The Utah Taxpayer

from the Utah Taxpayers Association

Newsletter
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President's Message - Vote YES on Amendment B: Higher Standards for Higher Taxes

How easy should it be for your neighbor to raise your taxes?

That is the question Utah voters will answer this upcoming election. Amendment B would require statewide citizen ballot initiatives that create new taxes, increase existing taxes, or expand existing taxes to receive at least 60% voter approval before becoming law. Today, those same initiatives need only a simple majority.

Why does this matter to you? Because taxes touch every part of your life. They shape your family budget, your retirement income, the cost of your home, and the price of nearly everything you buy. When a tax increase lands, it lands on all of us. Which means it should only happen when there is substantial support from the very people who will pay for it, not those who pay for expensive campaigns to pass a ballot initiative.

Read more here.

Trick or Fee? The Strange Charges Hiding in Utah City Halls



With Halloween around the corner, we went looking for some of the stranger, and in a few cases, spookier, fees lurking in Utah city halls.

Fees generally are used to cover the cost of government providing a specific service to a particular resident or business. If a resident wants to rent a pavilion at a city park, for example, a rental fee may help cover cleaning and maintenance costs. If a business wants to hold a large public event, it may pay fees to help cover city costs such as public safety, traffic control or cleanup.

Read more here.



More With Less? What Utah's School Spending And Student Results Show

Utah taxpayers hear a familiar statistic almost every year: Utah spends less per student on public education than nearly every other state.

That is true.

But spending is only one side of the education equation. The other question is what students are achieving with those dollars.

The latest national data show an interesting combination. Utah ranks near the very bottom of the country in current public-school spending per student, while Utah students continue to perform above the national public-school average on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP.

Read more here.

Could an Injured College Athlete Get Hit With a Tax Bill?



College football fans in Utah know injuries are part of the game. Whether you're watching BYU in Provo, Utah at Rice-Eccles Stadium, or Utah State in Logan, it isn't unusual to see a player leave the field and immediately start wondering not just when he will return, but what recovery will require.

A provision recently added to the federal Protect College Sports Act is intended to provide athletes with greater protection from the financial consequences of those injuries. But the National Taxpayers Union Foundation is raising an

interesting question: Could Congress inadvertently turn some of those medical benefits into taxable income?

Read more here.

Your Association Accomplishments in September:

- Met with allies supporting Amendment B

- Attended Legislative Interim Meetings

- Met with legislative candidates to discuss taxpayer issues

- Attended National Taxpayers Conference and presented at the Council on State Taxation Annual Conference

In the News:

Utah's gas tax may get replaced by logging miles or congestion pricing
-Fox 13

Battle lines drawn on constitutional amendment to make some ballot initiatives harder
-Salt Lake Tribune

Utah lawmakers want a higher bar for ballot initiatives that raise taxes. Will voters sign off?
- Utah News Dispatch

Utah Constitutional Amendment B, 60% Vote Requirement for Ballot Initiatives to Increase or Expand Taxes Measure (2026)
-Ballotpedia

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