

# **Legislative Intent for 2026**

## **1. Use of County Spaces Currently Devoted to Childcare Programs**

It is the legislative intent of the Council that the existing County-operated childcare spaces located in the Magna, Kearns and Northwest Recreation Centers be evaluated for continued operational use as childcare facilities. Potential operators could include nonprofit, educational and governmental, or commercial childcare providers.

As part of this evaluation, the County shall identify potential private sector, nonprofit, or educational operators interested in utilizing the spaces for licensed childcare services. Potential respondents should be asked to develop clear proposals for prioritizing vulnerable and low-income families who live in Salt Lake County. Potential respondents should also be required to demonstrate their ability to pay rent inclusive of fully loaded costs, including ongoing operational and maintenance expenses.

The Council further intends that the County coordinate with Granite School District to evaluate and develop plans for utilizing the existing County-operated childcare space located in Millcreek, with the additional goal of prioritizing childcare services to low-income families, per Granite School District criteria and requirements.

The County Council recognizes that there are varied childcare needs throughout the County and supports new providers utilizing these existing spaces to help vulnerable families.

*Added February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

## **2. County Childcare Licensure for Summer Programming Options**

It is the legislative intent of the Salt Lake County Council that the Division of Parks and Recreation evaluate the feasibility of utilizing the county's youth recreation programming and analyze expanded tuition-supported summer programming options. This analysis should also explore providing county-wide access to summer programming for county residents, including a full cost-recovery financial model that does not include property tax revenues or General Fund dollars to subsidize the program.

Many Salt Lake County families, including those affected by the recent decision to close county-operated childcare centers, struggle to find affordable childcare solutions during summer months when school is not in session. The Council seeks to explore if tuition-supported summertime programming could help fill this gap for families throughout the county.

The Division of Parks and Recreation should prepare this analysis and report back to the County Council by its scheduled meeting on March 24, 2026.

*Added February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

### **3. Rescind 2017 Leg Intent Related to SLCO Job Reclassifications**

It is the intent of the Council to rescind prior legislative intent, entitled “Management Flexibility and Enhanced Council Oversight for County Personnel Costs,” approved on or about December 5, 2017. During the first quarter of 2026, the Council intends to consider and adopt changes to the County’s budget process and related policies and ordinances to clarify the process by which personnel changes including reclassifications of vacant positions are recognized, tracked, and approved in annual budgets.

*November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

### **4. Incorporating Performance Data into the Budget Process**

It is the intent of the Salt Lake County Council to enhance the County’s budgeting process by incorporating measurable performance outcomes and increasing data transparency in agency budget requests. To accomplish that goal, the Council directs the Mayor’s Finance Team, in coordination with the Office of Data and Innovation (ODI) and Council Fiscal Staff, to develop a hybrid budgeting model that incorporates performance-based budget requests.

***Phase 1: Pilot Implementation.*** Develop a performance-based dashboard for all projects financed with Opioid Settlement Funds. The Mayor’s Finance team and ODI will report to the Council on implementation progress by March 2026. A complete dashboard covering all Opioid Settlement Fund requests is expected by June 2026.

***Phase 2: Policy Development for a Countywide Approach.*** Develop a countywide policy and, if needed, propose county ordinance changes to implement a robust, countywide approach to performance-based budgeting. This approach is expected to be implemented in the 2027 budget process.

***Phase 3: Public-Facing Performance Dashboard.*** Develop a public-facing performance dashboard that enables the Council and residents to review outcomes, performance data, and trends over time for all performance-based budget requests. This is expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to data-informed decision-making, transparency, and continuous improvement in the allocation of public resources.

*November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

## **5. Creative Strategies for SLCO Real Estate Purchases**

It is the legislative intent of the Salt Lake County Council that the following prioritization criteria be used to assess the county's future investments related to the acquisition of real estate, construction of new facilities, improvements to existing facilities and capital maintenance:

- Preference should be given to future investments that consolidate County operations by enhancing efficiencies and promoting economies of scale.
- Wherever possible, the County should strive to optimize service delivery in order to enhance community engagement by combining county services and bringing together different agencies and programs at the same location. Favorable models include the County's provision of Library, Recreation, and Aging facilities at the Millcreek Community Center, and its provision of Library, Health Department, and District Attorney facilities near City Hall and Third District Court in West Jordan.

Favorable consideration should also be given to transactions that achieve savings for the County and its taxpayers through creative strategies and partnerships designed to reduce costs and enhance revenues, including investments in housing, public infrastructure, and economic development.

*November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

## **6. Reduce Operating Costs for Sugarhouse Park**

It is the intent of the Salt Lake County Council to vigorously support efforts that reduce the annual operating costs for Sugarhouse Park. A new Salt Lake City methodology for water and sewage rates became effective July 2025. Instead of using wintertime water usage to determine sewage fees, Salt Lake City now applies a 70% surcharge to the total amount of water used. This increased Sugarhouse Park's annual cost for water and sewage use from \$131,000 to \$1,200,000.

*Added October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

## **7. Managing Trees Owned by SLCO**

It is the intent of the Salt Lake County Council to review options that would create a more comprehensive approach for managing trees owned by Salt Lake County. The Council intends to work with the Mayor, other county elected officials, and other key departments like Parks and Recreation, Flood Control Engineering, Watershed Management, and Facilities to better inventory, manage, and preserve the trees that have been planted on County-owned property.

Topics for review should include the following:

- A review of existing policies and practices related to the County's trees, including an overview of current budgets and related responsibilities;
- A review of best tree management practices used by other local governments; and
- Consideration of various options intended to enhance tree management effectiveness and efficiency at Salt Lake County, including:
  - Enactment of County ordinance or policy related to tree management;
  - Greater centralization of County tree management;
  - The selection of a County arborist with the training and expertise to make evidence-based recommendations regarding best management practices; and
  - Recommendations for future budget cycles that will conserve the County's budgetary and natural resources by preserving its existing trees.

*Added September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025*

## **8. Salt Lake County Proclamations' Process**

It is the legislative intent of the Salt Lake County Council to establish the following process for memorials issued in the form of a proclamation:

1) Memorials in the form of a proclamation (whether or not formatted as a so-called "ceremonial resolution") may be proposed for inclusion on a Council agenda by individual Councilmembers and adopted by the Council consistent with Salt Lake County Ordinance, including §§ 2.04.140 and 2.04.160.C. Such matters should be scheduled near the end of the Council agenda and may be read and presented in the Council Chambers.

2) Proclamations that commend people or groups for notable activities and achievements, or which honor cultural events and occasions, should be prepared with signature lines for each individual Councilmember, and should be circulated for Council review no later than noon on the Friday prior to the date of the regular Council meeting that the proclamation will be adopted.

Individual Councilmembers may choose to opt out of signing the proclamation. Such proclamations should be understood as being sponsored by the entire Council, subject to the exclusion of any Councilmembers who specifically opt out of sponsorship. Legal review of such proclamations is not required.

3) The Council may adopt a proclamation by reading or presenting the proclamation, and a roll call vote of the Council is not required for adoption. Proclamations should be recorded in the Council's minutes but otherwise do not have a legal effect.

4) The Council and Mayor may jointly issue proclamations where appropriate and agreed upon.

5) Council statements concerning substantive policy matters, or matters likely to elicit discussion and debate, are better adapted as Council resolutions as described by Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances § 2.04.160.B, and Councilmembers are encouraged to propose such statements of policy as Council resolutions rather than as proclamations.

*Added March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024*