

Long-Term Planning – Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

Interim Rule 2-2-103 states: “Each interim committee shall devote part of its May interim meeting to long-term planning for the areas over which the committee has jurisdiction.” To aid the committee in its discussion of long-term planning, significant issues identified by the associations that represent local entities are listed below.

Utah Association of Counties <http://uacnet.org/>

1. Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) Implementation: With the passage of legislation that changes the sentencing guidelines for non-violent drug offenders, counties continue to struggle with implementation strategies that allow for alternatives to incarceration. The screening, supervisions and coordination of community based treatment requires great effort to ensure courts, public safety and behavioral health treatment all have a common vision for how we handle this population that has traditionally gone to prison or jail.
2. Indigent Defense Services: Utah is unique, in that we are one of two states that relies solely on counties to pay for and provide indigent defense services. Recent studies have indicated that there are some concerns regarding the adequacy of our indigent defense services. We will be working with a newly formed commission on this topic, but the payment and provision of services will be critical issues for counties.
3. Jail Contracting and Jail Reimbursement: With the building of a new prison and significant changes in sentencing guidelines for several offenses, the current paradigm for how we pay for jail contracting and jail reimbursement for state prisoners is a significant issue. We will be looking toward possible changes in the structure as well as reviewing how "programming" is handled in jail settings.

Utah Association of Special Districts <http://www.uasd.org/>

1. Growth (population and development).
2. Financial strains: increasing costs of operations, insurance, and recycling (cost to recycle exceeds revenue from recycling).
3. Keeping rates low, pressure to increase fees/taxes.
4. Unfunded mandates.
5. Water: rights (acquisition, wet water rights, water availability), conservation, re-use (regulatory challenges), and public education (value of water and wastewater services).
6. Water and sewer infrastructure needs and associated funding for replacement and renovation. Life cycle of infrastructure for water, sewer, and other district facilities. Addressing O&M fees, rates, etc.
7. Funding for the development of new infrastructure.
8. Increasing State water quality regulations are causing a rapid escalation of financial demands (i.e., increases in fees and property taxes) resulting in substantial costs for wastewater treatment plant modifications to meet stricter water quality standards for nutrient removal and metals. Where will the necessary funding come from?
9. Development of future solid waste landfill capacity.
10. Re-development and re-zoning (demanding service capacity that does not exist.) Costs to expand system size to accommodate re-development and re-zoning is very expensive and is borne by existing district ratepayers for increasing the system capacity for new development.

11. Replacement of key management and staff who are qualified and have substantial experience.
12. Emergency preparedness and disaster response.

Utah League of Cities and Towns <http://www.ulct.org/>

1. How will cities/towns finance municipal services (transportation, water, sewer, parks, and other services) and infrastructure in years to come? How will cities/towns handle population growth?
 - What role will impact fees play?
 - What type of housing options will be available?
 - What financial resources do cities have to handle growth?
2. Local authority and partnership between cities/towns, counties, and the state. Cities/towns are always open to improve local processes and preserve local authority and flexibility.
 - Examples of partnerships include: Land Use Academy of Utah, Indigent defense (SB 155), Wildland fire (SB 122), and Body-worn cameras (HB 300).
 - Examples of potential tensions include: impact fees, business licensing, and short-term rentals.

Utah Redevelopment Association <http://www.utahra.org/>

1. Affordable housing allocation in project areas.
2. Continuous core/economic development project areas.
3. How should Community Reinvestment Agencies exist? Based on the recent statutory changes and other suggestions related to the objective and structure of CRAs, should the conversation be broadened to examine the role of CRAs in a community and how they are structured?