



Asset and Investment Review Task Force

treasurer.utah.gov/AIR

Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2025 | 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Approved on November 3, 2025

IN-PERSON

Capitol Board Room
350 N. State Street, Second Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

VIRTUAL

Zoom: <http://bit.ly/3KjPxPW>
Website Stream: treasurer.utah.gov/AIR
YouTube Stream: <https://bit.ly/USTyt>

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Utah Treasurer Marlo Oaks
Auditor Tina Cannon
Senator Keven Stratton (Virtual)
Daniel Gardiner, Department of Financial Institutions (Virtual)
Howard Headlee, Utah Bankers Association (Virtual)
Billy Hesterman, Utah Taxpayers Association
Rusty Cannon, Utah Association of Credit Unions
Paul Jerome, West Jordan City/Utah League of Cities & Towns (Virtual)
Kim Jackson, Utah County/Utah Association of Counties (Virtual)
LeGrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Districts

Advisory Task Force Members in Attendance:

Todd Hauber, Granite School District/Utah Association of School Business Officials (Virtual)
Scott Jones, Utah State Board of Education (Virtual)

Other Attendees:

Kirt Slaugh, Utah Office of State Treasurer
Brittany Griffin, Utah Office of State Treasurer
Jason Nielsen, Utah Office of State Treasurer (Virtual)
Brook McCarrick, AAG for State Treasurer (Virtual)
Jason Allen, Utah Office of State Auditor
Alex Nielson, Utah Office of State Auditor
Mark Stisser, Tur Partners (Virtual)
Patrick Daley, Tur Partners (Virtual)
Nidhi Srivastava, University of Chicago (Virtual)
Lindsay Dew
Johnathan Ward, Zions Public Finance (Virtual)

1. Task Force Business

Call to Order

Treasurer Oaks called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer Oaks presented the August 15, 2025 meeting minutes for discussion and approval. Auditor Cannon moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, with all task force members voting in favor of approving the minutes.

2. Investment Study

Patrick Daley, representing Tur Partners and the University of Chicago, presented preliminary findings of the Investment Study. Using FDIC data, he reported that Utah banks have steadily grown in assets and deposits since 2007—weathering the financial crisis, COVID-19, and the 2023 regional banking stress—without experiencing a decline in deposits. Returns and capital ratios have normalized post-crisis, though capital levels have slightly declined.

Mr. Daley noted a sharp decline in community banks over time, with Utah now having 28 large banks and 15 community banks. Both large and community banks are heavily focused on real estate lending, though large banks make more commercial and industrial loans, while community banks lend more to agriculture and consumers.

Mr. Daley also highlighted that government deposits in Utah banks have surged to nearly \$3 billion since 2020. He noted that those balances were only a few hundred million dollars in the early 2000s, showing that the total more than doubled since COVID-19. Treasurer Oaks and others questioned what drove this increase and how it might relate to public fund management and economic impact.

The next phase of the study will compare PTIF returns with bank deposit rates to evaluate potential gains from placing more public funds with Utah banks. Mr. Daley invited input on weighting assumptions to better tailor the analysis to Utah-specific conditions.

3. Public Entity Reserves Data

Auditor Cannon turned the time over to Alex Nielson from her team. Mr. Nielson explained that the survey discussed in prior meetings was sent to roughly 1,200 local governments and had yielded more than 250 responses across a wide range of entity types, with particularly strong participation from Local Education Agencies (LEAs). He noted that several smaller and mid-sized entities struggled with terms such as net position, unrestricted cash and cash equivalents, and days cash on hand, and some asked whether the survey was mandatory. Because responses came in varied formats, additional cleaning is required, but the sample is broad enough to support preliminary inferences.

Reporting on a key qualitative question about five-year net-position trends, Mr. Nielson said the most common drivers of change were large capital projects and assets, higher investment earnings due to rising interest rates, state and federal grants including pandemic-era funds, and tax-base shifts in property and sales taxes. Governing boards frequently encouraged building larger buffers. For LEAs, enrollment changes and compensation dynamics also appeared. A few respondents referenced changes in URS unfunded pension liabilities affecting reported net position, though the direction varied by entity. Some entities reported no clear trend, citing volatility rather than a steady rise. The Auditor's Office emphasized that each entity's circumstances are distinct and offered to share raw spreadsheets and PDFs to let the task force interpret the results directly.

Mr. Nielson then walked through the D&I dashboard, noting new features to view custodians and depositories. Members discussed the difficulty of cleanly separating “deposits” from “investments” in

self-reported data, particularly where items like CDs may appear in the investment section, concluding that FDIC-based analysis from the University of Chicago/Tur team would better answer questions about funds on deposit at banks.

The group agreed the interim legislative presentation on October 14 should simply and coherently show reserve trends for public education entities over time, relate reserves to revenues or expenditures, and distinguish restricted from unrestricted balances so the narrative aligns with intuition. They also asked to depict where funds are held—deposits versus investments—without overreaching beyond the current data.

4. Other Business/Adjournment

Looking ahead, the Task Force reviewed deadlines: an interim presentation to Public Education Appropriations in mid-October; the University of Chicago/Tur preliminary banking analysis expected at the end of October; a November 3 meeting to discuss those findings and shape the final report; circulation of a draft prior to a meeting on November 21; and submission to Executive Appropriations by November 30.

The meeting concluded with action items to share raw survey data, refine dashboard views, and prepare a clear, intuitive interim narrative on reserves and their composition.

The meeting was adjourned.