

UTAH LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you for your community service and involvement in the League! We hope that this report will demonstrate the value that your municipality receives from being a League member.

I appreciate League President and Draper Mayor Troy Walker and the entire Board of Directors for their leadership on your behalf. Mayor Walker was a regular on Capitol Hill as he advocated for cities on many tough issues. The strength of the League is you—the membership—and collectively we had great accomplishments this past year, including:

 <p>Tracked a record number of bills — 247, which is 13% higher than the number of bills in the 2024 session — and preserved municipal authority over zoning, building inspections, and public safety</p>	 <p>Led proactive, year-round efforts through the Unified Economic Opportunity Commission and Commission on Housing Affordability to find policy consensus and fight off one-size-misfits-all bills or unfunded mandates</p>	 <p>Implemented the Local Administrative Advisor program — first-of-its-kind in the country — to provide expertise for small cities and towns with limited professional staff</p>	 <p>Achieved a ULCT record of 605 attendees at the 2024 Midyear Conference and 618 attendees at the 2024 Annual Convention</p>
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2025 is a municipal election year which means that we'll say good-bye to close friends who have served their communities with distinction and we'll welcome new mayors and council members who are eager to contribute. We look forward to meeting the newly elected leaders through our post-election Elected Officials Essentials series. To those of you leaving office in 2025, please notify us so that we can recognize you at the Annual Convention. Thank you for your sacrifices, your leadership, and your service. To everyone, thank you for your involvement with the League. Please engage with us on policy issues, attend our events, and elevate your voice. The strength of the League is you!



CAMERON DIEHL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UTAH LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

ADVOCACY

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



\$289,623,303

**of American Rescue Plan Act funds
allocated to Utah municipalities**

*League staff has continued to assist cities
in meeting reporting requirements for these
funds. As of printing, 97% of cities are in
compliance. Final reports are due April 30th!*

Once again, your involvement in ULCT made a huge difference this year.

Hundreds of our members attended weekly Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) meetings both in person and remotely, providing ULCT staff with valuable feedback as we tracked a record 279 bills. The legislature introduced a record number of bills, 959, and adopted 1,110 substitutes and amendments. If it feels like there is more and more legislation being discussed, that's because there is in fact more and more legislation being discussed.

We continued to use Slido this year to gauge how our members felt on key pieces of legislation. **We received 5,286 response data points from LPC members to 38 questions providing feedback to staff on potential policy proposals and how to prioritize our efforts on high impact legislation.**

Our key message “partnership not preemption” continued to resonate with legislators. When ULCT staff asked you to reach out to legislators the messages from our cities and towns were heard loud and clear, opening up opportunities for league staff to pushback on problematic bills. In every single instance that we asked our members to reach out to legislators we were able to move the needle by encouraging legislators to vote down problematic bills, or make significant amendments to get the bills in a better place.

Outside of our regular LPC meetings, we also had meetings on specific issues like land use, water conservation, gravel, billboards, ambulances, statewide authorities, and more. Thank you to everyone who participated. We also extend a big thanks to ULCT President Troy Walker, as well as the other Officers, for weekly calls with the Governor's Office and our team, for meetings with legislative leaders and for dedicating countless hours at the capitol on behalf of all cities and towns this year.

2025 Legislative Wrap Up

KEY 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MESSAGES



Partnership not preemption

State doesn't have a budget surplus and neither do cities

ULCT BOARD HOUSING PRINCIPLES

How does the proposal **preserve the quality of life** of current and future residents?

How does the proposal **allocate the current and future costs of infrastructure** and **ensure the sustainability of infrastructure**?

Will the proposal result in **more housing units that are more directly affordable** to the buyer or renter?

Will the proposal result in **more home ownership**?

Engage in the legislative off-season by attending Legislative Policy Committee and participating for LPC work groups (which will be announced soon!) You can find more information at www.ulct.org/advocacy/legislative-policy-committee/

Looking for a deep dive on what happened this legislative session? You can find bill summaries, white papers, and other implementation resources here.



MEMBERSHIP

THE STRENGTH OF THE LEAGUE IS YOU

21

BOARD MEMBERS
REPRESENTING
YOUR CITY OR TOWN

ULCT's Board of Directors represent eight geographic areas in the state and all communities. From big cities to small towns and rapidly growing cities to established communities, ULCT strives to share policy ideas, resources, and best practices. The strength of the League is the uniqueness and the unity of our membership!

ULCT's Board of Directors represent eight geographic areas of the state. We encourage local leaders to connect with these regional board representatives to share policy ideas and discuss issues from your community.

The board election occurs at the Annual Convention in September. For more information about running for the Board, contact Nick Jarvis at njarvis@ulct.org.

ULCT BOARD MEMBERS

Council Member David Baird, Roosevelt
dbaird@rooseveltcity.com

Mayor Ben Nadolski, Ogden
bennadolski@ogdencity.gov

Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan
Dirk.Burton@westjordan.utah.gov

Mayor Lorin Palmer, Herriman
mayorpalmer@herriman.gov

Council Member Dan Dugan, Salt Lake City
dan.dugan@slc.gov

Mayor Lyndsay Peterson, North Logan
lyndsay@northlogancity.org

Council Member Jessica Egbert, Mapleton
jegbert@mapleton.org

Mayor Mark Shepherd, Clearfield
mark.shepherd@clearfieldcity.org

Mayor Bayley Hedglin, Monticello
bayley@monticelloutah.org

Council Member Tana Toly, Park City
tana.toly@parkcity.org

Mayor Donia Jessop, Hildale
mayor@hildalecity.com

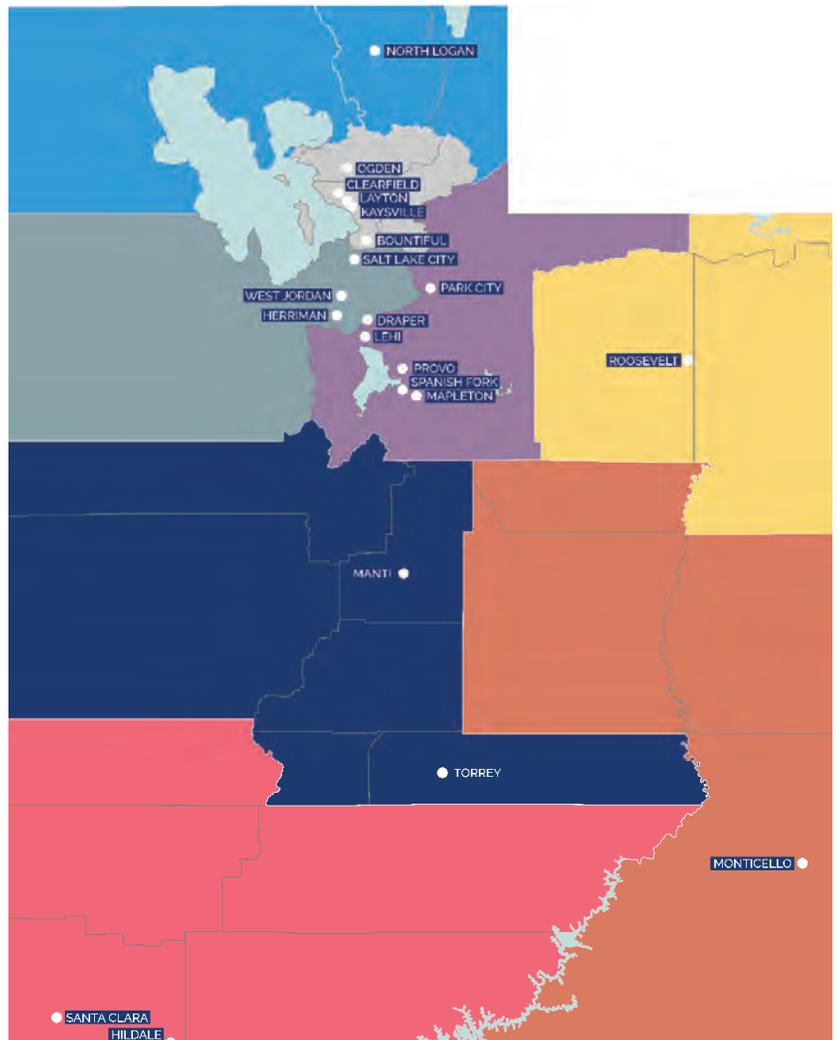
Mayor Tamara Tran, Kaysville
mayor.tran@kaysville.gov

Mayor Mark Johnson, Lehi
mjohnson@lehi-utah.gov

Council Member Mary Wintch, Manti
mlwintsch@gmail.com

Council Member Clint Morris, Layton
cmorris@laytoncity.org

Mayor Mickey Wright, Torrey
mayor@torreyutah.gov



LEAGUE LEADERSHIP



President
Troy Walker
Draper Mayor
troy.walker@draperutah.gov



1st Vice President
Kate Bradshaw
Bountiful Council Member
kbradshaw@bountiful.gov



2nd Vice President
Christa Hinton
Santa Clara Council Member
kbradshaw@bountiful.gov



Utah City Managers Association Representative
Seth Perrins
Spanish Fork City Manager
sperrins@spanishfork.org



Immediate Past President
Michelle Kaufusi
Provo Mayor
michelle@provo.utah.gov

Ex-officio Board Members

Treasurer
Mayor Brett Hales, Murray
brett.hales@murray.utah.gov

Utah Municipal Clerks Association President
Colleen Mulvey
cmulvey@cedarhills.org

ULCT General Counsel
Roger O. Tew
rtew@ulct.gov

Past Presidents Still in Office

Mayor Dawn Ramsey, South Jordan
Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, Millcreek
Mayor Mike Mendehnhall, Spanish Fork



FINANCE & PERSONNEL

The League remains in solid financial condition thanks to the fiscal responsibility of the Board of Directors and management.

The League completed our annual financial audit for FY 2024 with zero findings, and we have again reduced our budgeted FY 2025 operational expenses compared to the previous year.

We completed a holistic review and update of our internal policies and procedures, including those regarding finance, procurement, and personnel—allowing the League to operate more efficiently while also ensuring transparency and accountability.

This comprehensive overhaul incorporates recent changes to state law, financial best practices, streamlined processes, and employee-conscious policies that help the League attract and retain great employees.

The Board is committed to prudently providing sufficient resources to serve you. For example, the staffing in the Utah House of Representatives has almost tripled since 2010 and there is an ever-growing amount of year-round policy debates, task forces, and committees. The 2025 Legislature introduced 959 bills, which is 117 more bills than the average over the decade. The League has increased our advocacy staffing in the last three years to try to keep pace with the legislative demands.

Membership dues provide approximately two-thirds of the League's revenue and are the primary source of funding for our personnel and operations. League membership dues are based on three factors—assessed value of property, sales tax revenues, and population. Each year, the Board of Directors adopts the rates that are applied to these factors. For FY 2026, the Board responded to the significant growth of property valuations by reducing that rate for the second year in a row, and maintaining the rates applied to sales tax and population, providing for modest growth in overall membership dues revenue. We also continue to increase funding from nonmember sources like sponsors and exhibitors who partner with us for our conferences.

We are proud to have a hardworking and influential group of professionals working on your behalf. Our small but dedicated team continues to work tirelessly to serve you so that you can lead your communities. You can always contact ULCT Executive Director Cameron Diehl, Chief Operating Officer Nick Jarvis, or League Board members for more information on League operations.

ENGAGEMENT

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

Utah League of Cities and Towns offers many opportunities to connect with Utah's local leaders, learn about information important to you and your residents, share best practices, address policies and proposed legislation, and stay on top of news impacting our communities.

This year, staff remodeled the League's website and switched email systems to help customize content and reminders for our members. These efforts helped increase:

- open rates for Friday Facts and Daily Legislative Update emails;
- attendance of registered webinar and Legislative Policy Committee members; and,
- Action Alert responsiveness.

Many board members and mayors were also able to share their thoughts and progress within their communities through op-eds published by the *Deseret News* and through seven KUTV 2 News *ARC Salt Lake* "Meet the Mayor" segments.

Our communications team also created several handouts and infographics during this year's legislative session that were circulated amongst members, legislators, and key stakeholders to help increase understanding on key draft legislation.

Staff will continue improving the League's communication strategy to members by making resources more readily available and searchable on our website via the League Library.

Contact Cassidy Hansen at chansen@ulct.org with questions.

Where you can find us
and municipal resources

-  ulct.org
-  (801) 328-1601
-  info@ulct.org
-  [ulctTube](https://www.youtube.com/ulctTube)
-  [UTLeague](https://www.facebook.com/UTLeague)
-  [@ULCTCityCafe](https://twitter.com/ULCTCityCafe)



SUBSCRIBE
to *Friday Facts* to keep up on legislative advocacy efforts, policy implementation, upcoming webinars and events.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ULCT offers regular opportunities to learn more about issues impacting our communities along with information on how to comply with legislation impacting our cities and towns.

We are seeing a greater number of our members participate in various trainings, including our Annual Convention, Midyear Conference, webinars and other affiliate events. We had recordbreaking attendance at Midyear 2024 with 605 attendees from 121 cities and towns. Your dedication to becoming excellent public servants is evident.

Over the course of the year, we hosted 25 webinars on various topics, including Powers & Duties, cybersecurity, and development processes. You can find these on our YouTube page.

A major training highlight this year for League staff was partnering with the Association of Governments (AOGs) on regional events and training statewide. We enjoyed connecting with hundreds of local officials in every region of the state within your city and town halls.

We are continuing implementation of the Local Administrative Advisor (LAA) program in partnership with the Associations of Governments and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) across the state. The LAA program is the first of its kind in the country and provides administrative resources for small cities and towns who do not have full-time, in-house city management. **As of December 2024, only a year-and-a-half into the program's existence, 462 projects have been initiated in 111 communities.**

Have any questions about training opportunities or webinar ideas? Contact Molly Wheeler at mwheeler@ulct.org.



UTAH LEAGUE OF
CITIES AND TOWNS
2025
Spring Training

Find 2025
Spring Training
recordings
and their

corresponding slides
at ulct.org/spring-training/

POWERS DUTIES

Need a refresher on the powers and duties you have as an elected official? Watch a video training for your form of government at youtube.com/@ulctTube

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR

You can find trainings, resources, and whether your city or town qualifies for the LAA program at ulct.org/resources/laa. Contact McKenna Marchant at mmarchant@ulct.org for more information.

	Total Attendees	Number of Cities Represented	Total Sponsors/ Exhibitors
2024 Midyear	605	121	90
2024 Annual	618	123	92
2025 Local Officials Day	406 Youth, 100 Advisors, 242 Elected Officials/ Staff from 57 mun		



MESSAGE

ULCT PRESIDENT

Staying Connected Makes a Difference

My focus this year as ULCT President has been on making connections with my fellow elected officials and our legislative leaders. When we engage our League Army, we are a formidable group. Our staff is second to none, and they have earned respect from legislative leadership and key legislators.

Reflecting on this year's legislative session, I can see the value of our associations with one another. As President, I was at the legislature a lot. Every January, I make it a goal to reduce my use of profanity. I failed again this year, but I think our time was well spent. Overall, we had a good session as a League.

Here are some of the important bills we worked on:

- HB88 – Housing Policy Amendments and HB90 -Zoning Amendments (*I testified in committee against both bills, and they did not pass the committee*)
- HB37 – Utah Housing Amendments (*I testified in favor, and this bill passed*)
- HB368 – Local Land Use Amendments (*passed*)
- HB465 – Public Safety Amendments (*made better*)
- SB337 – Land Use & Development Amendments (*made better, and then it didn't go anywhere*)
- HB360 – Housing Attainability Amendments (*made better and supported*)
- HB355 – Mining and Critical Infrastructure Materials Amendments (*made much better, even though we ultimately opposed it*)

Our motto has been partnership, not preemption, and we have been very effective. Some league members say we need to fight more and negotiate less. I enjoy a good fight, but we fight in different ways. Sometimes, we call on the League Army to oppose a bill. The League Army is our sledgehammer, and when we swing it, we usually kill the bill we are aiming at. But the very nature of the legislature and the fact that it often operates primarily on the anecdotal actions of the “bad cities” make negotiation paramount to our success.

Consequently, most of our fighting is done when we swing the working hammer as opposed to the sledgehammer. That working hammer consists of our political capital, our reputations, our data-driven analysis, our excellent staff, and the respect we have earned over the years from both branches of our government. We swing when we are in the room, in the discussions, and part of the solution. Several times this year, we were the only organization that stayed at the table to fight.

You League members are amazing, and you make the difference. But you also trust your leadership to build consensus and make bad bills either better or neutral. It has been an honor to be League President this year. I'm proud of the work we've done and the connections and relationships we have forged.

TROY WALKER

MAYOR OF DRAPER