



## 2024 SEPTEMBER INTERIM

Sept. 17-18, 2024

**UAC is the advocate for all 29 Utah counties.** If you have questions about legislative action, please reach out to the legislative team or visit [utahcounties.org](http://utahcounties.org).

### [Economic Development and Workforce Services](#)

Legislative Research and General Counsel provided an update of Homeless Services legislation. Katherine Fife, Associate Deputy Mayor, Salt Lake County, briefed the committee on Salt Lake County Continuum of Care (CoC).

[Farmington](#), [Millcreek](#), and [St. George](#) provided the committee overviews of their Accessory Dwelling Unit efforts.

Ben Hart briefed the committee on the [most recent developments](#) with the Utah Inland Port Authority.



<p><b><u>Government Operations</u></b></p>	<p>Government Operations did not hear a scheduled presentation on this year’s presidential primary election.</p> <p><a href="#">OLRGC</a> and Mallory Bateman, Utah Population Committee (UPC) <a href="#">pre-sented</a> population data source and use information. In most circumstances, entities are required to use UPC data. UPC highlighted that the Utah Constitution likely requires that Census data be used for redistricting, but that the legislature could continue to utilize UPC for other tasks. Rep. Gricius expressed that some areas are better represented by UPC than the Census due to exponential growth, and the inclusion of more sources by UPC than the Census. The Committee did not take action but encouraged UPC to continue improving estimates.</p> <p>Rep. Musselman expressed a desire to make stormwater requirements more user friendly for builders. He has been negotiating with MS4 inspectors and builders, and then will have a bill draft.</p> <p>Sen. Kennedy <a href="#">proposed a bill</a> that would allow state officials to fundraise for federal office during the legislative session. He intends to retain the provision that disallows state officials from fundraising for state office during the session. The committee moved to make the draft a committee bill file, recognizing that Sen. Kennedy will resign effective Jan. 1, 2025.</p> <p>Rep. Thurston shared an update on a committee bill related to election records. Rep. Thurston suggested giving access to a copy of all records to clerks and their staff initially, with the potential to give access to that data to the public and the legislature in the future. Rep. Thurston would like clerks to retain the copy of these records indefinitely, and destroy the physical copy after 22 months as is current practice.</p>
<p><b><u>Health and Human Services</u></b></p>	<p>Ken Wallentine, West Jordan Police Chief, <a href="#">presented</a> information about the Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOTs). He shared that results in preventing use of force between law enforcement and mentally ill individuals and that they have benefited both communities and law enforcement. His presentation clarified that MCOTs are not consistently available within Salt Lake County, or the state. Brandon Hatch, Davis Behavioral Health, and UAC <a href="#">presented</a> statewide MCOT data. Legislators asked for additional data to support the claim that MCOTs save money for law enforcement, emergency rooms, and taxpayers.</p>
<p><b><u>Legislative Management Committee</u></b></p>	<p>Legislative Management Committee voted to have Legislative Research and General Counsel draft an amicus brief on behalf of Utah in State of Utah vs. United States of America, the federal unappropriated lands case before the U.S. Supreme Court.</p>



<p><b><u>Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment</u></b></p>	<p>Brian Steed, Great Salt Lake Commissioner, presented the Great Salt Lake annual report. He highlighted his four main objectives as commissioner:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensuring better coordination of the 12 state agencies, 5 federal agencies, and the districts, municipalities, businesses and stakeholders involved with the Great Salt Lake</li> <li>2. Ensuring decisions for the lake are based on the best available science</li> <li>3. Getting more water to the lake so it rises to its healthy target range over the next 30 years</li> <li>4. Protecting air and water quality</li> </ol> <p>The committee debated a proposal to modify the State Water Policy. Representative Chew expressed concern about recreation impact on the watershed in the Uintah Basin.</p>
<p><b><u>Political Subdivisions</u></b></p>	<p>Johnnie Miller addressed challenges related to bonds for public officials. New statutory requirements have limited the number of providers who will issue bonds. The committee opened a bill file that will address what type of bond is required, clarify which officials and employees require bonds, and work to create a framework wherein providers are willing to issue bonds.</p> <p>OLAG presented <a href="#">an audit from 2019</a> related to TRT, in which they found that most counties' spending was compliant with the law. Washington and Grand County were out of compliance. Washington County's error was readily resolved. Grand County. That audit also found that other states had similar requirements for out of state or in state spending, and that reporting requirements could be strengthened.</p> <p>Auditor Dougall <a href="#">presented</a> the <a href="#">recent audit</a> of Grand County's TRT spending, which found that the county underspent on promotion and overspent on mitigation, improperly claimed certain expenses were promotion, and did not comply with GAAP for prepaid projects. Committee members and Auditor Dougall highlighted that actions in Grand County were intentional deviations from the law. Committee members highlighted that corrective action has not been made, and that tax revenue is suspended in Grand County until they become compliant. Grand County responded that their actions were in consultation with their county attorney and internal auditors, and they disagree that findings were intentional. Committee members highlighted audit patterns, statements made in commission meetings, and an email and memo from 2021 to suggest that the commission knowingly took liberties with the law.</p>



<p><b><u>Revenue and Taxation</u></b></p>	<p>Commissioner John Valentine, Utah State Tax Commission presented an idea to use existing insurance databases to identify vehicles which are owned by Utah residents, operated primarily in Utah, but have been illegally registered in other states. Approximately 16,000 vehicles are estimated to be evading taxes and registration fees. The <a href="#">Division of Outdoor Recreation</a> testified that boats and OHVs are evading their registration fees and taxes as well.</p> <p>UAC outlined <a href="#">various property tax relief programs</a> available to residents, including challenges with the 75+ deferral program. Sen. Fillmore presented a <a href="#">draft of a bill</a> previously vetted by the UAC Revenue and Taxation Policy Steering Committee which would add information about the 75+ deferral program to each tax notice. Committee members voted to adopt the draft legislation as a committee bill.</p> <p>OLRGC reported on centrally assessed property, and the impacts on local governments with various percentages of centrally assessed property. Sen. McCay told the committee about his ongoing conversations with counties, outlined UAC’s primary concerns, and presented a general idea that the state should hold these revenues harmless. Committee members expressed that this was the first time many had thought about this issue, but reactions were positive. Some concerns included losing the county voice in debates, losing incentives to decrease budgets in response to market forces. Sen. Bramble advocated for the solution as a way to eliminate a county’s ability to be involved in litigation.</p>
<p><b><u>Transportation</u></b></p>	<p>Transportation heard from WFRC and MAG on <a href="#">local transportation safety</a> for all users and an update on <a href="#">station area plans</a>.</p> <p>They also heard <a href="#">proposals from the Utah Department of Transportation</a> on potential passenger rail service from SLC to Boise and SLC to Las Vegas. Additional concept discussed was passenger rail service from SLC to Moab. All these ideas are being discussed now due to federal funding opportunities not previously available.</p>

