



## 2024 OCTOBER INTERIM

Oct. 15-16, 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).

<p><b><u><a href="#">Economic Development and Workforce Services</a></u></b></p>	<p>Economic Development discussed corporate ownership of single family properties. Rep. Walter stated that he doesn't believe Utah can solve its housing crisis if it continues promoting Utah as a tourism destination. He shared that he will be running legislation allowing municipalities more authority to oversee short term rentals. Sen. Fillmore, as Chair of the Commission on Housing Affordability, mentioned uniform parking definitions and prioritizing state owned land for housing exempt from local land use authority.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Government Operations</a></u></b></p>	<p>Government Operations toured the Davis County Clerk's office after the audit of signature verification processes was released. Committee members viewed <a href="#">draft legislation on election fundraising amendments</a>, and discussed mail in ballots and ballot curing processes.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Health and Human Services</a></u></b></p>	<p>After discussing the intersection of mental illness and law enforcement, Rep. Dailey-Provost shared a list of ideas for bills to help in this arena, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for dispatch to effectively triage calls in mental health situations;</li> <li>• CIT for jail staff;</li> <li>• Re-entry services following residential treatment, such as warm hand-offs, assistance with housing and food, continued treatment, etc.; and</li> <li>• Creating a task force to discuss how to identify individuals with known risk factors and intervene before they commit crimes.</li> </ul> <p>These ideas will be sent out to the committee so they can submit their thoughts to staff.</p>



<p><b><u>Judiciary</u></b></p>	<p>Rep. Nelson Abbott made a motion to take no action on the Justice Court Reform Task Force sunset review. This has the effect of letting the Task Force sunset on July 1, 2025.</p> <p>This was anticipated due to Sen. Cullimore’s comments to USACCC at UAC Annual Convention. We don’t anticipate any further efforts to look at Justice Court reform through this Task Force.</p>
<p><b><u>Legislative Audit</u></b></p>	<p>Legislative auditors presented their <a href="#">audit of the signature verification process</a>. The audit found that the candidates complied with the statute to be on the ballot. It also found that some errors were made through the signature validation process. The audit recommended additional steps for the Lt. Governor’s office and the legislature to increase clarification.</p> <p>The legislative auditor also presented their <a href="#">audit of Utah’s behavioral health system</a>, which found that the state would benefit from a stronger central authority and a stronger accountability system for local authorities, including local mental health authorities and local substance abuse authorities.</p>
<p><b><u>Political Subdivisions</u></b></p>	<p>Lannie Chapman presented draft legislation on voter precinct amendments. This bill would give county clerks be able to make minor adjustments to precinct boundaries with notice to the legislative body, and increases the maximum precinct size to 3,000. The bill was recommended unanimously.</p> <p>Rep. Ray Ward presented two drafts of bills (<a href="#">version 7</a> and <a href="#">version 8</a>) that would allow a property owner to build a single family residence on a minimum lot size and with setbacks set by state statute. Committee members expressed concern with imposing a statewide standard on an issue which is generally determined locally.</p> <p>The committee also heard a report on the ranked choice voting pilot program from former Rep. Marc Roberts and Alan Perry and John Kidd, math professors, Utah Valley University, presented the background of the program and a summary of findings from a survey review. A large majority of respondents said that instructions were clear, that voting was easy, and that they were satisfied with the voting method. Thirty-five percent of respondents said that they did not want to see RCV in future elections. Committee members expressed that they want to hear more, especially from municipalities, next year.</p>



<p><b><u>Revenue and Taxation</u></b></p>	<p>UAC was asked to respond to a report generated by counties at the Tax Commission based on last session’s <a href="#">SB182, Property Tax Assessment Amendments (W. Harper)</a>. OLRGC <a href="#">presented the report</a> to the committee, and UAC described recent and in-progres improvements to the assessment progress. Committee members expressed concern that extreme valuation swings and large outliers should be a small margin of error, and that the taxpayer should not absorb those large changes in one year. They also discussed commercial property disclosures and how that might impact the results of this report.</p> <p>Rep. Welton discussed <a href="#">property tax recodification draft legislation</a>. This bill does not change policy, but moves provisions into a single statute. The bill was adopted as a committee bill file.</p>
<p><b><u>School Safety Task Force</u></b></p>	<p>The School Safety Task Force heard updates on progress. Task force members discussed appropriate resolution for schools that are non-compliant, and the amount of funding that would be needed to fully implement school security plans. Estimates of \$800 million were given. Task Force members suggested that this cost was important, and that the state should continue to work towards additional funding for school security plans.</p>



