor also received increases, as the legislation changed how their salaries will be determined going forward.

Read more here.



Could Congestion Pricing Save Utah Taxpayers Money?

Utah's rapid population growth continues to put pressure on the state's transportation system, leading policymakers to consider how many new lanes, interchanges, and highways will be necessary to keep Utahns moving. But before taxpayers are asked to continually expand the state's road network, Utah leaders should also consider whether existing roads could be used more efficiently.

A recent Tax Foundation analysis of New York City's congestion pricing program provides an interesting example.

Read more here.

Tax Commission Chair Valentine Approved for Four More Years



Utah State Tax Commission Chair John Valentine has been confirmed to serve another four-year term on the commission, continuing a tenure that began in 2014.

The Utah Senate voted 26-0, with three senators absent, to consent to Valentine's reappointment during the Legislature's August interim meetings. The vote followed a favorable recommendation from the Senate Revenue and Taxation Confirmation Committee which came earlier in the month.

Read more here.

Your Association Accomplishments in August:

- Attended Legislative Interim meetings

- Met with stakeholders regarding constitutional amendments on the November ballot

- Met with Staff from Sen. Mike Lee's office

- Met with legislative candidates

- Monitored Truth-in-Taxation hearings across the state

In the News:

In rare move Utah lawmakers decided to tax large tech companies. A new lawsuit argues it's illegal
-Salt Lake Tribune

Multiple Utah entities propose $93 million in property tax hikes. Here are the latest proposals
-Utah News Dispatch

67 Utah taxing entities seeking $93.58M in tax hikes between them, taxpayers group says
-KSL

Utah watchdog sues to kill big tech ad tax bankrolling kids' programs
-Hoodline

Here's a look at the 7 Utah school districts proposing tax hikes
-KSL

'Fervor on both sides': Proposed 54.9% tax hike in Roy prompting strong debate
-KSL

Granite school district board hikes property taxes 10.26%, retirees push back
-Hoodline

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