

1 **Joint Resolution on Civic Engagement and Service**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Heidi Balderree**

House Sponsor: Nelson T. Abbott

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2 **LONG TITLE**3 **General Description:**

4 This resolution supports and encourages the practices of civic participation, civil discourse, and constructive dialogue.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This resolution:

9 ▶ acknowledges the fundamental rights of free speech, peaceful assembly, and petitioning  
10 of government;  
11 ▶ supports civil discourse and civic participation;  
12 ▶ encourages community building and civil dialogue amongst Utah citizens;  
13 ▶ recognizes the first Friday in September as Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day; and  
14 ▶ encourages activities on Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day to promote civic  
15 responsibility and community service.16 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

17 None

18 **Other Special Clauses:**

19 None

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21 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*22 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and Article 1, and Sections 1 and 15 of the Utah Constitution guarantee the fundamental rights of free  
23 speech, peaceful assembly, and petitioning the government;24 WHEREAS, a free and self-governing society depends upon the ability of citizens to be  
25 able to express differing views openly, listen respectfully to one another, and engage in  
26 good-faith dialogue across political, cultural, and ideological differences;27 WHEREAS, civil discourse does not require agreement, but rather a shared commitment to  
28 reasoned discussion, mutual respect, and the recognition of the inherent dignity of all persons;

29 WHEREAS, history demonstrates that progress in Utah, the nation, and the world has often

31       arisen from principled disagreement pursued through peaceful debate, civic participation, and  
32       democratic processes;

33       WHEREAS, the erosion of civil discourse through intimidation, dehumanization, or the  
34       silencing of lawful speech undermines public trust, weakens democratic institutions, and  
35       discourages civic participation; and

36       WHEREAS, civic education and service provide valuable opportunities to cultivate habits  
37       of citizenship, such as compromise, cooperation, and respect for constitutional freedoms:

38       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah supports  
39       and encourages practices to promote community building and civil dialogue amongst Utah  
40       citizens.

41       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah recognizes the first  
42       Friday in September as Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day, to encourage Utahns to  
43       reflect upon their shared civic responsibilities, participate in community service, and engage  
44       constructively with others.

45       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages  
46       institutions, including state agencies, local government, educational institutions, and nonprofit  
47       organizations to organize or participate in Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day activities.

48       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages  
49       activities on Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day that include:

- 50       (a) community service projects addressing local needs;
- 51       (b) forums for civil dialogue and community conversations;
- 52       (c) voter registration and civic education activities;
- 53       (d) neighborhood improvement and beautification projects;
- 54       (e) charitable drives and volunteer activities;
- 55       (f) educational programs about democratic processes and civic responsibility;
- 56       (g) intergenerational service projects connecting youth and seniors; and
- 57       (h) recognition of outstanding community volunteers and civic leaders.

58       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages the  
59       State Board of Education to partner with Local Education Agencies to establish civic  
60       engagement activities as part of curricula on Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day.