

#CITIESWORK



UTAH LEAGUE OF
CITIES AND TOWNS

2021 Legislative Update

Utah Business Licensing Association Conference

August 12, 2021

2021 session: unprecedented

- Key relevant themes:
 - 1) New administration, 20 new legislative faces
 - 1,216 bill requests, 767 numbered bills, 502 passed bills
 - 245 bills that impact local gov't
 - 2) COVID response
 - Legislature v. executive branch/local gov'ts, federal \$, quiet capitol
 - 3) Budget surplus: \$23.5 billion budget with \$1.5 billion of new money
 - Infrastructure investment, housing match
 - 4) Population growth
 - Housing policy and other land use battles, **state v. local authority**
 - 5) Police bills: 20+
 - 6) Homelessness
 - Wayne Niederhauser



Robert Gehrke: Billboard companies want Utah's Legislature to steamroll cities, so do these other special interests

INSIDE UTAH POLITICS

Cities and towns pushing back on bills they say will impact local authority

Utah House committee advances bill to block cities and counties from creating firearm regulations

In affordable housing crunch, Utah lawmaker wants to let you rent out part of your home

KUTV | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH 2021

Advocacy Groups & Their Priorities For The 2021 Utah Legislature On Tuesday's Access

By TOM WILLIAMS • JAN 26, 2021



LOCAL POLITICS



Lights out for digital billboards legislation that would give state more say than local governments

The Salt Lake Tribune

Utah's arts are 'poised for a strong recovery' after COVID-19, leaders say

Dark sky concerns arise in Utah Senate bill allowing electronic billboards without local consent

K. Sophie Will St. George Spectrum & Daily News
Published 5:57 a.m. MT Feb. 12, 2021



Utah legislator seeks \$1M in mental health help for stressed first responders

By Ashley Imlay, Deseret News | Posted - Feb. 9, 2021 at 6:28 a.m.

KSL.com

Utah bill to break barriers for basement apartments sparks local control debate

House legislative leaders like move, but say it needs more work before it can clear first hurdle
By Katie McKeel | @KatieMcKeel | Feb 1, 2021, 8:32am MST

Bill would expand presence of digital billboards in Utah

BY MARY RICHARDS AND SIMONE SEKALY | FEBRUARY 3, 2021 AT 7:11 PM
UPDATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2021 AT 7:11 PM



The Salt Lake Tribune

Utah lawmaker sees a way to boost housing: Make mother-in-law apartments easier to build

Bountiful lawmaker laments the "thicket" of barriers, but cities may push back against the state dictating permits.

2KUTV

NEWS WEATHER SPORTS CORONAVIRUS CHIME IN

Political money, 'fairness' and 'Vegas' style signs surround Utah bright billboard debate

by Brian Mullahy, KUTV | Tuesday, February 2nd 2021

Session Resources

- 2021 Legislative Wrap Up
 - <https://www.ulct.org/advocacy/legislative-wrap-up>
- Wednesday Webinars (recorded on Youtube)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/ulctTube>



2021 Session Snapshot

245 Bills Tracked

- 20+ public safety bills passed w/ ULCT support
- Significant transportation bills passed w/ ULCT support
- Several preemption bills failed w/ ULCT opposition

Notable bills that failed and ULCT opposed

SB 61 Digital Billboards

SB 144 Billboard Restrictions

SB 204 Permitting

SB 221 Short-term Rentals

SB 241 Sales Tax Distribution

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HB 74 Police Oversight

HB 76 Firearm Preemption

HB 401 Fees

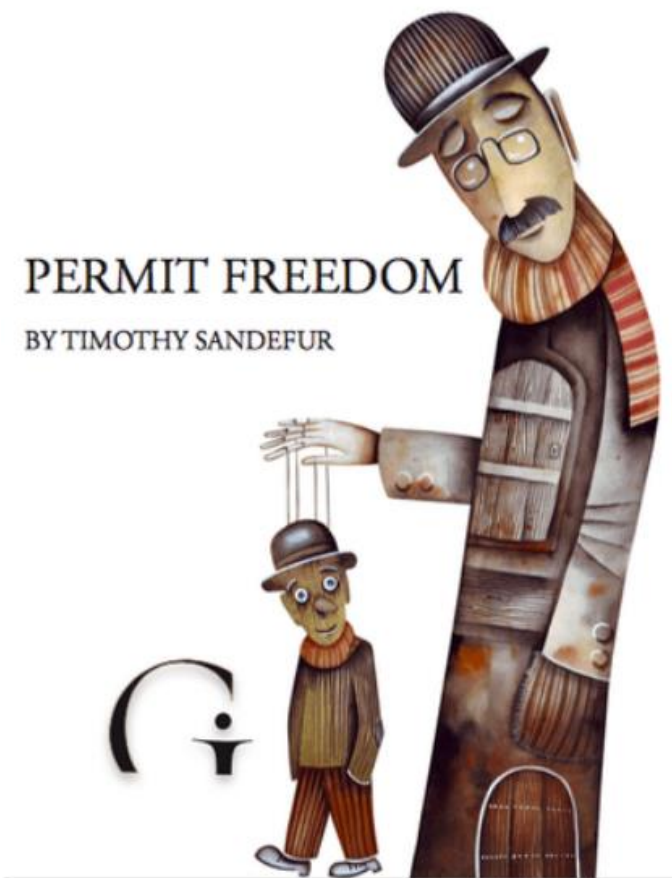
HB 422 Political Subdivision

Liability



SB 204 – Permitting Amendments (Sen. Cullimore)

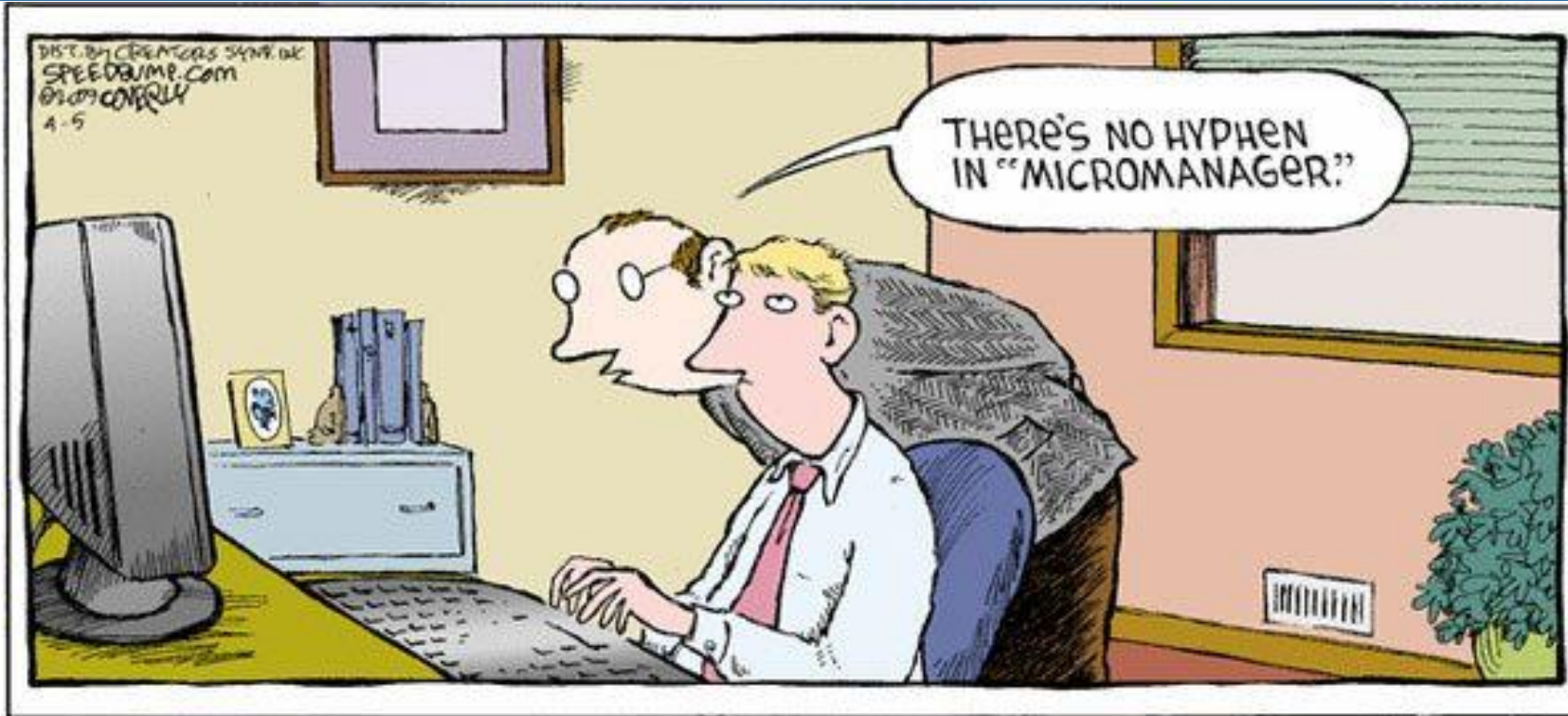
- **Failed**
- Would have:
 - Overridden municipal permitting processes (everything except land use)
 - Required municipalities to adopt objective criteria to approve or reject EVERY permit.
 - Created narrow time frames for approval and deemed a permit automatically approved if time frames aren't met.
 - Created judicial appeal processes for EVERY permit.
 - Concept started in AZ circa 2016/17



SB 221 – Short-term Rental Amendments (Sen. Anderegg)

- **Failed**
- Bill would have:
 - prevented a municipality or county from enacting an ordinance that would prohibit owner-occupied short-term rentals.
 - Limited a municipality or county's use of tax revenue to enforce short-term rental ordinances.

State micromanagement



- **Becoming the trend, not the exception.**

SPEED BUMP by Dave Coverly, Source:
<https://scottberkun.com/2009/letter-to-micromanagers/>

Rumblings on the Hill



- “I don’t care what my cities think.”
- Sen. Weiler: “Some cities are not being fair... the Legislature will step in.”

Legislative Allies

- Rep. Quinn: “I will fight for the right of (my city) to be dumb... This is about local control and ...what we as a Legislature will allow cities to do.”

What is coming in 2021-22; why we need you

1) Year-round legislature

- Commission on Housing Affordability
- Economic Opportunity Commission
- Love, Listen, Lead and Dept. of Public Safety (trust in police)
- 20+ interim issues, ranging from ARP to fees and sales tax to forms of gov't
- Redistricting

2) Leg Research doubled in staff since 2008 and political adversaries have grown

3) Population growth will continue to drive policy dialogue

4) Lack of local gov't experience in the legislature

What we expect from the 2021-22 Legislature

| COVID | Econ. Dev. | Homeless | Housing | Public safety | Revenue | Water | Other |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| ARP report to legislature | Econ. Dev. Commission | New shelter site | Inclusion. zoning | Body-worn cameras | Sales tax distribution | Conserve | Clean air caucus requests |
| Regulatory authority | “Alignment” | Public safety mitigation | HB98, 409 | Data collection | Property tax | Utah Lake | Form of gov’t; muni services |
| | | | Dev. fees | Forcible entry & use of force | Fees | Fees | Admin: notices, vacancies |
| | | | Single fam. zone | GRAMA & internal affairs | Road usage charge | Extraterr’l juris. | |
| | | | ST rentals | Qualif. immunity | | | |
| | | | PIDs | 988, recruit/retain | | | |

Want to engage on any of these topics or issues? Email us at info@ulct.org

How your engagement makes a difference

SB 61 billboards, Senate

- Almost every Senator heard from their cities between 5 pm and 10 am
- St. George to Nephi, Meadow to Ogden, Logan to West Jordan

SB 204 permit preemption, House

- “Who woke up the mayors?”
- Vote count flipped in less than 2 hours
- “I want to take a plow to your sandbox of local control”



How to get involved...

Objective: Facilitate city engagement and quality communications with legislators

- Make sure your state elected officials understand the public benefit of business licensing!
- Volunteers?

Contact ULCT staff & key dates

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- Sep. 29-Oct 1: ULCT Annual Convention