

UTAH VALLEY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

2023 POLICY GUIDE



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce is to build relationships, advocate principle-based public policy, and promote business and community prosperity.

As the voice of business in Utah Valley, the Chamber leads, convenes and influences to strengthen an already dynamic business climate that supports all sectors of our economy and delivers value to its members.

In short, the Chamber exists to make Utah Valley the best place to do business, live, and raise a family.

CHAMBER ADVOCACY TEAM



Suzanne Oliver
Vice Chair



Craig Bingham
Chair



Brian Epperson
Vice Chair



Gary Herbert
Former Governor
& Executive Chair



Curtis Blair
President & CEO



David Rowley
Director of Government
& Community Relations



Kaelin Hirschi
Legislative Liaison

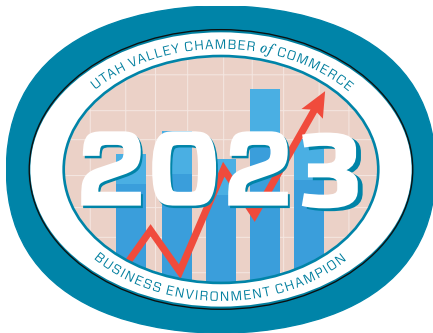
PILLARS OF THE VALLEY



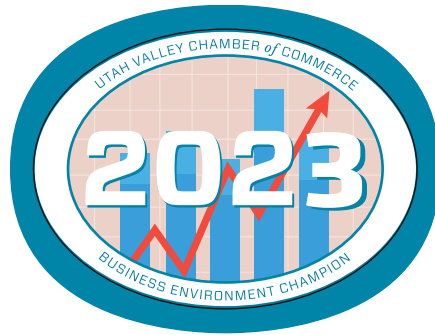
By 2065, Utah Valley will add one million people to our community, making this county one of the most populous counties in the State.

The Valley Visioning process explores potential growth models, and at the conclusion of the process, policy makers and leaders will know which goals and planning strategies resonate best with residents and stakeholders as ways to achieve desired outcomes.

Join us in planning for the future to enable you and your family to have healthy and meaningful places to work, live, learn, and play.



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



OUR MISSION:

To compete successfully, business owners and managers must continuously study the environment, innovate and adapt their businesses accordingly. The Chamber's mission is to identify, endorse and advocate for principle-based policies that create an environment in which new and existing businesses can prosper.

OUR PLANS:

Our committee has three focused goals to improve the business environment in Utah:

- Review strategies and methods and support bills which decrease government regulations on occupational licenses
- Identify post-pandemic response strategies and policy priorities.
- Continue to develop partnerships with businesses, public/private organizations, municipalities, and educational institutions to advance the mission of the Chamber.

Business Committee Legislative Priorities:

We support policies that will positively impact business startup, retention and expansion.

We encourage that our state and local elected officials prioritize the growth of our local businesses and economy, as reflected in its culture, policies and budget.

We endorse strong infrastructure policies that support entrepreneurship and growing our local business economy.

We believe that regulations should be reduced and simplified to facilitate business growth, and support policies that encourage the same.

We support minimizing tax and regulatory fees on businesses, and that increases in such tax and regulatory fees must provide measurable benefits to the economy and local businesses.

We support legislative priorities that create, establish, and support a pipeline of workforce talent sufficient to meet current and future workforce needs, and that is inclusive, diverse and equal to all.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



OUR MISSION

The Utah Valley Chamber is the primary influencer of Utah County's economy and viability with the development and implementation of strategic education and workforce initiatives to support the county's projected hyper-growth and beyond. These initiatives include public policy, employer-based and employee training and re-skilling, as well as industry-specific strategies that invest in innovative education for our diverse and thriving business community.

OUR PLANS:

We have several goals progress education and workforce development in Utah Valley in our committee:

- Foster strategic private-public partnerships to become a key partner, collaborator, and influencer with state and local government, economic development, educational institutions, and businesses.
- Facilitate coopetition opportunities to increase Utah County workforce opportunity.
- Become the premier resource to help businesses accurately forecast and respond to current and future workforce needs.

Education Committee Legislative Priorities

We support policies that develop and provide ongoing business incentives to encourage lifelong learning and career development by enabling training and curricula for all workforce segments needed for future employment.

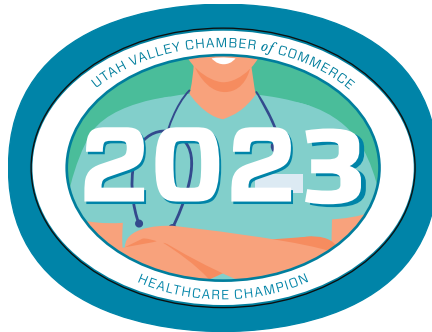
We support initiatives that foster strategic business/community partnerships by:

- Encouraging educator and workforce diversity—education, demographics, skills, etc.
- Promoting Utah County educational and workforce strengths to external audiences (creating an attractive environment for recruiting educators and other human resources).
- Partnering on data-driven research for educators and policy makers to adapt curriculum to meet future business and workforce needs.
- Educating key audiences on education and workforce development best practices.
- Celebrating success and recognizing strategic partners annually.

We support policies that facilitate ‘coopetition’ opportunities to increase the possibilities for a Utah County workforce with relevant degrees and/or certifications.

Attracting and retaining top talent is a critical factor of all businesses. Education and workforce development are branches of economic development focused on human capital along the workforce continuum.

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE



OUR MISSION:

A strong healthcare system and policies are critical to the well-being of Utah Valley residents and businesses. Healthcare costs in the United States continue to increase consuming nearly 20% of GDP. Employers in Utah provide access to health insurance for the majority of Utahns and as such have a significant role to play in healthcare reform initiatives. The Chamber supports legislative efforts which improve affordability while maintaining high levels of quality and access for consumers.

OUR PLANS:

Our committee has four goals we foresee significantly impacting Utah Valley's healthcare:

- Support legislative efforts that promote the use of market-based principles which achieve greater affordability while improving quality.
- Support efforts which improve access for mental health services with a focus on prevention.
- Support efforts to appropriately enhance the use of telehealth to improve access without increasing costs.

Healthcare Committee Legislative Priorities

We encourage reforms that lower unsustainable costs, foster innovation, and enhance the private market.

We support price transparency to better inform Utah businesses and families about their total health care costs.

We support policies that make access to behavioral health care services simpler and more affordable, reduce our provider shortage, and prevent suicides in our state.

We promote legislative and executive action that supports an effective, expedited, science-based response to Covid-19.

We encourage connecting public agencies that promote effective interoperability between social services that support mental and physical health, prevention, and early intervention.

HOUSING GAP COMMITTEE



OUR MISSION:

Utah County is expecting extraordinary growth because of its continued economic prosperity, reasonable cost of living, and excellent quality of life. Even with the recent global pandemic there are promising indicators that Utah County will double its population in 20 years. This explosive growth is creating housing challenges that will continue to hurt our state unless proper measures are taken. The Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce supports a diversified mix of housing stock that allows for vibrant, affordable communities. Such communities are possible only when communities have a variety of home inventory and diverse zoning options.

OUR PLANS:

We have several goals we want to work towards in the housing gap committee:

- Support Affordable Housing Commission Priorities
- Promote the construction of various housing types that are available for all stages of life
- Encourage building high-density housing near current and future public transit stations and on major corridors
- Maintain and encourage a high quality of life of life for the residents of Utah County

Housing Gap Committee Legislative Priorities

We support policies that encourage reasonably priced, high quality, diversified housing stock that meets the needs of all residents.

We encourage efforts that raise public awareness of the housing crisis and change the narrative on acceptable housing options and preferences.

We support incentives that promote mixed-use housing that align with state and local transportation investments and principles of smart land use.

We encourage public, private and nonprofit partnerships that support the goal of housing attainability and affordability.

NATURAL RESOURCES



OUR MISSION:

Quality of life, talent attraction, employee health, and continued economic growth are inextricably linked to the careful preservation and stewardship of our natural resources. The Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce is a business-driven organization that identifies and champions policies and programs that protect the wilderness and wise access thereto, clean air and water, renewable energy, solar and wind with continued sensible support of fossil fuels.

OUR PLANS:

We have several goals we want to work towards in the natural resources committee:

- Frontrunner Extension
- Promote active and passive outdoor recreational use
- “Clean Air Day”
- Trails Project in Utah County
- Energy Development and Distribution

Natural Resources Committee Legislative Priorities

We support the preservation of natural resources, open space, and wilderness access to advance talent and firm recruitment, health and well-being of county residents, tourism, and quality of life.

We encourage the creation of more access to and continued use of, outdoor recreational facilities.

We support policies and programs that promote healthy air quality along the Wasatch Front.

We support policies that advance sustainable water use and conservation, and access to clean water.

We support the preservation of Utah County's wilderness while providing sustainable access.

We encourage the expansion of hiking trails, cycling trails, paths, parks, and outdoor spaces that improve quality of life.

We support increased investments in transit infrastructure and service.

We encourage utilizing the health and biodiversity of Utah Lake as a center for natural beauty and recreation, including any conservation efforts and structures that facilitate the same.

We support common-sense reform of the transportation funding allocation formula.

We support bonding for infrastructure improvements that address future growth needs - particularly the extension of FrontRunner to south Utah County.

TRANSPORTATION



OUR MISSION:

The year 2021 is a critical juncture for Utah on transportation and infrastructure. With Utah's economic and fiscal health strong, relative to other states and with interest rates at record lows, we stand at a pivotal moment to invest in infrastructure for the future growth of Utah Valley. We will prioritize infrastructure development for economic growth. We also acknowledge that the UV Chamber Legislative Forum found consensus around the pursuit of additional infrastructure funding focused on Utah County priorities.

OUR PLANS:

The transportation committee has several goals and strategies we want to work towards:

- Work with Utah departments and agencies on planning for Utah Valley's projects
- Help lead discussions that will:
 - Update the regional highway system
 - Explore additional freeways and add capacity
 - Develop robust transit system
 - Develop regionally connected active transportation system
 - Preserve current infrastructure

Transportation Committee Legislative Priorities

We encourage continued discussions about creating an infrastructure bond that will benefit various areas of the state, including sufficient funds to Utah Valley and its priorities.

In support policies that align with what was described in the Utah Valley Visioning to embrace a future with a variety of affordable, convenient, and efficient transportation options that allow easy access to the places where we live, learn, work, and play regardless of social or economic circumstances.

We support legislative action that clearly identifies and justifies the projects and timing for which bond funds will be used.

We support securing necessary funds for critical infrastructure that will benefit the economy for decades to come.

We encourage taking advantage of the low rates that are offered to secure funds for projects that will help prepare Utah Valley for the high population growth expected in the next 20-30 years.



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