



UTAH ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Membership Benefits and Services

Membership Services

Being informed and trained on new and changing statutory and regulatory provisions is critical to the successful governance of any district. *In recent years, many new statutory and regulatory requirements have been enacted that apply to districts. The Fraud Risk Assessment. A new Government Registry is now operational. A new law effective in July 2019 has important implications for personal use of government property. Other items of importance include the Best Practices Audit checklist. All districts must post meeting agendas on the Utah Public Notice Website in order to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Recent changes the procurement law are of continuing importance. All government entities must now post all financial information on the transparency website. **How can district boards and management stay informed and trained on the ever-increasing requirements of government service? UASD provides the resources, information channels, and training that will help you to stay in compliance!***

There is an ever-increasing need for comprehensive governance and compliance training for local districts and special service districts. State statutes governing districts require training of board members and management relating to a variety of issues, including the Open Meetings Law and GRAMA requirements. The new updated *Pocket Guide for Board Members* provides answers to key issues. It serves as an important resource, and is available to board members and management of UASD members.

An understanding of changes to the Ethics Law is most important, particularly in light of penalties for violation of Ethics and Open Meetings laws.

The employment of best management practices has been and continues to be a focus of legislators, as well as the Legislative Auditor General. The training provided by the UASD addresses these important issues and fulfills the training requirements enumerated in statute.

Membership Services and Benefits include:

- Board member training
- Model personnel policies and procedures
- Legislative advocacy
- Website members-only section
- Resource library
- Social media communications
- Problem solving assistance
- Public relations assistance
- UPDATED Procurement policy template
- Bylaws templates
- Personnel manual templates
- Useful online resources
- Q & A resource
- UASD Pocket Guide for Board Members
- UASD Pocket Guide for Legislators
- Video resources for public education
- Legal Hotline
- **NEW** Personal Use of Govt. Property Template
- and more...

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Legislative Services & Governmental Relations

The UASD is the only voice on Capitol Hill that is actively representing, advocating, and fighting for all Utah districts, regardless of the district services provided, or a districts affiliation with other organizations.

The UASD reviews and monitors every bill that is introduced into legislation for its potential impact upon Utah local and special service districts. This represents a continual effort throughout the year, during the full-time legislative session, and during the interim legislative season. Any bills requiring action are quickly brought to the attention of the UASD Legislative Committee, Legal Counsel, lobbyists, and Board of Directors in order to determine the Association's position on each respective issue. Through electronic communications, the UASD informs member districts of new and immediate issues and needs. These bills then become the focus of Association lobbying efforts to achieve an outcome favorable to districts and the citizens whom they serve. *The value of this effort* alone for each local and special service district exceeds several hundred thousand dollars each year!

The UASD is involved in collaborative efforts with all state local government service organizations, including the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, the Water Coalition, Rural Water, Utah Water Users, School Districts, and many others. In addition, UASD is a founding member of the National Special District Coalition (NSDC). These relationships create an effective consortium in addressing issues faced by districts and other government entities at the state and national level.

Legislative Services and Governmental Relations include:

UASD Legislative Services

- Actively represents and promotes the interests of districts before the legislature
- Initiates, drafts, and moves favorable district legislation through the legislative process
- Provides direct access to legislators and the legislature
- Provides constant monitoring of the legislative process
- Monitors state rule-making activities
- Develops and participates in many coalitions and relationships
- Informs and functions as a resource for legislators regarding district issues
- Coordinates with affiliated organizations
- Provides comprehensive weekly legislative updates during the general legislative session
- Provides daily emails during the legislative session re: new bills affecting districts, etc.
- Provides representation and updates as needed during the interim legislative session
- Provides education and training on new statutory requirements
- Makes available UASD Pocket Guide for Legislators, providing information about districts

Governmental Relations

- Functions as a liaison with state agencies
- Actively develops and maintains open communications
- Provides advocacy with state departments
- Provides assistance with constituent affairs and interests
- Provides information and education on audit issues
- Provides referrals for funding sources
- Provides representation for districts on various state boards, i.e. procurement, URS, water, sewer, transparency, taxes, and other special legislative committees and working groups.