

**ULCT Staff Report:
Week of January 2-7, 2012**

Last week the League continued the fast-paced ramp up for the 2012 legislative session. We had a great opportunity to meet with the Salt Lake County city managers to provide a brief legislative update on some of the major issues we expect for the coming session. Those issues include the much talked about sales tax discussion related to municipal finance, transportation and general economic development activities. In addition we talked about several other local issues that can be found in our pre-session prep/outline (<http://www.ulct.org/ulct/legislative/lpcresolutions.html>)

In addition to the city managers meeting, ULCT staff was also able to meet with the Governor to discuss his budget and the implications of his recommendations to the state legislature. In addition to that discussion, we were able to follow up with video interviews with the Governor and legislative leadership to provide greater context and detail to the Governor's budget. Those interviews will be available on the ULCT website (www.ulct.org) by week's end.

And that wasn't it. We also had the *great pleasure* of meeting with the Outdoor Advertising Industry (Sense any sarcasm...they are brutal meetings) but good progress is being made on several key issues related to the regulatory scheme associated with that industry. With the proliferation of illuminated/electric billboards, issues such as illumination standards and proximity to residential neighborhoods all have to be worked out. In addition, the billboard industry would like to also tweak provisions related to condemnation of billboards to allow for an expedited hearing process and possible "prevailing party's attorney's fees" in those legal proceedings. Lastly they want to also tackle the issue of exactions related to billboards; as you can see there is plenty to tackle on this issue. Jodi Hoffman of the ULCT staff has been working closely with city attorneys from Layton, SLC, St. George, South Salt Lake and others to provide the strategy and resources on this one. We would also like to thank Senators Stevenson and Urquhart for their leadership in mediating those discussions.

On a final note, the newly created ULCT Technology Committee had its first meeting this week on the 4th of January. The meeting started with a quick introduction and explanation of the goals of the committee. The committee will meet with various technology groups and decide which if any are a good fit for the membership of the Utah League of Cities and Towns. This first meeting was held with V3 a technology group that deals mostly with Virtualized Computing and Cloud computing technology. The committee sounded like the general idea was a great one that could help with a lot of the problems facing municipalities in Utah. In an effort to provide greater services to our members, the Tech Committee advised ULCT staff to evaluate a managed-service relationship, whereby cities could utilize ULCT resources to outsource some IT functions at a fraction of the cost of providing all IT Solutions in-house as a city. The ULCT is in the process of evaluating that concept and will report back at the next meeting.

What to expect for next week:

Well the ramp up continues. In next week's update we will provide a list of the numbered and prefiled bills that we will be discussing in our first LPC, and will also be providing greater detail on what to expect in week one of the session. We already have over 40 bill files opened that affect local government, so it looks like another busy year. Please feel free to call with any questions, and look forward to seeing/hearing from you all soon.

Your ULCT Policy Team