

Legislative 101

January 13, 2026

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Legislative Session Basics

Legislative Session - Dates

Begins - 1st Tuesday after the 3rd Monday in January

Ends - 45 calendar days later, excluding state and federal holidays

January 20 - March 6 at midnight

Governor's veto deadline - 20 days after session ends (**March 26**)

Last Day for veto-override session - 60 days after session ends (**May 6**)

Normal effective date for bills - 60 days after session ends (**May 6**)

Legislative Session - Legislators

Senate - **29 Senators** with 4-year terms

House - **75 Representatives** with 2-year terms

Legislative Session - Basic Bill Process

- 1 - A bill must pass both the Senate and the House with a majority vote
- 2 - Before being heard on the House or Senate Floor a bill will be heard in a committee*
- 3 - A bill has to get a majority vote to move to the next step of the process*

Legislative Session - Basic Bill Process

The House will vote one time on each bill on the floor*

The Senate will vote two times on each bill on the floor*

Legislative Session - Basic Bill Process

*there are exceptions to almost all legislative rules, but this is 101 so don't worry too much about it



UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 21, 2026

View Month

- Economic and Community Development Appropriations Subcommittee
8:00 AM
- General Government Appropriations Subcommittee
8:00 AM
- Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee
8:00 AM
- Transportation and Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee
8:00 AM

2025 - More bills, more problems...

959

bills introduced

134 more bills than prior
9-year average

1,110

**substitutes &
amendments adopted**

6 fewer than the last year, 118
above prior year average

**ULCT tracked 279
bills**

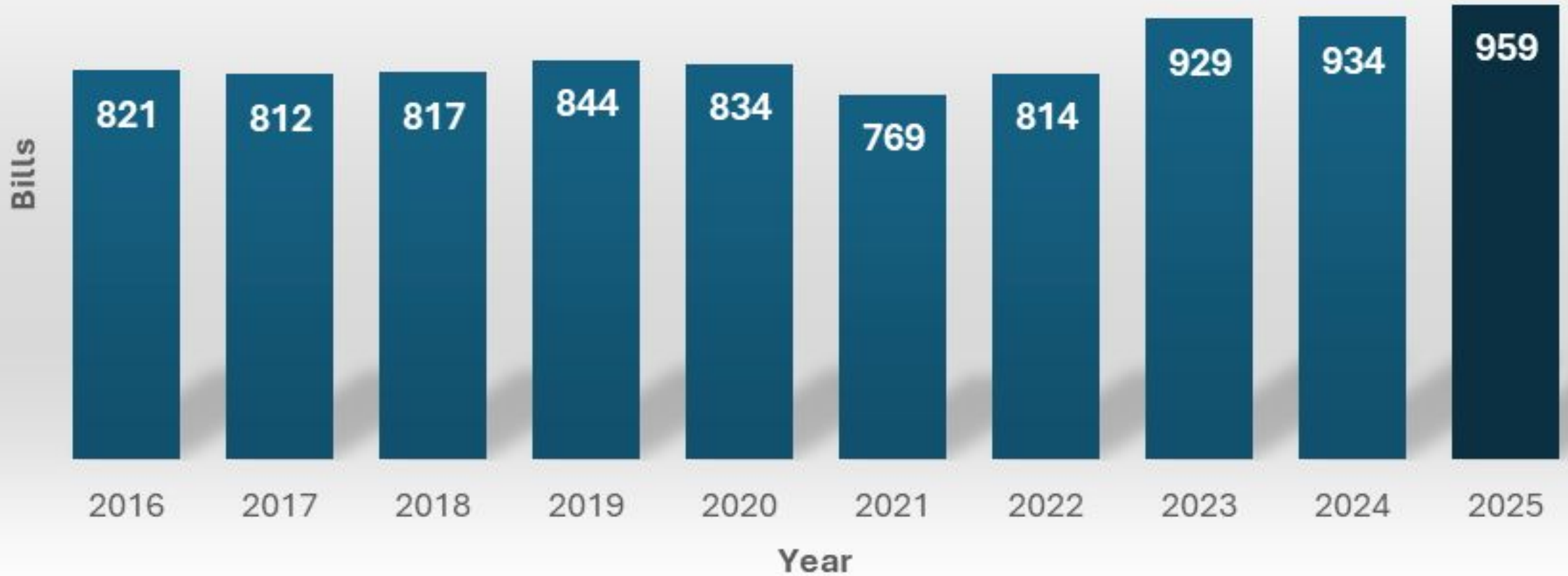
61 more bills than prior
3-year average

582

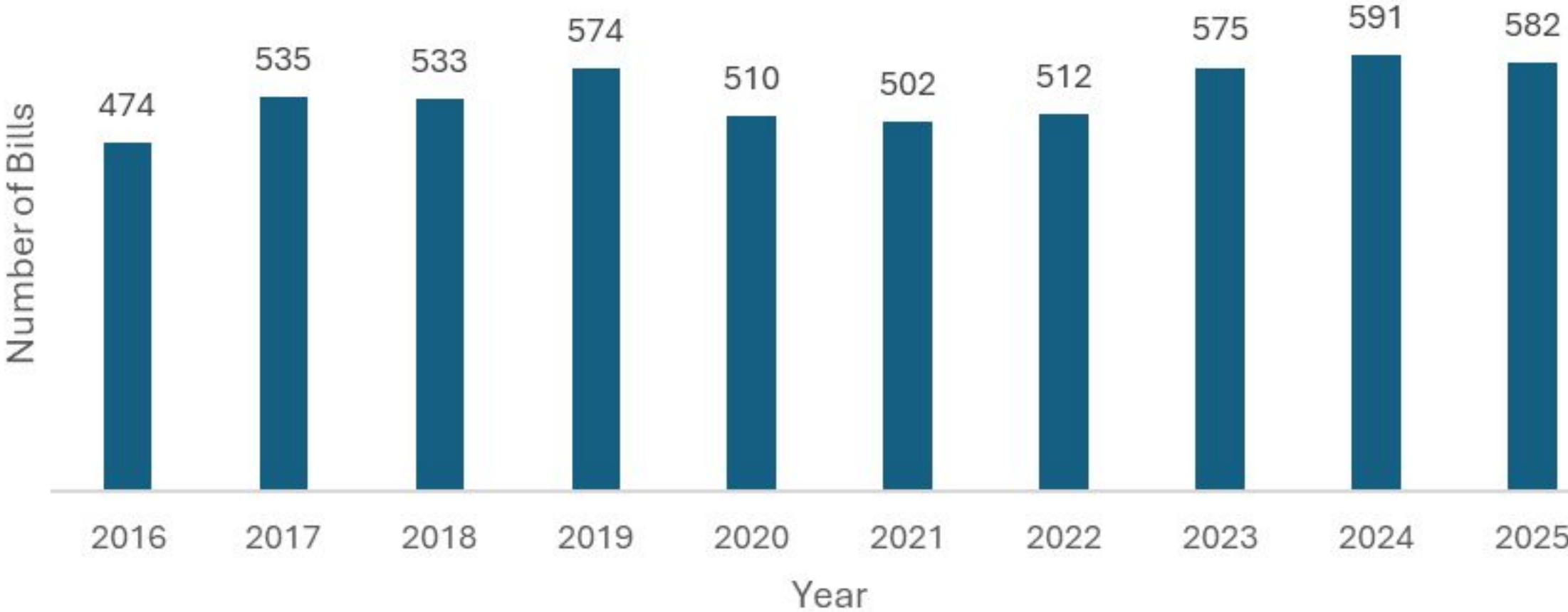
bills passed

9 fewer than the last year,
2nd highest number

Record Number of Bills Introduced



Bills Passed



582

bills passed
in 2025

962

Total Bills Drafted

- 568 House Bills
- 342 Senate Bills
- 52 Resolutions

Why engage on bills we don't like?

1 Most bills that fail, fail procedurally
~37% of all bills

2 Committees advance
90.3% of bills

3 2.5% fail floor votes

Legislative Policy Committee



Legislative Policy Committee

The Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) provides the general legislative policy guidance to league staff.

Every city/town can appoint 3 voting members from mayor, council members, or senior staff (or four, if that city is on ULCT board).

All are welcome to participate in our meetings.

Legislative Policy Committee

- The LPC meets weekly during the session on Capitol Hill to evaluate bills and work with the League's Board of Directors and staff to determine official ULCT positions on legislation.
 - slido!
 - data research!
- The LPC takes positions on legislation by a 60% consensus vote of those in attendance in-person and remotely.

Legislative Policy Committee

Legislative Policy Committee Dates

Senate Room 210 and via Zoom from Noon to 1:30ish p.m.

- Jan. 26
- Feb. 2
- Feb. 9
- Feb. 17 (*Tues*)
- Feb. 23
- Mar. 2

Legislative Policy Committee

- Bill Tracking Positions*
 - **Support** - Good bill
 - **Oppose** - (motion to hate?)
 - **Neutral** - generally used for bills we negotiate
 - **Monitor** - watching for situational awareness
 - **No position** - did not reach consensus at LPC
 - **Position pending** - haven't take a position yet

*There may be political reasons to take a position on a bill that don't match how strongly we feel about a policy

582

bills passed
in 2025

279

Bills Tracked

- 34 *support*
- 26 *oppose*
- 56 *neutral*
- 161 *monitor*
- 1 *no position*
- 1 *position pending*



ULCT Bill Tracker



DRAFT LEGISLATION

HB###

Name of Bill (Sponsor Name)

QR CODE THAT TAKES YOU TO THE BILL

Staff Recommendation:
Position Pending
(Negotiating to support)

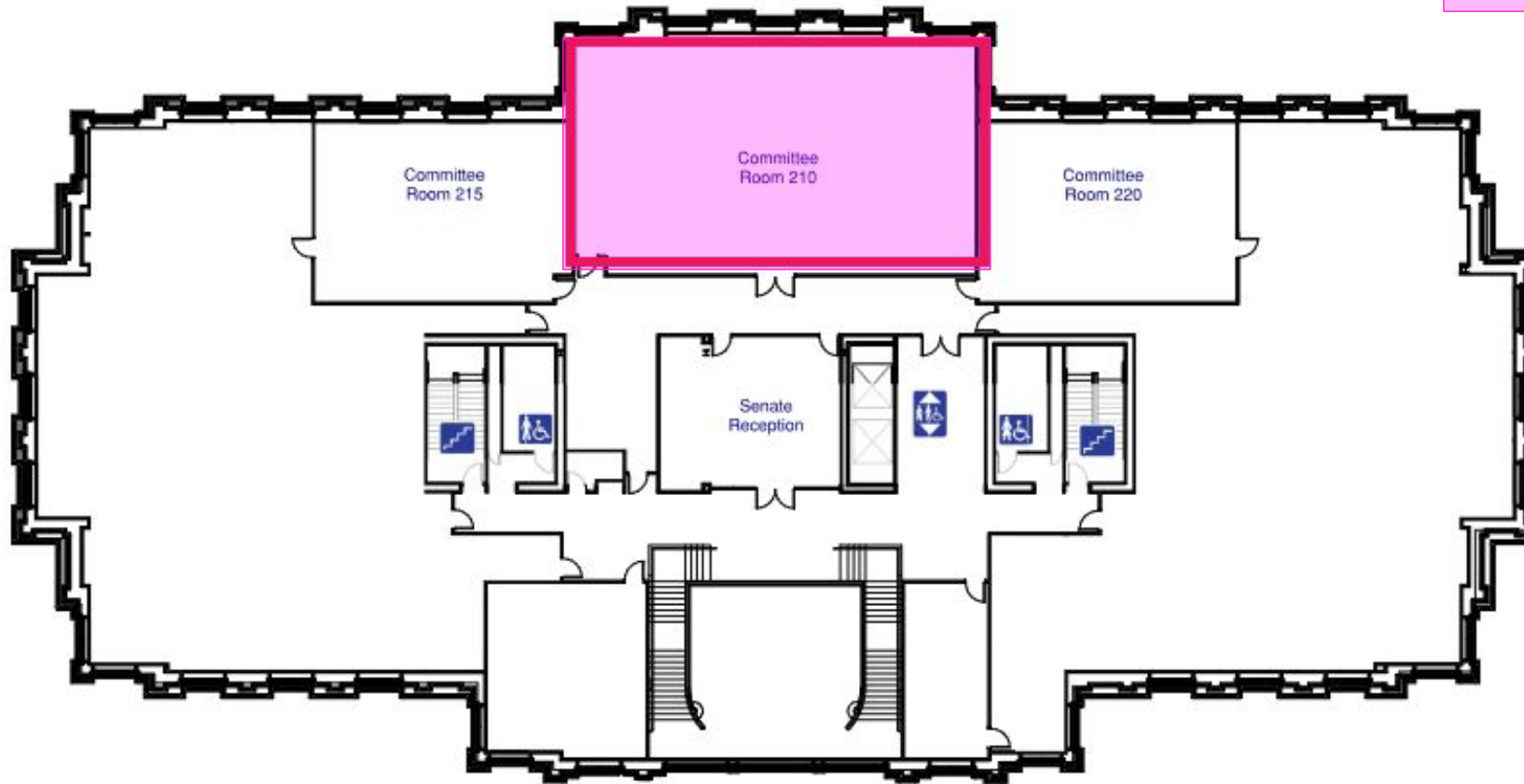
Useful Information about the key provisions of this legislation.

Less useful information but we are being thorough

Extremely niche part of the legislation but we know the attorneys will ask about it so we are including it, you probably won't be able to read it because the font is so small (Cassidy hates this section...)



Senate Room 210



Nightly Emails & LPC Video Updates

Nightly Emails will go out each evening providing an overview of bills that were presented that day, items that we need feedback on, pithy comments, and potential action items for our members.

Video Updates

- Monday - quick wrap up from LPC
- Thursday - quick midweek update on issues

Action Alerts and Action Needed

Action Alerts will be sent when we need an immediate response from our members to reach out to legislators on a bill that is up for a vote

Action Needed will be noted when we need members to reach out to legislators on an issue, but a vote is not imminent

Interacting with Legislators

Legislative Outreach - Session

1. Be polite and professional.



Legislative Outreach - Session

1. Be polite and professional.
2. Be concise.



Legislative Outreach - Session

1. Be polite and professional.
2. Be concise.
3. Be prepared.



Legislative Outreach - Session

1. Be polite and professional.
2. Be concise.
3. Be prepared.
4. Be focused.



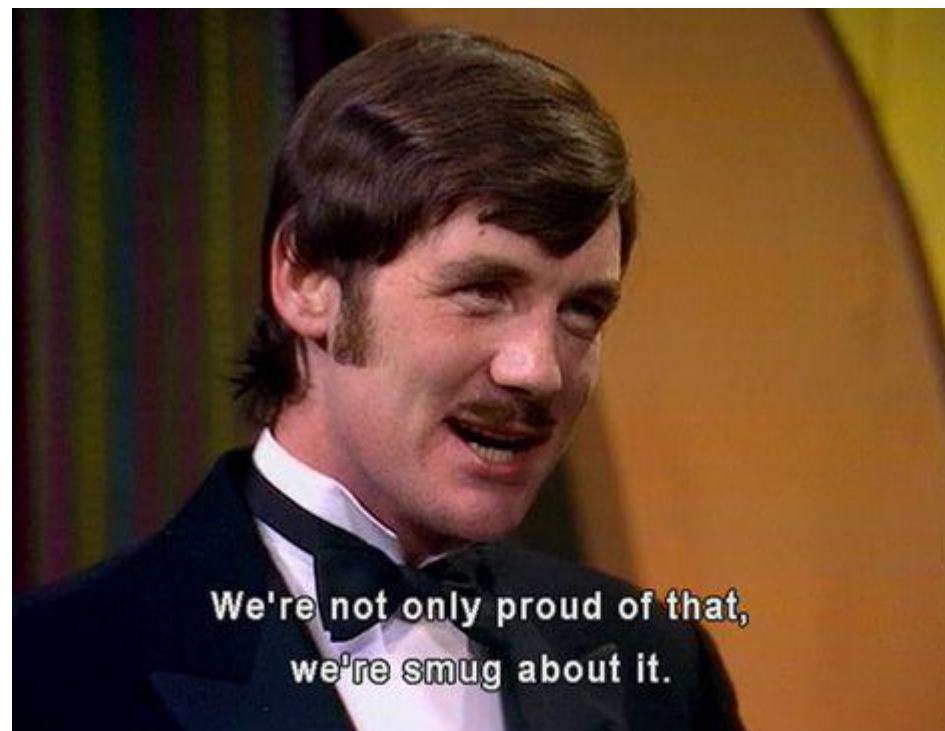
Legislative Outreach - Session

1. Be polite and professional.
2. Be concise.
3. Be prepared.
4. Be focused.
5. Be organized.



Legislative Outreach - Interim

6. Recognize helpful things. Show appreciation.



Legislative Outreach - Interim

6. Recognize helpful things. Show appreciation.

7. Demonstrate willingness to be a partner.



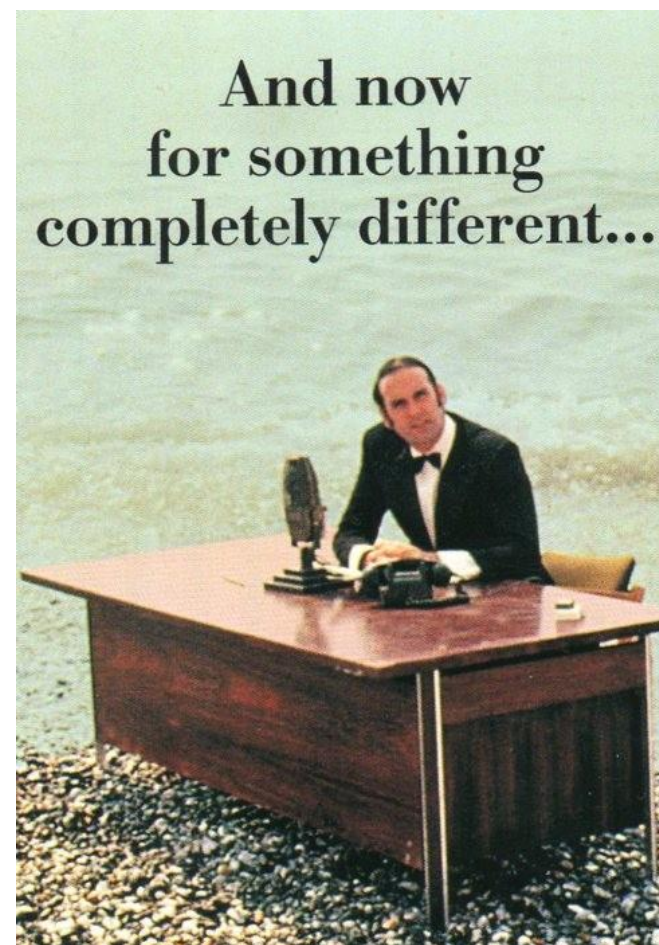
Legislative Outreach - Interim

6. Recognize helpful things. Show appreciation.
7. Demonstrate willingness to be a partner.
8. Briefly share your top priorities or needs.



Legislative Outreach – Interim

6. Recognize helpful things. Show appreciation.
7. Demonstrate willingness to be a partner.
8. Briefly share your top priorities or needs.
9. Pivot based on your audience.



Legislative Outreach – Interim

6. Recognize helpful things. Show appreciation.
7. Demonstrate willingness to be a partner.
8. Briefly share your top priorities or needs.
9. Pivot based on your audience.
10. Give legislators time to share their thoughts.



Questions



Upcoming Events

- Elected Officials Essentials**
- Utah Legislature 101: **Tuesday, January 13th at noon via Zoom**
 - Running a Small Community 101: **Friday, January 16th at noon via Zoom**
 - Budget and Finance 101 pt 2: **TBD via Zoom**

Local Officials Day at the Legislature **January 21, 2026** at the State Capitol (youth) and Salt Palace (all)

National League of Cities Congressional City Conference **March 16-18** in Washington, DC

ULCT Midyear Conference **April 22-24** in St. George, Utah