

**Joint Resolution on Civic Engagement and Service**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Heidi Balderree**

House Sponsor: Nelson T. Abbott

---

**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

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

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- acknowledges the fundamental rights of free speech, peaceful assembly, and petitioning of government;
- supports civil discourse and civic participation;
- encourages community building and civil dialogue amongst Utah citizens;
- recognizes the first Friday in September as Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day; and
- encourages activities on Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day to promote civic responsibility and community service.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

---

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

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 speech, peaceful assembly, and petitioning the government;

WHEREAS, a free and self-governing society depends upon the ability of citizens to be able to express differing views openly, listen respectfully to one another, and engage in good-faith dialogue across political, cultural, and ideological differences;

WHEREAS, civil discourse does not require agreement, but rather a shared commitment to reasoned discussion, mutual respect, and the recognition of the inherent dignity of all persons;

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.