STATE OF UTAH

SENATE JOURNAL

THIRTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION of the SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

The Senate of the Sixty-sixth Legislature of the State of Utah met in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol Complex and virtually in the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

The Senate was called to order at 4:12 p.m., with President J. Stuart Adams presiding.

Prayer – Senator Don Ipson
Pledge – Senator John Johnson

Phalin Flowers, Secretary of the Senate, read the following communication:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, since the close of the 2026 General Session of the 66th Legislature of the state of Utah, certain matters have arisen which require immediate legislative attention; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 6 of the Constitution of the state of Utah provides that the governor may, by proclamation, convene the Senate into Extraordinary Session; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the State of Utah, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the state of Utah, do by this Proclamation call the Senate only of the 66th Legislature of the state of Utah into the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City, Utah, on the 16th day of September 2026, at 4:00 p.m., for the following purpose:

For the Senate to consent to appointments made by the Governor to positions within state government of the state of Utah since the close of the 2026 General Session of the Legislature of the state of Utah.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of Utah. Done at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City, Utah, this 15th day of September 2026.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor

* * *

Roll call – All Senators present, except Senator Millner

President Adams appointed Senator Owens to notify the Governor's representative that the Senate is convened in the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session.

Senator Owens advised the Senate that the Governor's representative has been notified of the convening of the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session.

On motion of Senator Sandall, the same rules, joint rules, and interim rules adopted for the 2026 Twelfth Extraordinary Session were adopted as the rules for the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session of the Sixty–sixth Legislature.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: August 28, 2026
I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Judge Matthew Bell as a Justice of the Utah Supreme Court, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8 of the Utah Constitution and Utah Code Section 78A–10a–101, *et seq*. Thank you for your timely consideration and confirmation of Judge Bell.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 14, 2026
The Senate Judicial Confirmation Committee met on September 14, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for Matthew L. Bell to be confirmed to the position of Justice for the Utah Supreme Court.

Todd Weiler, Chair

* * *

On motion of Senator Weiler, the Senate voted to consent to the appointment of Judge Matthew Bell on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 26; Nays, 2; Absent, 1.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Brammer, B.	Buss, E.
Cullimore, K.	Escamilla, L.	Fillmore, L.	Grover, K.
Harper, W.	Hinkins, D.	Ipson, D.	Johnson, J.
Kwan, K.	McCay, D.	McKell, M.	Musselman, C.
Owens, D.	Pitcher, S.	Plumb, J.	Sandall, S.
Stevenson, J.	Stratton, K.	Vickers, E.	Weiler, T.
Wilson, C.	Winterton, R.		

Voting in the negative were: Senators

Blouin, N.	Riebe, K.

Absent was: Senator
Millner, A.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

On motion of Senator Cullimore, Justice Matthew Bell spoke in Committee of the Whole.

On motion of Senator Cullimore, the Committee of the Whole was dissolved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: August 28, 2026
I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Michael Menssen as a Justice of the Utah Supreme Court, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8 of the Utah Constitution and Utah Code Section 78A–10a–101, *et seq*. Thank you for your timely consideration and confirmation of Mr. Menssen.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 14, 2026
The Senate Judicial Confirmation Committee met on September 14, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for Michael R. Menssen to be confirmed to the position of Justice for the Utah Supreme Court.

Todd Weiler, Chair

* * *

On motion of Senator Weiler, the Senate voted to consent to the appointment of Michael Menssen on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 26; Nays, 2; Absent, 1.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Brammer, B.	Buss, E.
Cullimore, K.	Escamilla, L.	Fillmore, L.	Grover, K.
Harper, W.	Hinkins, D.	Ipson, D.	Johnson, J.
Kwan, K.	McCay, D.	McKell, M.	Musselman, C.
Owens, D.	Pitcher, S.	Plumb, J.	Sandall, S.
Stevenson, J.	Stratton, K.	Vickers, E.	Weiler, T.
Wilson, C.	Winterton, R.		

Voting in the negative were: Senators

Blouin, N.	Riebe, K.

Absent was: Senator
Millner, A.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

On motion of Senator Cullimore, Justice Michael Menssen spoke in Committee of the Whole.

On motion of Senator Cullimore, the Committee of the Whole was dissolved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: August 13, 2026
I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Lance Talakai as a Judge of the Third District Juvenile Court, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8 of the Utah Constitution and Utah Code Section 78A–10a–101, *et seq*. Thank you for your timely consideration and confirmation of Mr. Talakai.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 11, 2026
The Senate Judicial Confirmation Committee met on September 11, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for Lance L. Talakai to be confirmed to the position of Judge for the Utah Third District Juvenile Court.

Daniel McCay,
Acting Committee Chair

* * *

On motion of Senator Weiler, the Senate voted to consent to the appointment of Lance Talakai on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 28; Nays, 0; Absent, 1.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Blouin, N.	Brammer, B.
Buss, E.	Cullimore, K.	Escamilla, L.	Fillmore, L.
Grover, K.	Harper, W.	Hinkins, D.	Ipson, D.
Johnson, J.	Kwan, K.	McCay, D.	McKell, M.
Musselman, C.	Owens, D.	Pitcher, S.	Plumb, J.
Riebe, K.	Sandall, S.	Stevenson, J.	Stratton, K.
Vickers, E.	Weiler, T.	Wilson, C.	Winterton, R.

Absent was: Senator
Millner, A.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

On motion of Senator Cullimore, Judge Lance Talakai spoke in Committee of the Whole.

On motion of Senator Cullimore, the Committee of the Whole was dissolved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: September 1, 2026
I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Elizabeth Butler as a Judge of the Third District Court, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8 of the Utah Constitution and Utah Code Section 78A–10a–101, *et seq*. Thank you for your timely consideration and confirmation of Ms. Butler.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 14, 2026
The Senate Judicial Confirmation Committee met on September 14, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for Elizabeth M. Butler to be confirmed to the position of Judge for the Utah Third District Court.

Todd Weiler, Chair

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On motion of Senator Weiler, the Senate voted to consent to the appointment of Elizabeth Butler on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 26; Nays, 0; Absent, 1.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Blouin, N.	Brammer, B.
Buss, E.	Cullimore, K.	Escamilla, L.	Fillmore, L.
Grover, K.	Harper, W.	Hinkins, D.	Ipson, D.
Johnson, J.	Kwan, K.	McCay, D.	McKell, M.
Musselman, C.	Owens, D.	Pitcher, S.	Plumb, J.
Riebe, K.	Sandall, S.	Stevenson, J.	Stratton, K.
Vickers, E.	Weiler, T.	Wilson, C.	Winterton, R.

Absent was: Senator
Millner, A.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

On motion of Senator Cullimore, Judge Elizabeth Butler spoke in Committee of the Whole.

On motion of Senator Cullimore, the Committee of the Whole was dissolved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: July 28, 2026
In accordance with Utah Code §§ 67-1-1 and 67-1-2, I propose and transmit the following appointment:

Utah Department of Natural Resources:
Jamie Barnes is appointed to replace Joel Ferry as the commissioner of the Utah Department of Natural Resources. See Utah Code 79–2–202.

Thank you for your timely consideration and confirmation of the above appointment.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 15, 2026
The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Jamie Barnes as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Derrin Owens, Chair

* * *

On motion of Senator Hinkins, the Senate voted to consent to the appointment of Jamie Barnes on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 24; Nays, 0; Absent, 5.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Blouin, N.	Brammer, B.
Buss, E.	Cullimore, K.	Fillmore, L.	Harper, W.
Hinkins, D.	Ipson, D.	Johnson, J.	Kwan, K.
McCay, D.	McKell, M.	Owens, D.	Pitcher, S.
Plumb, J.	Riebe, K.	Sandall, S.	Stevenson, J.
Stratton, K.	Vickers, E.	Wilson, C.	Winterton, R.

Absent were: Senators

Escamilla, L.	Grover, K.	Millner, A.	Musselman, C.
Weiler, T.			

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: July 22, 2026
In accordance with Utah Code §§ 67-1-1 and 67-1-2, I propose and transmit the following appointment:

Great Salt Lake Commissioner:
Hannah Freeze is appointed to replace Brian Steed as the Great Salt Lake commissioner, a remainder of the term to expire July 1, 2029. See Utah Code 73–32–201.

Thank you for your timely consideration and confirmation of the above appointment.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 15, 2026
The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Hannah Freeze as the Great Salt Lake Commissioner.

Derrin Owens, Chair

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On motion of Senator Hinkins, the Senate voted to consent to the appointment of Hannah Freeze on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 25; Nays, 1; Absent, 3.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Brammer, B.	Buss, E.
Cullimore, K.	Fillmore, L.	Harper, W.	Hinkins, D.
Ipson, D.	Johnson, J.	Kwan, K.	McCay, D.
McKell, M.	Musselman, C.	Owens, D.	Pitcher, S.
Plumb, J.	Riebe, K.	Sandall, S.	Stevenson, J.
Stratton, K.	Vickers, E.	Weiler, T.	Wilson, C.
Winterton, R.			

Voting in the negative was: Senator
Blouin, N.

Absent were: Senators

Escamilla, L.	Grover, K.	Millner, A.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: July 20, 2026
In accordance with Utah Code §§ 67-1-1 and 67-1-2, I propose and transmit the following appointments:

Air Quality Board:
Lauren VanderWerff is appointed to replace Michelle Bujdoso as a member who represents the fuels industry for the Air Quality Board, a term to expire March 1, 2030. See Utah Code 19–2–103(1)(b)(iv).

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Mr. President: August 17, 2026
In accordance with Utah Code §§ 67-1-1 and 67-1-2, I propose and transmit the following appointments:

Board of Economic Development:
Catherine Wong is appointed to replace Carine Clark as a member who is associated with a targeted industry for the Board of Economic Development, a term to expire March 30, 2030. See Utah Code 63N–1a–401(1)(b)(iv).

Board of Water Resources:
Hannah Freeze is appointed to replace Brian Steed as a member who represents the interests of the Great Salt Lake for the Board of Water Resources, the remainder of the term to expire June 30, 2027. See Utah Code 73–10–2(2)(b).

Drinking Water Board:
Brad Welch is appointed to replace Bryan Cox as a member who is an elected municipal official involved in management of a public water system, for the Drinking Water Board, the remainder of the term to expire June 30, 2029. See Utah Code 19–4–103(1)(b)(ii).

Private Activity Bond Review Board:
Mark Shepherd is appointed to replace Stephen Dawson as a member who is either an elected or appointed municipal official, nominated by the Utah League of Cities and Towns for the Private Activity Bond Review Board, a term to expire April 30, 2030. See Utah Code 63N–24–402(1)(b)(ii).

Utah Conservation Commission:
Colby Pace is appointed to replace Todd Arbon as a member representing zone two for the Utah Conservation Commission, a term to expire May 8, 2030. See Utah Code 4–18–104(2)(a)(v).

Sam Larson is reappointed as a member representing zone five for the Utah Conservation Commission, a term to expire May 8, 2030. See Utah Code 4–18–104(2)(a)(v).

Dave Evans is appointed to replace Bryan Smith as a member representing zone six for the Utah Conservation Commission, a term to expire May 8, 2030. See Utah Code 4–18–104(2)(a)(v).

Tonya Bigelow is appointed to replace William Butcher as a member representing zone seven for the Utah Conservation Commission, a term to expire May 8, 2030. See Utah Code 4−18−104(2)(a)(v).

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 15, 2026

The Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Catherine Wong as a member of the Board of Economic Development; and

The Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Mark Shepherd as a member of the Private Activity Bond Review Board.

Ann Millner, Chair

Mr. President: September 15, 2026

The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Lauren VanderWerff to the Air Quality Board; and

The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Hannah Freeze to the Board of Water Resources; and

The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Brad Welch to the Drinking Water Board; and

The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Tonya Bigelow to the Utah Conservation Commission; and

The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Dave Evans to the Utah Conservation Commission; and

The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Colby Pace to the Utah Conservation Commission.

Derrin Owens, Chair

* * *

On motion of Senator Hinkins, the Senate voted to consent to the appointments as read by staff on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 27; Nays, 0; Absent, 2.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Blouin, N.	Brammer, B.
Buss, E.	Cullimore, K.	Escamilla, L.	Fillmore, L.
Harper, W.	Hinkins, D.	Ipson, D.	Johnson, J.
Kwan, K.	McCay, D.	McKell, M.	Musselman, C.
Owens, D.	Pitcher, S.	Plumb, J.	Riebe, K.
Sandall, S.	Stevenson, J.	Stratton, K.	Vickers, E.
Weiler, T.	Wilson, C.	Winterton, R.	

Absent were: Senators

Grover, K.	Millner, A.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. President: August 12, 2026

Dr. Carey Wilson, a member of the Compassionate Use Board, has vacated her position, and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food would like the Utah State Senate to consider voting to confirm Dr. Angelo P. Giardino as the new board member.

The purpose of this letter is to request the State Senate's immediate consideration of the confirmation of Dr. Angelo P. Giardino to the Board.

Utah Code 4–41A–112(1) establishes the qualification for Compassionate Use Board membership. They include registration as a recommending medical provider with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, knowledge about the medicinal use of cannabis, professional licensure in Utah as a physician, and board certification.

Kelly Pehrson
Commissioner

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. President: September 15, 2026
The Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2026, and reports a favorable recommendation for the appointment of Angelo P. Giardino to the Compassionate Use Board.

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On motion of Senator Hinkins, the Senate voted to consent to the appointments as read by staff on the following roll call vote:

Yeas, 26; Nays, 0; Absent, 3.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

Adams, J.	Balderree, H.	Blouin, N.	Brammer, B.
Buss, E.	Cullimore, K.	Fillmore, L.	Harper, W.
Hinkins, D.	Ipson, D.	Johnson, J.	Kwan, K.
McCay, D.	McKell, M.	Musselman, C.	Owens, D.
Pitcher, S.	Plumb, J.	Riebe, K.	Sandall, S.
Stevenson, J.	Stratton, K.	Vickers, E.	Weiler, T.
Wilson, C.	Winterton, R.		

Absent were: Senators

Escamilla, L.	Grover, K.	Millner, A.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

President Adams directed Senator Owens to notify the Governor's representative that the Senate has concluded its business in the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session.

Senator Owens reported that the Governor's representative has been notified that the Senate has concluded its business in the Thirteenth Extraordinary Session.

On motion of Senator Cullimore, and at 5:10 p.m., the Senate adjourned sine die.