

Winter Magazine 2020

Utah Update by John Hill

State Election Results

Heading into the 2020 State Legislative elections, UPMRA handed out or mailed campaign contribution checks to 85 incumbents and candidates, totaling \$12,600. Additionally, UPMRA donated \$3,750 to House and Senate Political Parties, and \$500 to our future governor Spencer Cox. Total UPMRA contributions for 2020 were \$16,850.

While Democrats are on track to pick up a few seats in the Utah Legislature, they are not enough to erase the two-thirds super-majority that Republicans enjoy in both chambers. While final results weren't in when this was written, industry friends: Rep. Eric Hutchings and Rep. Steve Eliason were trailing their democratic opponents, as is Rep. Jim Dunnigan. Rep. Robert Spendlove, Rep. Craig Hall and Rep. Cheryl Acton are holding small leads in their races, but Rep. Tim Quinn, who retired last year, will be replaced by Democrat Meaghan Miller.

In the State Senate, both parties are on track to maintain the seats they currently hold, giving the Republicans a 23-6 supermajority.

On the federal level, the Republicans easily won in Districts 1-3, with Blake Moore replacing 9-term GOP Rep. Rob Bishop. Rep. Stewart and Curtis easily won additional terms, and Rep. Ben McAdams holds an early lead over challenger Burgess Owens in District 4, although many more ballots need to be counted in republican leaning Juab and Sanpete Counties.

All 7 of Utah's constitutional amendments appear to have passed, including one controversial amendment to expand how the state's Education Fund is used – diverting millions to social services not directly related to schools.

Vote totals won't be certified for a couple weeks, with approved amendments taking effect in January.

Interim Legislative Action

The State Legislature met for remote interim committee meetings in October, with The Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee following the recommendation of a recent Legislative Audit to consider regulating Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs).

A committee bill is being drafted that would require ASTs to register and report what type of product is stored, the size of tank, age, and tank/piping material of construction. The bill will also likely require ASTs to obtain financial assurance, and require spill reporting and cleanup. UPMRA will be actively engaged with this legislation.

Upcoming Meetings

WPMA is moving forward with the 2021 EXPO in Las Vegas on **February 16-18** at The Mirage Convention Center, with Trey Gowdy (four-term South Carolina Congressman) as keynote speaker. In August, the slot machines at The Mirage started turning again, and the dealers officially returned to shuffling and dealing. Las Vegas is promoting a “new Vegas, for a new reality” that is getting ready “just for us!”

Day on Capitol Hill – February 24, 2021

Join UPMRA members and State Legislators at our annual “Day on Capitol Hill” held during the legislative session. This year, on Wednesday, February 24th, plan to invite your key employees to lunch at noon, and meet with State legislators to discuss current legislative issues. Depending on what issues are being debated by the legislature, we often lobby State legislators after lunch.

State PAC Fundraisers – June 24 & September 17, 2021

The UPMRA Summer Golf Classic will be held at Bountiful Ridge Golf Course on Thursday, June 24, 2021, and Mountain Dell Golf Course has again been booked for UPMRA Convention golf on Friday, September 17, 2021. These two events are the primary sources of funding for the UPMRA State PAC Fund.