

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND UTAH CONSTITUTION - USE OF TAX  
REVENUE**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay**

House Sponsor: Mike Schultz

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to modify a provision relating to the use of revenue from taxes on intangible property or from a tax on income.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to:

- ▶ expand the uses for revenue from taxes on intangible property or from a tax on income to include supporting children and individuals with a disability.

**Special Clauses:**

This resolution directs the lieutenant governor to submit this proposal to voters.

This resolution provides a contingent effective date of January 1, 2021 for this proposal.

**Utah Constitution Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 5**

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, two-thirds of all members elected to each of the two houses voting in favor thereof:*

Section 1. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution, Article XIII, Section 5, to read:

**Article XIII, Section 5. [Use and amount of taxes and expenditures.]**

(1) (a) The Legislature shall provide by statute for an annual tax sufficient, with other

29 revenues, to defray the estimated ordinary expenses of the State for each fiscal year.

30 (b) If the ordinary expenses of the State will exceed revenues for a fiscal year, the  
31 Governor shall:

32 (i) reduce all State expenditures on a pro rata basis, except for expenditures for debt of  
33 the State; or

34 (ii) convene the Legislature into session under Article VII, Section 6 to address the  
35 deficiency.

36 (2) (a) For any fiscal year, the Legislature may not make an appropriation or authorize  
37 an expenditure if the State's expenditure exceeds the total tax provided for by statute and  
38 applicable to the particular appropriation or expenditure.

39 (b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to an appropriation or expenditure to suppress  
40 insurrection, defend the State, or assist in defending the United States in time of war.

41 (3) For any debt of the State, the Legislature shall provide by statute for an annual tax  
42 sufficient to pay:

43 (a) the annual interest; and

44 (b) the principal within 20 years after the final passage of the statute creating the debt.

45 (4) Except as provided in Article X, Section 5, Subsection (5)(a), the Legislature may  
46 not impose a tax for the purpose of a political subdivision of the State, but may by statute  
47 authorize political subdivisions of the State to assess and collect taxes for their own purposes.

48 (5) All revenue from taxes on intangible property or from a tax on income shall be  
49 used:

50 (a) to support the systems of public education and higher education as defined in  
51 Article X, Section 2[-]; and

52 (b) to support children and to support individuals with a disability.

53 (6) Proceeds from fees, taxes, and other charges related to the operation of motor  
54 vehicles on public highways and proceeds from an excise tax on liquid motor fuel used to  
55 propel those motor vehicles shall be used for:

- 56 (a) statutory refunds and adjustments and costs of collection and administration;
- 57 (b) the construction, maintenance, and repair of State and local roads, including
- 58 payment for property taken for or damaged by rights-of-way and for associated administrative
- 59 costs;
- 60 (c) driver education;
- 61 (d) enforcement of state motor vehicle and traffic laws; and
- 62 (e) the payment of the principal of and interest on any obligation of the State or a city
- 63 or county, issued for any of the purposes set forth in Subsection (6)(b) and to which any of the
- 64 fees, taxes, or other charges described in this Subsection (6) have been pledged, including any
- 65 paid to the State or a city or county, as provided by statute.

66 (7) Fees and taxes on tangible personal property imposed under Section 2, Subsection  
67 (6) of this article are not subject to Subsection (6) of this Section 5 and shall be distributed to  
68 the taxing districts in which the property is located in the same proportion as that in which the  
69 revenue collected from real property tax is distributed.

70 (8) A political subdivision of the State may share its tax and other revenues with  
71 another political subdivision of the State as provided by statute.

72 (9) Beginning July 1, 2016, the aggregate annual revenue from all severance taxes, as  
73 those taxes are defined by statute, except revenue that by statute is used for purposes related to  
74 any federally recognized Indian tribe, shall be deposited annually into the permanent State trust  
75 fund under Article XXII, Section 4, as follows:

- 76 (a) 25% of the first \$50,000,000 of aggregate annual revenue;
- 77 (b) 50% of the next \$50,000,000 of aggregate annual revenue; and
- 78 (c) 75% of the aggregate annual revenue that exceeds \$100,000,000.

79 **Section 2. Submittal to voters.**

80 The lieutenant governor is directed to submit this proposed amendment to the voters of  
81 the state of Utah at the next regular general election in the manner provided by law.

82 **Section 3. Contingent effective date.**

**S.J.R. 9**

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83           If the amendment proposed by this joint resolution is approved by a majority of those  
84 voting on it at the next regular general election, the amendment shall take effect on January 1,  
85 2021.