

8 Trends Worth “Watching”

With our own version of Siskel and Ebert

TREND #1: Show me the Money -- Municipal Finance

THE TREND

- **New sales tax money (internet sales/marketplace fairness) means a larger conversation on how we fund local government**

THE BILLS

- **HB434 – Local Option Sales Tax Distribution – DIDN'T PASS**

THE ISSUES

- **Anticipates passage of Federal Marketplace Fairness Act**
- **Creates an amended distribution formula for city sales tax using assessed valuation as a distribution factor**
- **Sponsor and Leadership want us to start looking at our overall finance picture**

Trend #1 – Show Me the Money

ACTION ITEMS

TO DOs

- Begin ULCT led discussion of municipal finance (internally)
- Gas Tax, Sales Tax, Role of Property Tax, and Franchise Fees

WHAT ARE WE ALREADY DOING TO HELP YOU PREPARE

- The ULCT has already done much of the research and groundwork on the history of the various municipal taxes/funding sources
- Reconvenes the ULCT Tax team
- Continues to work on specific funding proposals with the legislature

THEY ARE LOOKING TO US TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES IN LIGHT OF MARKETPLACE

TREND #2 – New Sheriff In Town

How do We Spend and Track Money

THE TREND

- There is a new “Sheriff” in town and his name is **John Dougall**
- Transparency in municipal financing practices, best practice concepts and benchmarking activities will all be on the rise. He is watching what we all do very closely.

THE BILLS

- HB66 -- Enterprise Fund Transfers – Merged in to SB51
- HB381 -- Local Government Interfund Loans
- SB51 -- Audit Practices for Local Budgets
- HB102 – Assessment Area Amendments – Vetoed but work to do
- HB258 – Business Licensing Amendments – Did Not Pass

THE ISSUES

This dovetails in to the transparency discussion. We need to be very conscientious of how we handle money and ensure we are following the public disclosure process

Trend #2 – New Sheriff In Town

ACTION ITEMS

THE TREND

There is a new “Sheriff” in town and his name is **John Dougall**

WHAT WE ARE ALREADY DOING TO HELP YOU PREPARE

- Working with the auditor on our 15 year old database of municipal finance. Updating this to provide more tools to you
- Working on benchmarking to show trends and efforts being made by local government
- Working on the UT-2 Form and Statement of Accounts process
- Working with individual cities on audit compliance issues to ensure we stay in front of this issue
- Created a subcommittee to work on the assessment area issue

#3 Planes, Trains and Automobiles Transportation Funding

THE BILLS:

- HB388 – Transportation Funding Modifications
- HB135 -- Local Option Gas Tax
- HB210 – Sales and Use Tax for Transportation
- SB60 -- Fuel Excise Tax Amendments

THE ISSUES:

- \$11.3 Billion SHORTFALL in Funding
- Using the Unified Plan as the basis for the request
- How do we work toward a comprehensive solution

WHAT'S NEXT

- We need to tell our story
- How do we demonstrate we have exhausted already available solutions
- In the Wasatch Front – How do we change commuting behavior?

HOW DO WE CREATE PUBLIC AND LEGISLATIVE BUY IN?

#3 Planes, Trains and Automobiles

ACTION ITEMS

THE TREND:

- This is the year for transportation funding ... again!!!

WHAT ARE WE ALREADY DOING TO PREPARE YOU?

- Working with industry on potential funding solutions
- Meeting w/ legislators to discuss a comprehensive approach
- Creating a state and local taskforce on transportation funding

OVER-ARCHING MESSAGE

- THIS WILL TAKE MORE THAN ONE REVENUE SOURCE
- OLD REVENUE SOURCES AREN'T THE ANSWER GOING FORWARD

TREND #4 – Some Times Transparency is a Good Thing!

THE BILLS

- SB70 – State Data Portal Amendments
- SB185 -- Law Enforcement Transparency
- SB113 – Public Meeting Amendments
- HB242 – Fees for Government Records

THE ISSUES

- Public Notice Website
- GRAMA Website
- Transparency in Finance Website
- Public Posting of Minutes

WHAT ARE WE ALREADY DOING TO HELP

- ULCT Resources acquired for GRAMA requirement
- ULCT Resources acquired for digitizing of public records

TREND #5 – Election Officials are this nation's back bone!

THE BILLS

- HB 156 -- Election Day Voter Registration Pilot Project
- HB 252 -- Absentee Ballot Amendments
- HB 413 -- Voter Accountability in Political Subdivisions
- SB 134 -- Taxation Related Referendum Amendments

THE ISSUES

- Referendum process changes
- Technology is changing nature of elections
- Nothing to worry about just a lot to watch
- State wants to be inventive with ways to approach elections
- COUNT MY VOTE

WHAT ARE WE ALREADY DOING TO HELP

- Working with the clerks & recorders to protect mail in elections
- Authorized a same day voter registration – OPT-IN

If you have ideas, now is the time to let us know!

TREND #6 – It's The ULCT, Rep. Snow...Right!

- THE ISSUES

- State regulations/Local costs
- Nutrient control (nitrogen & phosphorus)
- Drinking Water Fees
- Handling considerable growth in municipal needs (2+ Mil new people)
 - Conversion from agricultural use to municipal use
 - Conservation
 - Infrastructure investment

- WHAT WE ARE DOING TO HELP

- Creation of coalition with the major suppliers
- Continue to work with Department to find alternatives to local fees for state regulation
- Working with Rep. Snow and others to address municipal perspectives

#7 Trend – Good Morning, Good Afternoon, and Good Night

THE TREND:

- Planning in our communities...consistency in the rules and consistency in training

THE ISSUES:

- Cross training cities and developers so everyone has similar expectations on the processes we follow when making decisions
- Using training to avoid undue legislation regulating our authority on local land use.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO HELP:

- Acquired resources to aid in creating training resources for cities and developers
- Working with local planners to create curriculum
- **MEG RYAN... SHE'S HERE TO HELP**

TREND #8 Do You Have Power Over Us?

Managing the Message

THE TREND:

- Coordination of various factions of ourselves

THE ISSUES:

- How do we deal with differences of opinion within our own ranks
- Making sure we understand the issues
- Who do we look to for direction on specific issues

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE:

- New voting requirements for the LPC
- Emphasis on ULCT General Resolutions process
- Ex-officio membership on the ULCT LPC for subgroups