

2022 LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

COVID-19 RELATED ISSUES

- Support public policy efforts that will provide businesses the necessary protections they need to stay safe, return stronger, and contribute to a vibrant Utah economy.
- Advocate for business and community COVID-19 liability protection measures at the state and federal levels.
- Support continuance for employers being “held harmless” for COVID-19 related unemployment claims.
- We support targeted incentives and support for industries and businesses important to our community and most seriously impacted by the pandemic.
- Support an aggressive public health response to COVID-19 through wearing masks, testing, contact tracing, and efficient vaccine distribution to protect public health and insulate business operations and economic activity.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY & BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Support maintaining a stable and predictable regulatory business environment and tax structure that will allow businesses to focus on short-term recovery from the current economic conditions.
- Support rural economic development incentives that improve effectiveness of existing programs and reduce potential duplications.
- Support efforts to brand Utah as a favorable environment for tourism, business location, expansion, and job creation, including film and multimedia production.
- Strengthen Utah’s economy by encouraging increased public-private partnerships.
- Maintain funding levels for tourism promotion for the State of Utah and encourage destination development and management efforts.
- Advocate for policies that encourage smart economic development and sustainable tourism initiatives.

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

- Support targeted workforce development investments including retraining or upskilling workers and adult students to meet increasing workforce demands in economic sectors with identified and growing shortages.
- Support workforce development partnerships between employers and our K-12 and higher education system, specifically programs targeted to meet identified workforce shortages.
- Support data-driven and employer-led policies that close the gender wage gap.
- Support immigration laws that comply with the principles of the Utah Compact and promote the education, availability, and expertise of our workforce.
- Support policies that encourage best practices for mental health issues and suicide prevention in the workforce.
- Support policies that help address childcare options for Utah’s working families.

HOUSING

- Support ongoing funding for public awareness efforts regarding Utah’s housing crisis and the need for positive, smart growth to address our housing shortage.
- Support workforce development efforts that address the state’s ongoing construction and trade labor shortage.
- Support public/private partnerships to address housing diversity and affordability issues.
- Support local control in land use strategies to allow communities to address affordable housing needs and local transportation investments and make smart use of land that allows residents to live in walkable, rideable, accessible communities.

COMMUNITY

- Support the development and funding of Utah’s recreational assets to ensure preservation and access to meet growing demands by residents and visitors.
- Support funding for public transit solutions to ski resorts and mountain communities.
- Support directing state funds for recreational assets; and to establish and promote Utah tourism products and assets where there is capacity for growth; this includes state parks, winter sports, cultural assets, and other attractions.
- Support providing assistance to ensure the survival of Utah’s arts and cultural sector.

TRANSPORTATION

- Support infrastructure projects that maximize job creation and investment in Utah’s interstate system.
- Support statewide and regional transportation solutions to address funding challenges.
- Advocate for legislation, regulation and policies that recognize the electric power grid and other natural resources and utility infrastructure delivery systems as assets requiring consistent maintenance, improvement, and support. A stronger electric power grid is necessary for increases in electric vehicle usage.
- Support policies to protect Utah’s supply chain and transportation methods that ensure access to needed supplies, products, and personal protection equipment.
- Support transportation policies and plans that support a high-quality of life by promoting good health, better mobility, a strong economy, and connected communities.
- Support policies that encourage innovation and increase transportation methods, access, and options.
- Support programs that provide technical assistance to local communities as they plan for growth, specifically the connection between transportation, land use, and transit-oriented development.

TAXATION

- Support a taxation system that is competitive, fair, consistent, and easily administered that will attract new investments and support Utah jobs.
- Support of continuous improvement of Utah State Tax Commission policies & procedures to ensure tax collection accuracy, management, and system ease of use by taxpayers.
- Support continued investment of Transient Room Taxes to benefit the tourism economy.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS

- Maintain a competitive regulatory environment that provides timeliness and certainty for businesses without unduly burdensome regulations on business owners.
- Support legislation that protects businesses from frivolous lawsuits.
- Support Utah's national image through sound legislation including modernizing policies to recognize Utah's diverse community and population.
- Support wholesale pricing for licensees
- Support 18-20-year-old restaurant servers to assist with the labor shortage.
- Support flexibility with alcohol portability in licensed venues.
- Encourage flexibility and increasing the number of special single event permits per venue.
- Support re-allocation of the percentage split for food sales (70%) vs alcohol sales (30%) to address rising costs, competitive advantage and changing clientele.

EDUCATION

- Advocate for investments to support public and higher education programs to ensure Utah has a qualified workforce.
- Support funding and policies that ensure students and job creators have robust career and workforce pipeline options.
- Support improving the K-12 education of Utah students by recruiting and retaining qualified educators.
- Support efforts to ensure students across the state have inclusive access to educational opportunities in public and post-secondary education.
- Support improving access to STEM education.

HEALTH CARE

- Support reforms that lower unsustainable costs, foster innovation, and enhance the private market.
- Support improved price transparency to better inform businesses and families about their health care costs.
- Support policies that make access to behavioral health care service simpler and more affordable, reduce provider shortage, and prevent suicides in our state.
- Support adoption of telehealth policies that lower health care costs and make access to care more convenient.

EQUALITY & INCLUSION IN OPPORTUNITY

- Support employer-led policies to remove discriminatory hiring and employment practices and create greater equality in hiring and advancement.
- Support policies and funding allocations to the advancement of goals of the Utah Compact on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

ENVIRONMENT

- Support City and County efforts to achieve North America's most ambitious climate goals: to be net-zero carbon community-wide by 2030 and to achieve net 100% renewable electrical energy by 2030.
- Support increased investment in transit and active transportation infrastructure and service, to increase ridership and reduce emissions from single-occupancy vehicle miles traveled.
- Support data-driven legislative efforts and private partnerships to improve air quality.
- Support legislative policies to implement the goals of the Utah Climate and Clean Air Compact.

WATER

- Support advancements in water technology and infrastructure to improve efficiency of use and conservation.
- Support water policies that focus on state-wide, long-term plans that incorporate stakeholder input and support.
- Support educating the public on water conservation as Utah is the second driest state in the nation.

ENERGY

- Support investment in the continued development of key energy infrastructure, including electricity transmission.
- Support investment in Utah's network of electrical charging stations to increase range capability of electric vehicles.
- Support incentives for increased renewable energy investment.
- Support passage of federal market-based carbon fee and dividend legislation.

IMMIGRATION

- Support comprehensive federal immigration reform that encourages economic growth.
- Support policies that encourage international worker visa protections to assist with the labor shortage.