



UTAH ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

A Unifying Voice for County Government

Grateful
to Almighty
God for life
and liberty, we, the
people of Utah, in order
to secure and perpetuate
the principles of free gov-
ernment, do ordain and establish
this CONSTITUTION. All men
have the inherent and inalienable
right to enjoy and defend their lives
and liberties; to acquire, possess and
protect property; to worship according

to the dictates of their consciences; to assemble peaceably, protest against wrongs, and petition for redress of grievances; to communicate freely their thoughts and opinions, being responsible for the abuse of that right. All political power is inherent in the people; and all free governments **Utah Association of Counties** are founded on their authority for **2008 GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP** their equal protection and benefit, and they have the right to alter or reform their government as the public welfare may require. The State of Utah is an inseparable part of the Federal Union and the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS	1
UAC TRACKING SHEET	5
ENROLLED BILLS	11
HB 016 – Medicaid Coverage for Certain Telehealth Services	13
HB 029 – Election Law - Financial Reporting	13
HB 040 – Safe Drinking Water Revisions	13
HB 043 – Allowance of Polling Places for Early Voting	14
HB 051 – Water Right Forfeiture Protection	14
HB 054 – Property Tax Assessment Revisions	14
HB 058 – Severance Tax Amendments	15
HB 077 – Personal Property Tax Amendments	15
HB 104 – Urban Trails Appropriation	15
HB 121 – County Charges for Services to Incarcerated Persons	16
HB 132 – Waste Tire Recycling Amendments	16
HB 133 – Health System Reform	16
HB 164 – Town Incorporation Process Amendments	17
HB 177 – County and Municipal Land Use Regulation of Potential Geologic Hazard Areas	17
HB 186 – Property Tax - County Assessment and Collection Amendments	17
HB 223 – Exemption from Licensure by Division of Real Estate	18
HB 235 – County Merit System Amendments	18
HB 238 – Campaign Finance Filing Requirements	18
HB 242 – Local Option Transportation Corridor Preservation Fee Amendments	19
HB 291 – Off-highway Vehicle Amendments	19
HB 296 – Voting Machines Used by Municipalities	19
HB 305 – County Sheriff Qualification Amendments	20
HB 316 – Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant Minors	20
HB 323 – Eminent Domain Amendments	20
HB 365 – Aviation Amendments	21
SB 012 – Election Law Modifications	21
SB 019 – Enhanced Public Safety Retirement Systems Cola Option	21
SB 022 – Timing of Ballot Items	22
SB 029 – Truth in Taxation Amendments	22
SB 032 – Local Government Bonding Act - Public Hearings	22
SB 038 – Transparency in Government Finance	23
SB 045 – Inventory for Competitive Activities of Local Entities	23
SB 046 – Anti-flow Control Amendments	23
SB 054 – Initiative and Referendum Petition Submission Amendments	24
SB 072 – Justice Court Amendments	24
SB 078 – County Personnel Management Act Amendments	24
SB 092 – Real Property Recording Amendments	25
SB 105 – Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission	25
SB 168 – Highway Funding Amendments	25
SB 177 – Local Government Disposal of Real Property Acquired by Exaction	26
SB 181 – Off-highway Vehicle Use on Public Highways	26
SB 196 – County and Municipal Land Use Amendments	26
SB 208 – Transportation Corridor Preservation Amendments	27
SB 209 – Methamphetamine Decontamination Standards and Funding	27
SB 253 – County Law Enforcement Duties	27

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FAILED BILLS	29
HB 076 – Government Competition and Privatization Act	31
HB 100 – Amendments to Prescribing Schedule II Drugs	31
HB 124 – Changes to Municipal Annexation Provisions	31
HB 142 – Absentee Ballot Amendments	32
HB 150 – Authorization for Counties to Provide Supplemental Law Enforcement Services	32
HB 155 – Property Tax - Residential Exemption	32
HB 156 – DNA Sample - Felony and Certain Misdemeanor Arrests	33
HB 166 – Minutes of Open and Public Meetings	33
HB 175 – Election Law Reforms	33
HB 183 – Sales and Use Tax Amendments	34
HB 197 – Residential Mortgage Loan Closing Act	34
HB 237 – Illegal Immigration Enforcement Act	34
HB 264 – Prohibition of Citation Quotas	35
HB 292 – Legislative Task Force to Study Radio Communication System in Utah	35
HB 317 – Election Day Voter Registration	35
HB 322 – Local Health Department Funding	35
HB 333 – Property Tax Revisions	36
HB 338 – Neutrality Required of Poll Workers	36
HB 357 – Public Associations Subject to Government Records Access and Management Act	36
HB 362 – Motor Fuel Tax - Off-highway Vehicle Refund Amendments	37
HB 367 – Property Tax Assessment of Cable Television Companies	37
HB 435 – Public Hearings on Property Tax Increases	37
HB 447 – Government Entity Changes	38
HB 481 – Subdivision Approval Amendments	38
HJR 09 – Resolution Amending Property Tax Provision	38
SB 018 – Public Safety Retirement Death Benefit Modifications	39
SB 025 – Municipal Incorporation Amendments	39
SB 086 – Economic Analysis and Reporting of Cost of Land Use Regulation	39
SB 090 – Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes Act	40
SB 109 – Poll Worker Neutrality	40
SB 129 – Changes to County Surveyor	40
SB 153 – Revision to County Elected Offices	41
SB 160 – Candidate Replacement Deadline for General Election	41
SB 169 – Renewable Energy Zone Task Force	41
SB 178 – Senior Citizen Property Tax Safe Harbor	42
SB 203 – Highway Abandonment Amendments	42
SB 210 – Proof of Citizenship Required to Vote	42
SB 218 – Amendments to Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention Facilities Tax	43
SB 229 – Privatization of State Hospital	43
SB 258 – Property Tax Committee	43
SB 285 – Sales and Use Tax Modifications	44
SJR 10 – Joint Resolution Amending Constitution Regarding Taxes of the Elderly	44
INTERIM STUDY ISSUES	45

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Going into the 2008 Legislative Session, there were several troubling proposals that affected county government; fortunately, UAC and a number of involved county officials were able to fend off or amend these problem bills.

Property tax reform was discussed a great deal during the months leading up to the session and legislative concern over Utah's property tax system led to more than a dozen bills and resolutions addressing the issue. Some of these proposals would have required a constitutional amendment and most of them showed a lack of understanding of the current system. Fortunately, by the end of the session cooler heads prevailed and none of these bills passed.

The administration of local justice courts was another issue heavily discussed leading up to the session. SB 72 as it was originally introduced would have made all justice court judges state employees thus taking away some of the oversight to the justice courts from the local governments that oversee them. The bill was ultimately substituted to modify the process for selection, retention, and compensation for justice court judges—a change UAC supported.

Another hotly discussed issue prior to the session was the competition between government and the private sector. A legislative committee meeting throughout the summer of 2007 proposed several sweeping reforms including: the creation of local rule making commissions that would dictate to the local entities that created them what the local entity could and could not do (HB 76) and a required separate accounting for all government functions that could possibly compete with private industry (SB 45). In the end, all that came of this was a watered down SB 45 that requires counties and cities of the first and second class to inventory all activities that compete with the private sector.

The Utah Association of Counties was able to fend off a number of problematic pieces of legislation that popped up during the session as well. These include:

- A bill that would have cost counties millions of dollars to provide the infrastructure to post all their financial dealings online. Ultimately, a watered down version of SB 38 addressing only the state passed.
- A bill that would have required proof of citizenship when registering to vote in Utah for the first time.
- A bill that would have redistributed the restaurant tax in Salt Lake County.

But the Legislative Session wasn't only about defense. The Utah Association of Counties brought a number of bills to the session and was able to help shepherd through the following bills:

- HB 164, which tightens the regulations of town incorporation and corrects most of the mistakes of last year's HB 466.
- HB 121, which sets a reasonable rate for health care treatment of county prison inmates.
- Roughly a dozen election bills identified by county clerks as priorities, a recorders' recodification bill (SB 92), and an assessing and collecting rewrite (HB 186).

For a more detailed accounting of these and many more bills, please review the sections titled "Enrolled Bills" and "Failed Bills" of this packet.

UAC TRACKING SHEET

Number	Title	Sponsor	Position	Status
HB 016	Medicaid Coverage for Certain Telehealth Services	Brad Last	Support	Enrolled
HB 029 s2	Election Law - Financial Reporting	Brad Daw		Enrolled
HB 040 s2	Safe Drinking Water Revisions	Sylvia Andersen		Enrolled
HB 043	Allowance of Polling Places for Early Voting	Glenn A. Donnelson	Support	Enrolled
HB 051 s5	Water Right Forfeiture Protection	Patrick Painter	Neutral	Enrolled
HB 054 s3	Property Tax Assessment Revisions	Wayne Harper	Oppose	Enrolled
HB 058 s3	Severance Tax Amendments	John Dougall		Enrolled
HB 076	Government Competition and Privatization Act	Craig Frank	Oppose	Failed
HB 077 s2	Personal Property Tax Amendments	John Dougall	Support	Enrolled
HB 100	Amendments to Prescribing Schedule II Drugs	Mark Wheatley	Oppose	Failed
HB 104 s3	Urban Trails Appropriation	Kory Holdaway	Support	Enrolled
HB 121 s1	County Charges for Services to Incarcerated Persons	Richard Greenwood	Support	Enrolled
HB 124	Changes to Municipal Annexation Provisions	Lou Shurtliff		Failed
HB 132	Waste Tire Recycling Amendments	Neil Hendrickson	Oppose	Enrolled
HB 133 s2	Health System Reform	David Clark		Enrolled
HB 142	Absentee Ballot Amendments	John Mathis		Failed
HB 150	Authorization for Counties to Provide Supplemental Law Enforcement Services	Jackie Biskupski	Support	Failed
HB 155	Property Tax - Residential Exemption	Gage Froerer		Failed
HB 156 s1	DNA Sample - Felony and Certain Misdemeanor Arrests	Kerry Gibson	Support	Failed
HB 164 s5	Town Incorporation Process Amendments	Mel Brown	Support	Enrolled
HB 166 s2	Minutes of Open and Public Meetings	Mel Brown		Failed
HB 175	Election Law Reforms	Neil Hansen		Failed
HB 177	County and Municipal Land Use Regulation of Potential Geologic Hazard Areas	Michael Morley	Support	Enrolled
HB 183	Sales and Use Tax Amendments	Wayne Harper		Failed
HB 186	Property Tax - County Assessment and Collection Amendments	Kay McIff	Support	Enrolled
HB 197	Residential Mortgage Loan Closing Act	Larry Wiley	Oppose	Failed
HB 223 s1	Exemption from Licensure by Division of Real Estate	Mark Walker	Support	Enrolled
HB 235	County Merit System Amendments	Brad Dee	Support	Enrolled
HB 237	Illegal Immigration Enforcement Act	Glenn A. Donnelson	Oppose	Failed

Number	Title	Sponsor	Position	Status
HB 238	Campaign Finance Filing Requirements	Greg Hughes	Support	Enrolled
HB 242 s1	Local Option Transportation Corridor Preservation Fee Amendments	Wayne Harper	Oppose	Enrolled
HB 264	Prohibition of Citation Quotas	Neil A. Hansen	Oppose	Failed
HB 291	Off-highway Vehicle Amendments	Mike Noel	Support	Enrolled
HB 292	Legislative Task Force to Study Radio Communication System in Utah	Brad Dee	Support	Failed
HB 296	Voting Machines Used by Municipalities	Neil A. Hansen	Support	Enrolled
HB 305	County Sheriff Qualification Amendments	Richard Greenwood	Support	Enrolled
HB 316 s1	Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant Minors	Eric Hutchings	Oppose	Enrolled
HB 317	Election Day Voter Registration	Neil A. Hansen	Oppose	Failed
HB 322	Local Health Department Funding	Stephen Clark	Oppose	Failed
HB 323 s1	Eminent Domain Amendments	Aaron Tilton	Oppose	Enrolled
HB 333 s2	Property Tax Revisions	Gage Froerer		Failed
HB 338	Neutrality Required of Poll Workers	Rebecca Houck		Failed
HB 357	Public Associations Subject to Government Records Access and Management Act	Mike Noel		Failed
HB 362	Motor Fuel Tax - Off-highway Vehicle Refund Amendments	Ben Ferry	Support	Failed
HB 365	Aviation Amendments	Wayne Harper	Oppose	Enrolled
HB 367	Property Tax Assessment of Cable Television Companies	Wayne Harper		Failed
HB 435	Public Hearings on Property Tax Increases	Gage Froerer	Oppose	Failed
HB 447	Government Entity Changes	Kory Holdaway	Support	Failed
HB 481	Subdivision Approval Amendments	Mike Noel	Support	Failed
HJR 09	Resolution Amending Property Tax Provision	Paul Ray	Oppose	Failed

Number	Title	Sponsor	Position	Status
SB 012	Election Law Modifications	Peter C. Knudson	Support	Enrolled
SB 018	Public Safety Retirement Death Benefit Modifications	Jon Greiner		Failed
SB 019	Enhanced Public Safety Retirement Systems Cola Option	Carlene M. Walker	Support	Enrolled
SB 022	Timing of Ballot Items	Peter C. Knudson		Enrolled
SB 025 s5	Municipal Incorporation Amendments	Dennis Stowell	Support	Failed
SB 029 s1	Truth in Taxation Amendments	Wayne Niederhauser		Enrolled
SB 032 s2	Local Government Bonding Act - Public Hearings	Scott K. Jenkins		Enrolled
SB 038 s6	Transparency in Government Finance	Wayne Niederhauser	Oppose	Enrolled
SB 045 s2	Inventory for Competitive Activities of Local Entities	Howard Stephenson	Oppose	Enrolled
SB 046 s3	Anti-flow Control Amendments	Dan Eastman	Oppose	Enrolled
SB 054 s1	Initiative and Referendum Petition Submission Amendments	Brent Goodfellow		Enrolled
SB 072 s1	Justice Court Amendments	Lyle W. Hillyard	Support	Enrolled
SB 078 s1	County Personnel Management Act Amendments	Wayne Niederhauser	Support	Enrolled
SB 086	Economic Analysis and Reporting of Cost of Land Use Regulation	Mark Madsen		Failed
SB 090	Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes Act	Gene Davis	Oppose	Failed
SB 092 s1	Real Property Recording Amendments	Dennis Stowell	Support	Enrolled
SB 105 s2	Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission	Chris Butters	Support	Enrolled
SB 109	Poll Worker Neutrality	Scott McCoy		Failed
SB 129	Changes to County Surveyor	Kevin VanTassell	Oppose	Failed
SB 153	Revision to County Elected Offices	Greg Bell	Oppose	Failed
SB 160	Candidate Replacement Deadline for General Election	Peter C. Knudson		Failed
SB 168 s1	Highway Funding Amendments	Dennis Stowell	Support	Enrolled
SB 169	Renewable Energy Zone Task Force	Dennis Stowell		Failed
SB 177	Local Government Disposal of Real Property Acquired by Exaction	Wayne Niederhauser	Oppose	Enrolled
SB 178	Senior Citizen Property Tax Safe Harbor	Chris Butters	Oppose	Failed
SB 181 s1	Off-highway Vehicle Use on Public Highways	Scott Jenkins	Support	Enrolled
SB 196	County and Municipal Land Use Amendments	Wayne Niederhauser		Enrolled
SB 203	Highway Abandonment Amendments	Darin Peterson		Failed
SB 208 s1	Transportation Corridor Preservation Amendments	Sheldon Killpack		Enrolled
SB 209	Methamphetamine Decontamination Standards and Funding	Chris Butters	Support	Enrolled
SB 210	Proof of Citizenship Required to Vote	Mark Madsen	Oppose	Failed

Number	Title	Sponsor	Position	Status
SB 218	Amendments to Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention Facilities Tax	Wayne Niederhauser	Oppose	Failed
SB 229	Privatization of State Hospital	Sheldon Killpack	Oppose	Failed
SB 253	County Law Enforcement Duties	Michael Waddoups	Oppose	Enrolled
SB 258	Property Tax Committee	Wayne Niederhauser		Failed
SB 285	Sales and Use Tax Modifications	Gene Davis	Oppose	Failed
SJR 10	Joint Resolution Amending Constitution Regarding Taxes of the Elderly	Gene Davis	Oppose	Failed

ENROLLED BILLS

HB 16

Medicaid Coverage for Certain Telehealth Services

Sponsor: Rep. Brad Last
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 16 requires the state Medicaid program to allow for the use of telehealth services for certain services otherwise covered under the state Medicaid program. This bill greatly benefits rural Utah where it is otherwise difficult for a patient and a health care provider to interact face to face. Using video conferencing equipment now available throughout Utah's hospital system, rural patients can confer with health care providers throughout the state and those services can be covered through Medicaid thanks to this bill.

HB 29

Election Law - Financial Reporting

Sponsor: Rep. Brad Daw
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

HB 29 requires counties and municipalities to post campaign financial reports either on their own website while providing a link to the Lt. Governor's Office or send the data to the Lt. Governor's Office so they can post it on their website.

The bill also requires counties and municipalities to be prepared to provide public access to campaign financial reports no later than one day after filing.

The bill also expands the regulation of political issue committees and political action committees to include issues of local as well as state importance.

HB 40

Safe Drinking Water Revisions

Sponsor: Rep. Sylvia Andersen
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

HB 40 requires counties to adopt an ordinance to protect a groundwater source of public drinking water by May 3, 2010. The ordinance shall address impacts to agriculture and manufacturing. Counties are also required under HB 40 to designate a drinking water source protection zone within a 100 foot radius from the groundwater source and a 250 day groundwater time of travel to the groundwater source.

HB 40 had a calculated fiscal impact to local government of \$200,000 annual to enforce the provisions of the bill.

HB 43

Allowance of Polling Places for Early Voting

Sponsor: Rep. Glenn Donnelson
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 43 clarifies that counties may use nongovernmental buildings or offices to house early voting polling places when there are no governmental buildings that meet certain requirements. Those requirements include: 1) can be scheduled for use during early voting hours; 2) has the physical facilities necessary to accommodate early voting requirements; 3) has adequate space for voting equipment, poll workers, and voters; and 4) has adequate security, public access, and parking.

HB 51

Water Right Forfeiture Protection

Sponsor: Rep. Patrick Painter
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

HB 51 protects specific entities from forfeiting a water right because of nonuse. Additionally, HB 51 extends the nonuse period of water right from five to seven years.

HB 51 was somewhat controversial early in the process when there were concerns raised that the bill might strengthen Nevada's claim to water located in the Snake River Basin. After careful review of the bill and after several rewrites of the bill, these concerns have been alleviated.

HB 54

Property Tax Assessment Revisions

Sponsor: Rep. Wayne Harper
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

Of the nearly two dozen bills and resolutions introduced dealing with the property tax system, HB 54 was the only bill to be enrolled into law during the 2008 Legislative Session.

HB 54 requires county assessors of a first and second class county to use a computer assisted mass appraisal system to conduct their annual update of property values. The bill affixes a penalty of the loss of revenues collected from the statewide assessing and collecting levy to the county if the assessor's office fails to comply with the requirements of the bill in two consecutive years.

First class counties must comply with the requirements of HB 54 by January 1, 2009. Second class counties must comply with the requirements of HB 54 by January 1, 2011.

HB 58 Severance Tax Amendments

**Sponsor: Rep. John Dougall
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled**

HB 58 requires any severance tax revenues exceeding a base amount be deposited into the permanent state trust fund or the Severance Tax Holding Account. Interest and dividends earned on revenues from these accounts shall be deposited into the state's General Fund to be used for capital and infrastructure development and economic diversification investment. At least 25 percent of these funds must be spent in the communities that produced the severance tax revenues.

HB 77 Personal Property Tax Amendments

**Sponsor: Rep. John Dougall
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled**

HB 77 is a compromise bill worked out between the sponsor and county assessors. It makes changes to the personal property tax system by creating new depreciation schedules for certain items of personal property and exempts certain personal property from with a residual value of 15 percent or less of the original value from taxation.

HB 104 Urban Trails Appropriation

**Sponsor: Rep. Kory Holdaway
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled**

HB 104 appropriates \$250,000 one-time state money for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Program and an additional \$250,000 one-time state money for grants to plan and develop urban trails. The bill defines an urban trail as a trail located within a county of the first or second class.

HB 121 County Charges for Services to Incarcerated Persons

Sponsor: Richard A. Greenwood
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 121 sets at a rate of 65 percent of PEHP rate, the payment for medical care of incarcerated county prisoners. HB 121 became necessary after a recent Utah Supreme Court case indicated that counties are obligated to pay reasonable costs for medical services provided to any inmate incarcerated within their correctional facilities. HB 121 sets a base rate from which counties can either implement or work from to draft their own rate with health providers.

HB 132 Waste Tire Recycling Amendments

Sponsor: Neil Hendrickson
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

HB 132 reduces the partial reimbursement paid to waste tire recyclers by \$25 per ton. HB 132 also reduces the partial reimbursement paid to landfill owners for waste tire disposal by \$10 per ton.

HB 133 Health System Reform

Sponsor: David Clark
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

HB 133 enacts the “Health System Reform Act” which requires the Governor’s Office of Economic Development to serve as the coordinating entity to work with the executive branch agencies and to report to and assist the Legislature with the state’s strategic plan for health system reform. HB 133 also creates a one year legislative task force to develop and implement said strategic plan.

HB 164 Town Incorporation Process Amendments

Sponsor: Mel Brown
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 164 tightens the process for incorporation of a town by addressing many of the shortcomings of 2007's HB 466. The passage of last year's HB 466 led to the creation of several developer driven towns in Wasatch and Weber Counties. These incorporations took place without input from the very residents affected—most of whom opposed the incorporation. HB 466 also paved the way for the incorporation of a true company town consisting solely of the Ruby's Inn resort in Garfield County.

Among other things, HB 164 requires: 1) at least five sponsors on a petition to incorporate a town, 2) prohibits a filing of a petition if the petition sponsors own more than 40 percent of the total area to be incorporated, 3) requires a majority of registered voters within the proposed incorporation to sign the petition to incorporate, 4) allows the county legislative body the option to commission a financial feasibility study with respect to the proposed incorporation, and 5) requires the initial officers of a newly created town to be elected.

HB 177 County and Municipal Land Use Regulation of Potential Geologic Hazard Areas

Sponsor: Michael Morley
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 177 is a consensus bill worked on throughout the interim between the 2007 Legislative Session and the 2008 Legislative Session by local government land use experts and developers. HB 177 authorizes counties and municipalities to enact an ordinance regulating land use and development in a flood plain or potential geologic hazard area to protect life or prevent the substantial loss of or damage to real property. HB 177 also provides a process for assembling a panel of experts to decide the technical aspects of an appeal of a land use authority's decision administering or interpreting a county or municipal ordinance regulating land use and development in a flood plain or potential geologic hazard area.

HB 186 Property Tax - County Assessment and Collection Amendments

Sponsor: Kay McIff
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

During the summer of 2004, UAC undertook a comprehensive study of the multicounty assessing and collecting levy. The result of that study was legislation passed in both 2005 and 2006. HB 186 is the final cleanup of the assessing and collecting section of the law. Primarily dealing with technical changes, HB 186 also corrects the code to reflect current practices within the State Auditor's Office, the State Tax Commission, and county offices.

HB 223
Exemption from Licensure by Division of Real Estate

Sponsor: Mark Walker
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

2007's SB 199 provided an exemption from licensure by the Division of Real Estate for certain municipal and state employees when acting on behalf of the government. HB 223 expands that exemption to include certain county employees.

HB 235
County Merit System Amendments

Sponsor: Brad Dee
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 235 clarifies that a sheriff in a county employing more than 100 full-time uniformed peace officers may appoint more than one chief deputy or undersheriff, even if the county has chosen to use the County Personnel Management Act provisions as a single merit system for all county employees.

HB 238
Campaign Finance Filing Requirements

Sponsor: Greg Hughes
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 238 sets to achieve a greater level of compliance of campaign finance filing requirements. HB 238 requires election officials to provide persons filing a declaration of candidacy a copy of current campaign finance disclosure laws and to inform candidates that failure to comply will result in disqualification of their candidacy. HB 238 also changes the declaration of candidacy form to include language concerning campaign finance filing requirements.

HB 242

Local Option Transportation Corridor Preservation Fee Amendments

Sponsor: Wayne Harper

UAC Position: Oppose

Enrolled

HB 242 as originally drafted would have taken the remaining 30 percent discretionary funds generated from Salt Lake County's local option transportation corridor preservation fee and dedicate it to state highways. UAC took a position to oppose this version of the bill.

HB 242 was then substituted into an entirely different bill. As enrolled, HB 242 appropriates some \$30 million to Salt Lake County and municipalities within Salt Lake County to fund various local road projects. Had UAC revisited its position on the substituted bill, UAC would have assuredly supported the bill.

HB 291

Off-highway Vehicle Amendments

Sponsor: Mike Noel

UAC Position: Support

Enrolled

HB 291 requires that direct adult supervision be provided for qualified OHV drivers who are under the age of 18. Direct supervision is defined in the bill to mean visual contact within 300 feet. HB 291 was drafted as a result of efforts from county sheriffs who have seen too many OHV related accidents that could have been avoided if better supervision had taken place. The provisions of the bill do not apply to operators of off-highway implements of husbandry.

HB 296

Voting Machines Used by Municipalities

Sponsor: Neil Hanson

UAC Position: Support

Enrolled

HB 296 prohibits counties from charging municipalities more than the cost of an election to run an election. Those costs are defined in the bill as: 1) the cost or rental fees associated with the use of election equipment and supplies and 2) reasonable and necessary administrative costs. The bill does not mandate counties run municipal elections, just prohibit excess charges.

HB 305 County Sheriff Qualification Amendments

Sponsor: Richard A. Greenwood
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

HB 305 requires any candidate for county sheriff to present a certificate from the Peace Officers Standards and Training Division verifying that he or she has met the standards and qualifications established for peace officers. Additionally the bill requires that a county sheriff be qualified to be certified as a corrections officer at the time of taking office.

While the code required county sheriff candidates to be certified as having met the standards for peace officers, prior to HB 305 the code was silent on how this was to be verified.

HB 316 Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant Minors

Sponsor: Eric Hutchings
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

As originally drafted, HB 316 would have required involuntary substance abuse treatment to pregnant minors who abuse alcohol or other drugs. Substance abuse authorities worried that this type of approach could drive an already high risk pregnancy population further from potential help. UAC took a position to oppose this version of HB 316.

The original version of HB 316 was substituted into a new bill that didn't address involuntary substance abuse treatment, but did require priority substance abuse treatment for pregnant women and pregnant minors. Had UAC revisited the bill, it would have likely dropped any opposition to the version of the bill that passed.

HB 323 Eminent Domain Amendments

Sponsor: Aaron Tilton
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

HB 323, as originally drafted, clarified the exclusion of certain pathways from the exercise of eminent domain as well as excluded the exercise of eminent domain for emergency access pathways. UAC opposed the bill based on its prohibition of the use of eminent domain for emergency access pathways. The bill was ultimately substituted to leave out the language concerning emergency access pathways.

HB 365 Aviation Amendments

Sponsor: Wayne Harper
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

HB 365 reduces the fee in lieu property tax of aircrafts registered with the state while correspondingly increasing the registration fee of those aircrafts. The result, as calculated by the Legislative Fiscal Analysts Office, is a decrease of roughly \$750,000 to local government and an increase of roughly \$500,000 to the Aeronautics Restricted Account. The intent of the bill is to provide more revenue to Utah's local airports.

While UAC maintained a position to oppose HB 365 throughout the Legislative Session, that position was taken prior to the Session and never revisited. Several counties independent of UAC took a position to support HB 365.

SB 12 Election Law Modifications

Sponsor: Peter Knudson
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

SB 12 makes a number of technical changes to Utah's election law to better utilize direct recording electronic voting machines and early voting. SB 12 was the result of the diligent work of county clerks, county election officers, and the Lt. Governor's Office all of whom met throughout the year leading up to the 2008 General Session.

SB 19 Enhanced Public Safety Retirement Systems Cola Option

Sponsor: Carlene Walker
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

SB 19 provides a maximum cost-of-living adjustment of 4 percent for state agency public safety members and retirees in place of the previous 2.5 percent adjustment. SB 19 also allows for other employers the option of offering a maximum 4 percent cost-of-living adjustment for public safety members and retirees if they so desire.

SB 22

Timing of Ballot Items

Sponsor: Peter Knudson
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

SB 22 requires that all ballot questions be submitted to the elections office at least 60 days before the date of the election. With early voting effectively pushing Election Day two weeks early, it has become necessary to have the ballot in place earlier than ever before.

SB 29

Truth in Taxation Amendments

Sponsor: Wayne Niederhauser
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

SB 29 solely addresses truth in taxation issues with school districts. SB 29 was placed on UAC's tracking sheet when it was originally introduced as a much more far-reaching bill. As originally drafted, SB 29 would have required a property tax increase greater than the rate of inflation to go to the vote of the people. This idea was abandoned after intense opposition from various taxing entities.

SB 32

Local Government Bonding Act - Public Hearings

Sponsor: Scott Jenkins
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

SB 32 requires that at the public hearing required to be held prior to the issuance of a bond, a county or city allow for input from the public regarding the potential economic impact the improvement, facility, or property for which the bonds pay all or part of the cost will have on the private sector.

SB 38 Transparency in Government Finance

Sponsor: Wayne Niederhauser
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

SB 38 extends the date that notice of open and public meetings must be placed on the Utah Public Notice Website from April 1, 2008 to October 1, 2008. It also creates the Utah Public Finance Website for the purpose of posting certain state financial information on the Internet.

UAC's opposition to SB 38 came from earlier versions of the bill that required local government to also produce their own Websites to post local government financial information on the Internet. The fiscal impact to local government would have been much, much greater than the anticipated \$250,000 one-time and \$250,000 ongoing cost to fund the state Website.

SB 45 Inventory for Competitive Activities of Local Entities

Sponsor: Howard Stephenson
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

SB 45 requires counties and cities of the first and second class to produce and update an inventory of all government activities that compete with private industry every two years. Additionally, SB 45 requires that the governmental entity identify what efforts have been made to privatize aspects of the activity. First class counties are required to comply with SB 45 by June 30, 2010 and second class counties are required to comply with SB 45 by June 30, 2011.

SB 46 Anti-flow Control Amendments

Sponsor: Dan Eastman
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

SB 46 prohibits a public entity from requiring solid waste be stored, recovered, or disposed of at a specific waste facility owned by the public entity unless: 1) the waste is municipal residential waste, 2) only one waste facility if available within 125 miles, or 3) the facility owned by the public entity receives less than 75 tons of solid waste per day.

SB 54
Initiative and Referendum Petition Submission Amendments

Sponsor: Brent Goodfellow
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

SB 54 moves various deadlines in the process for placing initiatives and referendums on the ballot. With the introduction of early voting, Election Day effectively starts two weeks early; making it necessary to change various deadlines associated with the ballot.

SB 72
Justice Court Amendments

Sponsor: Lyle Hillyard
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

SB 72 modifies the process for the selection, retention, and compensation of justice court judges. SB 72 requires within each county a county justice court nominating committee made up of elected county and municipal officials and an appointee from the local bar association to nominate at least two names to serve as a justice court judge. The elected officials within the governmental entity for whom the names were presented will then select a judge. Judges will be retained for six years at which time they will go through a countywide retention election. Justice court judges will be compensated at no less than 50 percent and no more than 90 percent of a district court judge's salary.

SB 78
County Personnel Management Act Amendments

Sponsor: Wayne Niederhauser
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

SB 78 expands the classification of exempt county positions to include division directors. SB 78 clarifies that a person currently serving in a nonexempt position does not lose that status due to the enactment of the provision adding the exemption.

SB 92 Real Property Recording Amendments

**Sponsor: Dennis Stowell
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled**

SB 92 makes several changes to the section of the code dealing with the duties and responsibilities of county recorders. These changes came about due to the constant efforts of county recorders to identify the areas of their job where changes make sense. Additionally, SB 92 includes specific language concerning the recording of affidavits concerning RS 2477 rights-of-way. By placing language in Utah Code concerning RS 2477 affidavits, these affidavits can be used in a federal court of law should the person making the affidavit pass away in the interim between the swearing of the affidavit and the court date.

SB 105 Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

**Sponsor: Chris Butters
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled**

SB 105 creates the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission to evaluate the performance of judges, including those judges who are subject to a retention election. SB 105 also directs the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission to submit judges' evaluations to the Lt. Governor to be included in voter information pamphlets for those judges up for retention election.

SB 168 Highway Funding Amendments

**Sponsor: Dennis Stowell
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled**

SB 168 dedicates \$500,000 a year of the 30 percent appropriated from the Transportation Fund to class B and C roads for the State Park Access Highway Improvement Program. This program helps counties maintain the county roads that provide access to the various state parks throughout Utah. By taking the \$500,000 prior to the splitting B and C road funds, SB 168 effectively makes cities a partner in paying for the maintenance of the county roads that provide access to state parks.

Originally, SB 168 included a provision that would have allowed the state to participate in the funding for state park access roads through an optional yearly appropriation from the Legislature, however, that provision was removed in the Senate.

SB 177

Local Government Disposal of Real Property Acquired by Exaction

Sponsor: Wayne Niederhauser

UAC Position: Oppose

Enrolled

SB 177 extends from five years to 15 years the period of time that a county must own surplus real property acquired by exaction before the county is no longer subject to a requirement that the county offer to reconvey the property to the original owner.

SB 181

Off-highway Vehicle Use on Public Highways

Sponsor: Scott Jenkins

UAC Position: Support

Enrolled

SB 181 permits street-legal all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) access to certain highways provided the vehicle passes a safety inspection and is registered as street-legal. The highways street-legal ATVs are permitted on must meet the following conditions: 1) one lane in both directions, 2) not located in a first class county, 3) not located in a city with a population of more than 7,500. SB 181 also recognizes ATVs as street-legal if they were so designated in other states.

While local government could already pass ordinances making ATVs street-legal on certain highways, SB 181 makes certain highways crossing federal land open to street-legal ATVs.

SB 196

County and Municipal Land Use Amendments

Sponsor: Wayne Niederhauser

UAC Position: Neutral

Enrolled

SB 196 prohibits counties or municipalities from imposing a number of requirements on the holder of a subdivision plat unless those requirements are specifically written on the plat. SB 196 also provides a process for an applicant to make a written request to a land use authority to accept or reject subdivision improvements or warranty work and a timetable in which the land use authority must respond.

SB 208
Transportation Corridor Preservation Amendments

Sponsor: Sheldon Killpack
UAC Position: Neutral
Enrolled

SB 208 authorizes the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to designate high priority transportation corridors, requires UDOT to inform any county or municipality within which those corridors are located, and gives UDOT the authority to acquire rights-of-way (without eminent domain) for those corridors. SB 208 requires counties and municipalities to inform UDOT in the event that they receive a land use applicant within the boundaries of the corridor and requires a certain amount of time be afforded UDOT to respond to the applicant before the land use applicant can be approved.

SB 209
Methamphetamine Decontamination Standards and Funding

Sponsor: Chris Butters
UAC Position: Support
Enrolled

SB 209 appropriates \$178,500 to the Department of Health to develop standards for methamphetamine decontamination. SB 209 also requires local health departments to follow those standards and the Health department to conduct a public education campaign on the dangers of methamphetamine contamination. This bill was an initiative introduced by the Governor’s Task Force on Meth—a taskforce UAC cosponsors.

SB 253
County Law Enforcement Duties

Sponsor: Michael Waddoups
UAC Position: Oppose
Enrolled

SB 253 allows the county legislative body to enter its county into an interlocal agreement to provide law enforcement services for counties of the first class.

FAILED BILLS

HB 76
Government Competition and Privatization Act

Sponsor: Craig Frank
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 76 would have mandated the creation of local government competition and privatization commissions that would have reviewed all complaints leveled against a local government concerning government competition with business. The commissions would have been required to meet quarterly and submit an annual report to a statewide government competition and privatization commission. This bill failed to get a committee hearing.

HB 100
Amendments to Prescribing Schedule II Drugs

Sponsor: Mark Wheatley
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 100 would have increased the maximum supply of a controlled substance that could be prescribed at one time from 30 days to 90 days. HB 100 was never before a vote as it was never presented before a committee.

HB 124
Changes to Municipal Annexation Provisions

Sponsor: Lou Shurtliff
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 124 would have extended to property owners in an area adjacent to an area proposed for annexation in a second class county the ability to protest the proposed annexation—an ability currently allowed for in first class counties only. HB 124 would have also extended to township planning commissions in second class counties the ability to recommend that the county legislative body protest a proposed municipal annexation. HB 124 was held by the sponsor of the bill and never introduced before a committee.

HB 142

Absentee Ballot Amendments

Sponsor: John Mathis
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 142 would have closed in-office absentee voting on the Friday before an election. Currently, in-office absentee voting is available on the Saturday (if the county so chooses) and Monday prior to an election. This bill was held by the Senate Rules committee after it became clear that county election officers were split in their support over the concept.

HB 150

Authorization for Counties to Provide Supplemental Law Enforcement Services

Sponsor: Jackie Biskupski
UAC Position: Support
Failed

HB 150 would have permitted a county executive to enter into contracts on behalf of the county sheriff for the sheriff's office to provide supplemental law enforcement services for various special events, persons, or governments. HB 150 was on the Senate board the last night of the Session but failed to get the final vote needed to go the Governor for his signature.

HB 155

Property Tax - Residential Exemption

Sponsor: Gage Froerer
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 155 would have amended the size of residential property that may qualify for the residential exemption, provided the property was located in an area zoned for larger than one acre lots. Currently, the residential exemption applies to the first acre of a residential lot. HB 155 would have permitted up to five acres depending on what local zoning required. HB 155 failed to move out of committee over concerns of difficulty in implementing the bill and the effects of its potential property tax shift.

HB 156
DNA Sample - Felony and Certain Misdemeanor Arrests

Sponsor: Kerry Gibson
UAC Position: Support
Failed

HB 156 would have required a DNA specimen be obtained from an adult convicted of assault—a class B misdemeanor—in addition to the current requirement for felonies and class A misdemeanors. The person convicted of the assault would have been required to pay the \$100 fee for the cost of collecting the DNA specimen. HB 156 had problems throughout the process. It originally failed to pass in the House, was reconsidered and eventually passed the House; but was never considered in the Senate.

HB 166
Minutes of Open and Public Meetings

Sponsor: Mel Brown
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 166 would have required that minutes of open meetings be available to the public within 14 days after the date of the meeting. HB 166 passed the House but was never considered by the Senate.

HB 175
Election Law Reforms

Sponsor: Neil Hansen
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 175 would have provided the grounds upon which a person's right to vote in an election could be challenged and addressed other issues associated with a voter challenge. Additionally, HB 175 dealt with election watchers, poll workers, and voting booths. HB 175 failed to receive a committee hearing.

HB 183

Sales and Use Tax Amendments

Sponsor: Wayne Harper
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 183 would have created a statewide single rate sales tax. The single rate sales tax would have effectively closed the door on any county option sales tax not currently imposed, but would have the potential to allow state and local government to begin collecting sales and use tax on Internet retail taking place within the state. HB 183 passed out of the House, but failed to get a vote in the Senate.

HB 197

Residential Mortgage Loan Closing Act

Sponsor: Larry Wiley
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 197 would have required a municipality or county to provide a document at a mortgage loan closing that declares that the property for which the loan is being procured meets all current zoning requirements. Municipalities and counties would be permitted to charge a fee for time and expense in providing the document. HB 197 was never heard before a committee.

HB 237

Illegal Immigration Enforcement Act

Sponsor: Glenn Donnelson
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 237 would have directed the Department of Public Safety to enter into an agreement with the federal government to allow certain state law enforcement officers to perform certain functions of a federal immigration officer. HB 237 would have also permitted local law enforcement agencies to enter into the same type of agreement with the federal government. HB 237 passed out of the House but was never considered in the Senate.

HB 264
Prohibition of Citation Quotas

Sponsor: Neil Hansen
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 264 would have prohibited state and local law enforcement agencies from setting traffic citation quotas for their law enforcement officers. HB 264 passed out of the House but failed to receive a favorable recommendation in the Senate in committee.

HB 292
Legislative Task Force to Study Radio Communication System in Utah

Sponsor: Brad Dee
UAC Position: Support
Failed

HB 292 would have created a yearlong legislative task force to review and make recommendations concerning various radio communication issues. The task force would have reported to a legislative interim committee in November, 2008. HB 292 ultimately was not one of the few task forces funded by the legislature and therefore failed to pass.

HB 317
Election Day Voter Registration

Sponsor: Neil Hansen
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 317 would have allowed individuals to register to vote or change their political affiliation at their voting precinct's polling place on the day of election. HB 317 failed to receive a committee hearing.

HB 322
Local Health Department Funding

Sponsor: Stephen Clark
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 322 would have required counties to impose a minimum 0.0004 percent property tax levy dedicated to its local health department. With the minimum levy, county government would have to go through truth in taxation every year that property value within the county appreciated to ensure that the levy remain at 0.0004 percent. The sponsor of the bill held HB 322 due to UAC's concerns.

HB 333

Property Tax Revisions

Sponsor: Gage Froerer
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 333 would have expanded the circuit breaker program for indigent property owners by providing relief for household incomes earning up to \$33,000 a year (up from nearly \$27,000 a year). Originally, HB 333 would have allowed Utah's senior citizens to defer payment of their property taxes until the property changes owners, but that version of the bill faced opposition from both taxing entities and property owners. HB 333 passed out of the House but wasn't considered in the Senate.

HB 338

Neutrality Required of Poll Workers

Sponsor: Rebecca Chavez-Houck
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 338 would have prohibited poll workers from wearing or displaying a logo, insignia, letters, or words that disclose the poll worker's support of, opposition to, or affiliation with a candidate, political party, or political issue, corporation, or advocacy organization. The language in HB 338 mirrored that of SB 109—another failed bill. HB 338 was heard and held in a House committee.

HB 357

Public Associations Subject to Government Records Access and Management Act

Sponsor: Mike Noel
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 357 would have expanded the list of associations subject to providing public access of budget and finance documents under GRAMA to those whose members include governmental entities—thus including UAC under those specific GRAMA requirements. HB 357 passed out of the House but wasn't considered by the Senate.

HB 362
Motor Fuel Tax - Off-highway Vehicle Refund Amendments

Sponsor: Ben Ferry
UAC Position: Support
Failed

HB 362 would have removed the cap on the percentage of motor fuel tax revenue that is deposited as a refund into the Off-highway Vehicle Account dedicated to the construction, improvement, operation, or maintenance of off-highway vehicle facilities. The current cap sits at \$1,050,000 per year and the removal of that cap would result in an additional \$366,000 per year for off-highway vehicle facilities. The \$366,000 would have come from UDOT and B&C road funds. HB 362 passed out of the House, received a favorable Senate committee vote, but failed to be voted on by the full Senate body.

HB 367
Property Tax Assessment of Cable Television Companies

Sponsor: Wayne Harper
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

HB 367 would have moved the responsibility to assess of cable television companies from county government to the State Tax Commission. HB 367 never received a committee hearing.

HB 435
Public Hearings on Property Tax Increases

Sponsor: Gage Froerer
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HB 435 would have required the county auditor to compile and publish the cumulative effect of each truth in taxation proposal within the county in a newspaper circulated within the county for two consecutive weeks. Each entity included in the compilation would be required to remit to the county auditor its portion of the cost of the newspaper advertisement as calculated by the county auditor. HB 435 received a favorable committee vote in the House but didn't receive a vote from the full body of the House.

HB 447
Government Entity Changes

Sponsor: Kory Holdaway
UAC Position: Support
Failed

HB 447 would have rewritten the Utah State Code to reflect the current procedure for recording boundary changes. HB 447 was a UAC drafted piece of legislation. HB 447 was introduced late in the session and failed to move quickly enough through the process. It received a favorable House committee vote, but wasn't considered by the full body of the House.

HB 481
Subdivision Approval Amendments

Sponsor: Mike Noel
UAC Position: Support
Failed

HB 481 would have exempted property owners of agricultural land to split their parcel one time without complying with subdivision ordinances in counties of the fifth and sixth class. HB 481 passed out of the House but was not considered by the Senate.

HJR 9
Resolution Amending Property Tax Provision

Sponsor: Paul Ray
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

HJR 9 would have placed on the ballot an amendment to the Utah State Constitution that would have authorized the Legislature to provide by statute for a limit on the amount of property tax required to be paid by an elderly owner-occupier of residential real property. HJR 9 failed to receive a committee hearing.

SB 18
Public Safety Retirement Death Benefit Modifications

Sponsor: John Greiner
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

SB 18 would have raised the cap on the death benefits of retired members of the Public Safety Contributory Retirement System and retired members of the Public Safety Noncontributory Retirement System from 65 percent of the allowance being paid at the time of retirement to 75 percent. SB 18 passed out of the Senate and a House committee but failed to get the \$1.3 million ongoing appropriation necessary to enact it.

SB 25
Municipal Incorporation Amendments

Sponsor: Dennis Stowell
UAC Position: Support
Failed

SB 25 would have addressed the issues raised from 2007's HB 466 concerning the incorporation of a town. SB 25 dealt with many of the same issues that HB 164 did so that when HB 164 passed, it became redundant to pass SB 25.

SB 86
Economic Analysis and Reporting of Cost of Land Use Regulation

Sponsor: Mark Madsen
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

SB 86 would have required municipalities and counties to provide a form to each land use applicant that lists all municipal or county requirements that exceed building code or health or safety requirements. Additionally, SB 86 would have prohibited counties and municipalities that fail to deliver the regulatory cost form to land use applicants from collecting a land use application fee. SB 86 failed to pass out of committee.

SB 90
Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes Act

Sponsor: Gene Davis
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 90 would have permitted qualifying municipalities to receive payment in lieu of taxes from the state for facilities within the municipalities that are otherwise property tax exempt. For a municipality to qualify it would have to have over 30 percent of its real property exempt. SB 90 received a favorable committee vote in the Senate but was never voted on by the full Senate body.

SB 109
Poll Worker Neutrality

Sponsor: Scott McCoy
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

SB 109 would have prohibited poll workers from wearing or displaying a logo, insignia, letters, or words that disclose the poll worker's support of, opposition to, or affiliation with a candidate, political party, or political issue, corporation, or advocacy organization. The language in SB 109 mirrored that of HB 338 — another failed bill. SB 109 failed to receive a committee hearing.

SB 129
Changes to County Surveyor

Sponsor: Kevin VanTassell
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 129 would have required a person elected to fill consolidated offices to meet the professional licensing, certification, or training requirements of each of the consolidated offices thus requiring a licensed professional land surveyor to fill any consolidated elected surveyor position. SB 129 failed to receive a committee hearing.

SB 153
Revision to County Elected Offices

Sponsor: Greg Bell
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 153 would have eliminated the elected office of county surveyor instead making the office of county surveyor an appointed office only. SB 153 failed to receive a committee hearing. It was, however, added as an interim study item to the Legislature's study list.

SB 160
Candidate Replacement Deadline for General Election

Sponsor: Peter Knudson
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

SB 160 would have clarified the steps necessary to take in order to replace a candidate on a ballot prior to an election. SB 160 passed the Senate but was not voted on by the House.

SB 169
Renewable Energy Zone Task Force

Sponsor: Dennis Stowell
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

SB 169 would have created a Legislative task force that would have studied the potential for development of renewable energy resources in the State of Utah. The task force would have reported to a legislative interim committee in November, 2008. SB 169 ultimately was not one of the few task forces funded by the legislature and therefore failed to pass.

SB 178
Senior Citizen Property Tax Safe Harbor

Sponsor: Chris Butters
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 178 would have required a county to grant a deferral of property taxes to any residential homeowner 65 years of age or older. SB 178 failed to receive a committee hearing.

SB 203
Highway Abandonment Amendments

Sponsor: Darin Peterson
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

SB 203 would have created a ten-year statute of limitations—as opposed to the current twelve-year limitations under federal law—to bring a lawsuit to keep a road open to the public. For the tens of thousands of miles of county roads in Utah that cross federal lands, SB 203 would not only change the limitations period 12 years to 10 years, it would also change when the limitations countdown starts to run. The SB 203 limitations countdown starts when the public merely stops using the road. The federal limitations countdown starts on a county-initiated lawsuit only upon a distinct purposeful act that effectively closes the road to public use, and on a state-initiated lawsuit the countdown starts only upon issuance of a formal written plan or policy, pursuant to which the road was closed.

SB 203 would also effectively decree that the ten years of public continuous use of a road which is necessary to dedicate the road to the public, will be interrupted and the ten-year clock reset, if the landowner closes a gate on merely one occasion or expels merely one traveler from the road. This is contrary to current Utah case law on what constitutes an interruption of continuous public use. SB 203 was circled in the Senate with the backers of the bill agreeing to work with UAC on a compromise bill that could be introduced in the 2009 Legislative Session.

SB 210
Proof of Citizenship Required to Vote

Sponsor: Mark Madsen
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 210 would have required persons that are registering to vote in the state for the first time or that are changing their registration from another state to provide evidence, either at the time of registration or at the time of voting, that they are citizens of the United States. SB 210 also provides what documents prove citizenship. SB 210 passed out of committee but failed to receive a vote of the full Senate body.

SB 218
Amendments to Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention Facilities Tax

Sponsor: Wayne Niederhauser
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 218 would have made two major changes to the tourism, recreation, cultural, and convention facilities tax (TRCC)—commonly referred to as the restaurant tax. First, SB 218 would have repealed the 1 percent restaurant tax and replaced it with a county-option 0.07 percent general sales tax. All the counties that imposed the sales tax would have the revenue from that sales tax pooled by the Utah State Tax Commission and distributed back to the counties based on the proportion of the restaurant tax they previously received.

Second, SB 218 would have required counties of the first class to share half of the revenue received from the new 0.07 percent sales tax with municipalities with their counties. SB 218 passed out of committee but failed to receive a vote from the full body of the Senate.

SB 229
Privatization of State Hospital

Sponsor: Sheldon Killpack
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 229 was introduced in title only, lacking any text. However, UAC took a position to oppose SB 229 based on the idea behind the bill. SB 229 represented a movement to transfer the operation of the state hospital to a private sector company. As the state contracted provider of mental health services, county government worries that making the state hospital private would compromise the treatment of patients who aren't always a moneymaker. Obviously, SB 229 failed to receive a committee hearing, it was, however, placed on the Legislature's study item list to be considered prior to the 2009 Legislative Session.

SB 258
Property Tax Committee

Sponsor: Wayne Niederhauser
UAC Position: Neutral
Failed

SB 258 would have created a one-year Legislative committee to study issues related to the property tax system. The committee would have reported its recommendations to a standing Legislative committee. The Legislature failed to appropriate the funding necessary to create the committee.

SB 285
Sales and Use Tax Modifications

Sponsor: Gene Davis
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SB 285 was introduced in title only, lacking any text. UAC took a position on SB 285 based on information it received that the bill would have included language requiring counties imposing the tourism, recreation, cultural, convention facilities tax—commonly referred to as the restaurant tax—to appropriate a share of those revenues to the Restaurant Association for advertisement campaigns. SB 285 was never introduced.

SJR 10
Joint Resolution Amending Constitution Regarding Taxes of the Elderly

Sponsor: Gene Davis
UAC Position: Oppose
Failed

SJR 10 would have placed on the ballot an amendment to the Utah State Constitution that would have authorized the Legislature to provide by statute that property taxes of the elderly be abated, deferred, or remitted. SJR 10 failed on the Senate floor.

INTERIM STUDY ISSUES

Utah Association of Counties 2008-2009 Interim Study Issues

UAC Action List

1. Recordors' Boundary Changes
2. Highway Abandonment (SB 203)
3. Subdivision Approval (HB 481)
4. TRCC Issues

UAC Monitor List

1. Eminent Domain
2. Statewide Single Rate Sales Tax
3. Voter Registration Proof of Citizenship

Legislative List (SJR 11)

52. Election Code Changes
53. Election Law Clean Up
54. Election Reforms (HB 175)
55. Election Results Audit (HB 404)
63. Municipal Elections Equipment
64. Neutrality of Poll Workers (HB 338)
72. Voter Registration (HB 317)
113. State Hospital
129. Citation Quotas (HB 264)
133. Jail Contracting
137. Bison Population Issues
146. Land Use Development and Management Act
156. County Surveyors (SB 129 and SB 158)
158. Health Department Funding (HB 322)
176. Cable Company Assessment (HB 367)
185. Property Tax Residential Exemption
186. Property Taxes
195. Tax Relief (HB 391)
203. Retirement Benefits