

Utah Legislative Platform

Category: Business Process Innovations

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State of Utah

Project Initiation and Completion Dates:

March 2017 – December 2018

Online/le.utah.gov December 2017

Online/Senate.utah.gov December 2018

Online/Capitol Tour December 2017

Apple Watch/Bill Watch March 2017

Alexa Skill - Utah Ballot Information - October 2018

NASCIO 2019

Executive Summary

The Utah State Legislature suite of websites, social media, mobile applications, notification systems and APIs help Utahns, political subdivisions, and interested parties connect and interact with legislators and the government process. Government officials can learn about proposed and historic legislation, identify their legislator, sign up for alerts and notifications, learn what their legislators are thinking, as well as listen to recordings of committee and floor debates using the platform of interrelated services. This suite services also allow government bodies to more effectively participate in the legislative process.

Delivering services and information is the core of what government does. The challenge for government is to meet and exceed expectations by delivering services and information across a variety of channels. This suite of services provides targeted notifications, information updates, and email alerts simultaneously to the public and all government officials; providing instantaneous access to information at the same time that the Legislature is receiving it.

These service include:

- Le.utah.gov
- Bill Watch
- Voice Assistants
- Social Media
- Financial Disclosures

The core of the legislative process is that legislators are acting on feedback received from constituents including the political subdivisions such as cities, counties and school districts. Every bill that they run started with feedback from individuals or groups wanting to make the state better. The Utah Legislature pushes information about upcoming bills, their fiscal impact and meetings to allow for better constituent engagement and useful legislation.

Citizens today expect more transparent, accessible, and responsive services but, the number of communication channels continue to multiply. The challenge for government is to meet and exceed citizen's expectations by delivering services and information across a variety of channels beyond the standard Web browser.

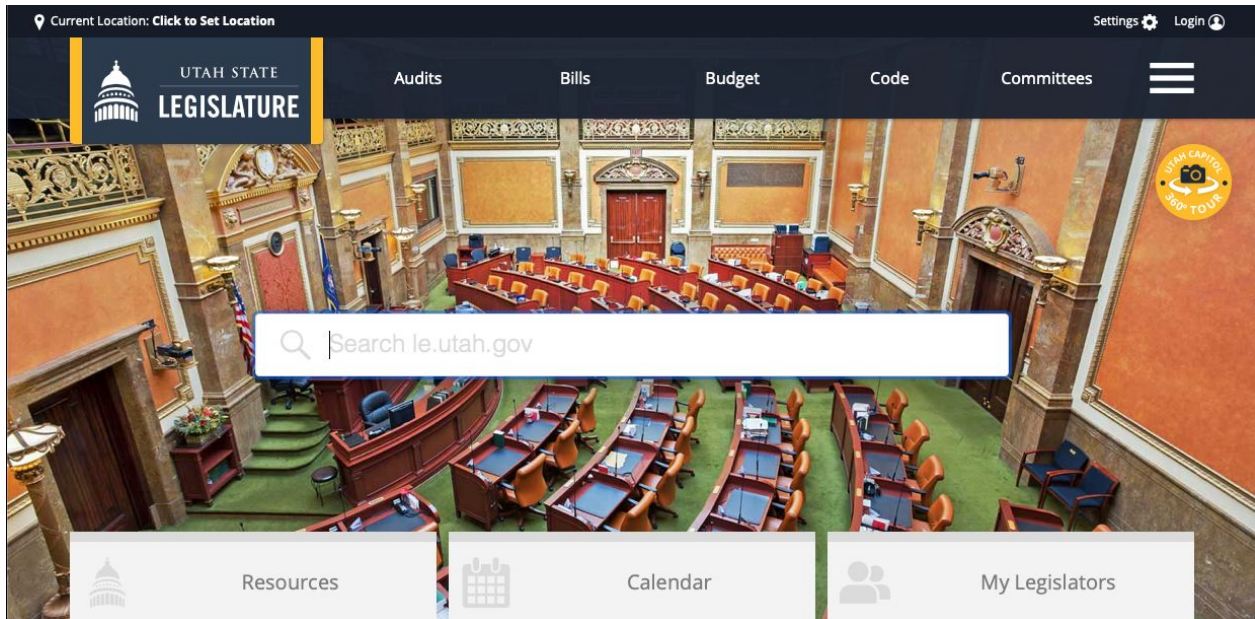
Utah is implementing new technologies and strategies that push digital innovation beyond just websites.

The Utah Legislative Platform

Le.utah.gov

The site was redesigned in 2017 based on citizen feedback. One of the key features of the new implementation is single-sign-on to enable bill tracking across platforms. With the growing use of smartphones and tablets, the new mobile-friendly site is more accessible to most users. This focus on mobile-first enable heavy users (often government relations and cause advocates) to receive instant notification on legislative matters while participating in the lawmaking process.

Online Visitors: 43,000/month during the session



Residents can go to le.utah.gov and get an overview of the legislative process for themselves or submit questions, observations, and concerns in the comment box on the website. Feedback is important to the representative process as Utah continues to strive to develop a website that is valuable to Utahns.

Feedback is such a priority for the Utah Legislature, the entire feedback form is displayed on the main page of the legislature's site and in the footer of every page on the site. A user does not have click anything to find this page: <https://le.utah.gov/#>

Bill Watch for Android, iOS, and Apple Watch

As a part of the legislative communications platform the state Utah.gov provides Bill Watch to track legislation.

Bill Watch, was updated in 2017 to interact with an apple Apple Watch. The native mobile app for iOS and Android helps Utahns who want to keep up with legislative issues search for bills by topic, legislator's name, or bill number. The app sends updates directly to a mobile device or Apple Watch via push notification. Bill Watch users can create and share lists of legislation with

other concerned residents.

Bill Watch Features:

- Create and share collections of similar bills
- Search for Utah bills by topic, bill number, legislator's name
- Subscribe to one or several bills to watch
- Receive push notifications when the bill status changes
- View full details of the bill
- View list of bills being watched

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCqT6DwKrUo>

Historically 10,089 bills have been tracked on 1072 devices.

During the 2019 legislative session:

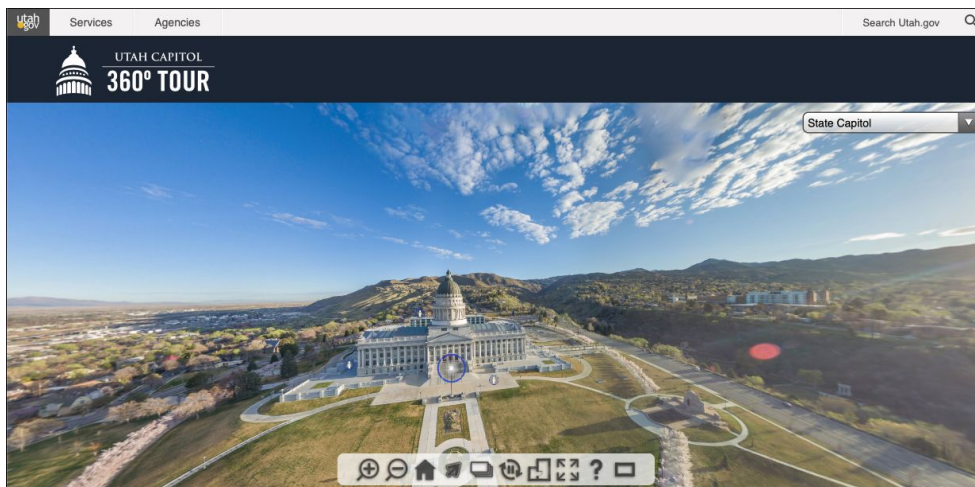
- 772 bills were tracked
- 870 devices tracked bills
- 25 public interest lists were created
- 182 bills were tracked through public interest lists

Capitol Tour

At the start of the 2018 legislative session, Utah.Gov introduced a new tool to help keep residents of Utah engaged in the lawmaking process. As interests turn to the Utah State Capitol, now, Utah residents can visit the capitol whenever they want by taking the Utah.Gov virtual 360-degree tour.

It's an amazingly fun tour of the building Next to visiting the capitol. The virtual tour is the best way to visit and learn more about the history and workings of the building.

David Fletcher, Utah Chief Technology Officer



Website visitors can explore the capitol by moving in any direction in the 360-degree image and viewing points of interest that include exterior buildings, legislative chambers, artwork and building information.

Property features can be seen from every angle and individuals can zoom in to see more detail. The tour's exclusive access to the capitol provides stunning views that are not usually available to visitors.

Our goal is to provide as much insight into state government in the most efficient way possible. It's truly revolutionizing the way Utahns can tour the property and get a perspective you've never really been able to experience before without actually being here.

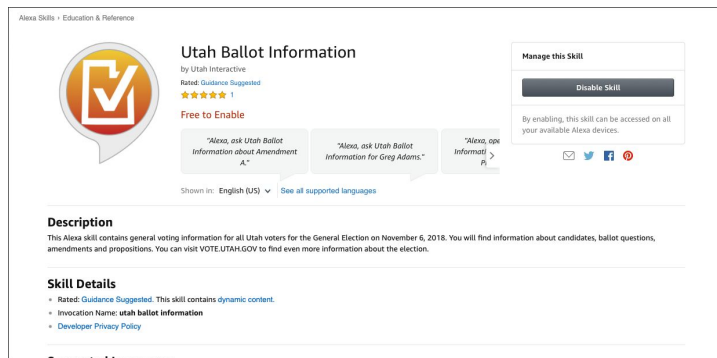
Mike Hussey, State of Utah, Chief Information Officer

<https://www.utah.gov/capitol-tour/>

Voice Assistants: Utah Ballot Information

An Alexa skill was deployed in October 2018 that provided ballot information describing candidates, propositions, and amendments. The person using the Alexa skill could say the name of any candidate and then Alexa would describe the candidate's biography, the elected office they are running for as well as the names of the other candidates running for that same office.

Utah launched the new service to help educate Utah voters on Amazon Echo devices. The Utah Ballot Information Alexa Skill enables Utahns to quickly learn about candidates, amendments, questions, and propositions. Simply say, "Alexa, tell me about question one," and Alexa will read information about the ballot item.



It is so important that residents educate themselves about the options available to them during this election season. This service is a great way to easily learn more about ballot initiatives.

Spencer Cox, Utah Lieutenant Governor

Residents can enable the skill on any Echo device. Just tell Alexa to, "Enable Utah Ballot Information." The Amazon Echo Alexa skill will then help you learn more about the issues that interest voters.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07JJSK5HH?keywords=utah+ballot+information&qid=1539965692&s=STRING%28skills-store-name%29&sr=1-1-fknull&ref=sr_1_fknull_1

Social Media

Both houses of the Utah state legislature understand staying connected to their constituents. Social media channels have provided an immediate access that has improved communication and enhanced residents experiences with legislators.

The Utah House social media page divides social media accounts by majority and minority parties. Residents of Utah can easily identify the accounts they are interested in following. <https://house.utah.gov/social-media/>

Legislative Youtube Channel

The Utah Senate youtube channel has produced 511 videos that describe the lawmaker's perspectives on important bills.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/UtahSenateChannel/videos>

Social Media Feedback:

Comments in social media services such as Twitter and Instagram are constantly scanned by the staff of the House and Senate for comments directed towards them. Legislative representatives are also quick to directly respond to social media posts that are directed to them.

Legislative messages and connections to legislation are promoted on social media.

- <https://house.utah.gov/social-media/>
- <https://house.utah.gov/recent-posts/>
- <https://twitter.com/UTLEGtracker>
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/UtahSenateChannel>
- <https://www.facebook.com/utahsenate>

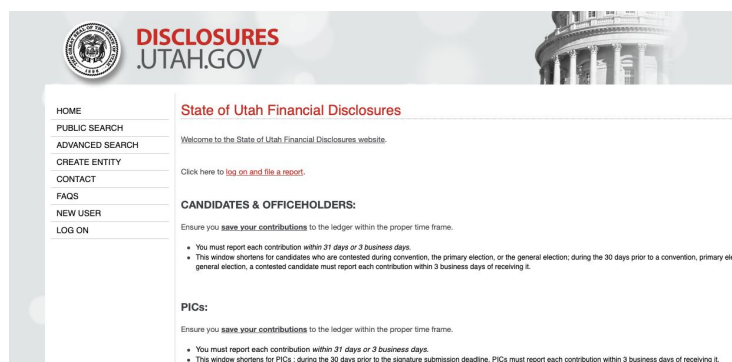
Social Media by the numbers:

- <https://twitter.com/utahsenate> 29.7k followers
- <https://twitter.com/utahreps> 29.7 followers
- Twitter 40k followers
- Utah Representative Instagram 2,173 followers
- Utah Senate Instagram 1,220 followers

State of Utah Financial Disclosures

The Financial Disclosures website allows residents to view all filed financial disclosure reports and statement of organizations (if applicable) for Candidates, Political Action Committees, Political Issues Committees, Political Parties, Corporations, Electioneers, Labor Organizations, and Independent Expenditures.

Visitors can search by name or browse entities to see a public view of the contributions to or from:



DISCLOSURES
UTAH.GOV

State of Utah Financial Disclosures

Welcome to the State of Utah Financial Disclosures website.

Click here to [log on and file a report](#).

CANDIDATES & OFFICEHOLDERS:

Ensure you [save your contributions](#) to the ledger within the proper time frame.

- You must report each contribution within 31 days or 3 business days.
- This window shortens for candidates who are contested during convention, the primary election, or the general election; during the 30 days prior to a convention, primary election, or general election, a contested candidate must report each contribution within 3 business days of receiving it.

PICs:

Ensure you [save your contributions](#) to the ledger within the proper time frame.

- You must report each contribution within 31 days or 3 business days.
- This window shortens for PICs; during the 30 days prior to the signature submission deadline, PICs must report each contribution within 3 business days of receiving it.

- Candidates and Officeholders
- Corporation
- Electioneering
- Independent Expenditures
- Labor Organizations
- Political Actions Committee
- Political Issues Committee
- Political Party

<https://disclosures.utah.gov>

Designed to Enable The Exchange of Information

Utah.Gov has enabled the implementation of so many useful services by adopting a strategy of making web services and APIs the backbone for serving information to a variety of digital services. Below are examples of these services.

Legislators API - The Legislators name, photo and district are displayed on Utah.gov based on the location of the browser. This content comes from data provided by the legislative technical group within a series of dynamically updated json files:

<https://le.utah.gov/data/calendars.json>

<https://le.utah.gov/data/committees.json>

<https://le.utah.gov/data/legislators.json>

<https://le.utah.gov/data/2017GS/>

<https://le.utah.gov/data/2017GS/billlist.json>

<https://le.utah.gov/data/2017GS/HB0001.json>

<https://le.utah.gov/data/2017GS/HB0002.json>

Bill Watch API - The legislative tracking system tracks all changes to bill status in real time. These changes are pushed out the Bill Watch API and then that information is distributed out to thousands of mobile devices by request.