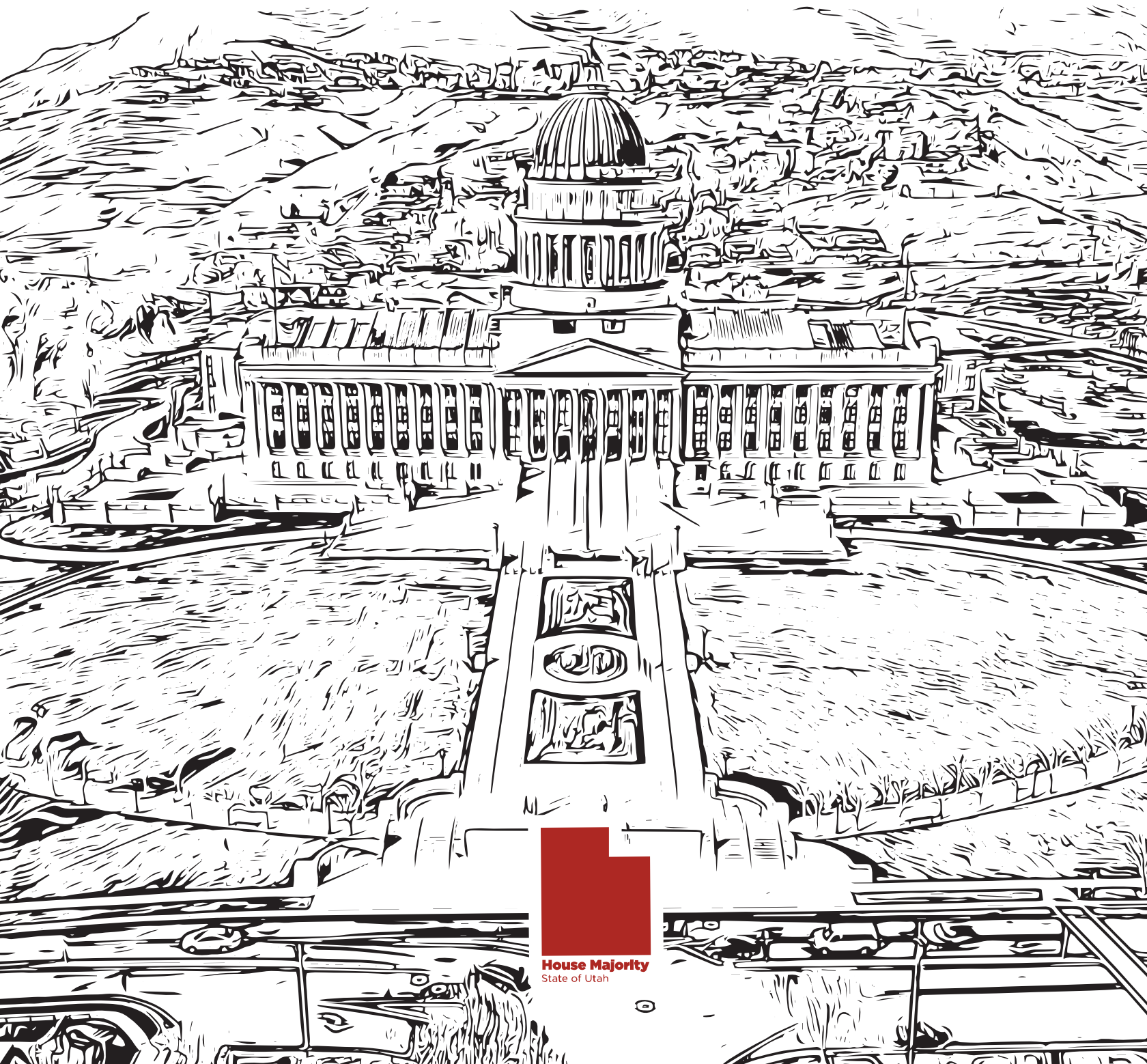


# THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

2023 HOUSE MAJORITY CAUCUS POLICY PRIORITIES



**House Majority**  
State of Utah



Dear Fellow Utahns,

Remarkable things happen when we come together and doing so is the foundation of the Utah Way. Throughout the history of our state, we have shown time and time again that despite differences of opinion, we can solve big problems, create new opportunities, and chart a course to an even more prosperous future because of our commitment to working together for the common good.

Each policy we enact addresses a challenge we face today and positions future leaders to build on our efforts – just as we build on those of previous legislative sessions. Each session itself is a jigsaw puzzle with pieces of budgets and bills that have to come together in our brief winter window of work. Additionally, each session is, itself, a piece to a larger puzzle we continue to build as the years roll on – often without the benefit of a picture on the box showing exactly how it’s all supposed to look.

To continue the work of coming together, piece by piece, House members have worked diligently to identify the most important policy challenges facing our state. This session, we will look to enact policies in key areas including:


- Stewardship: Safeguarding our natural resources
- Affordability: Keeping Utah affordable
- Investment: Laying the foundation for our future

The pieces of our overall policy puzzle fit together to guide our work during the 2023 General Legislative Session and beyond. Over the course of 45 days, legislators, experts, and engaged citizens will generate and refine the details on these and other policies. We look forward to debating and crafting policies that will ensure our state continues to be the best place to live, work, learn, and play – not only now, but for generations to come.


Sincerely,

The Utah House Majority Caucus

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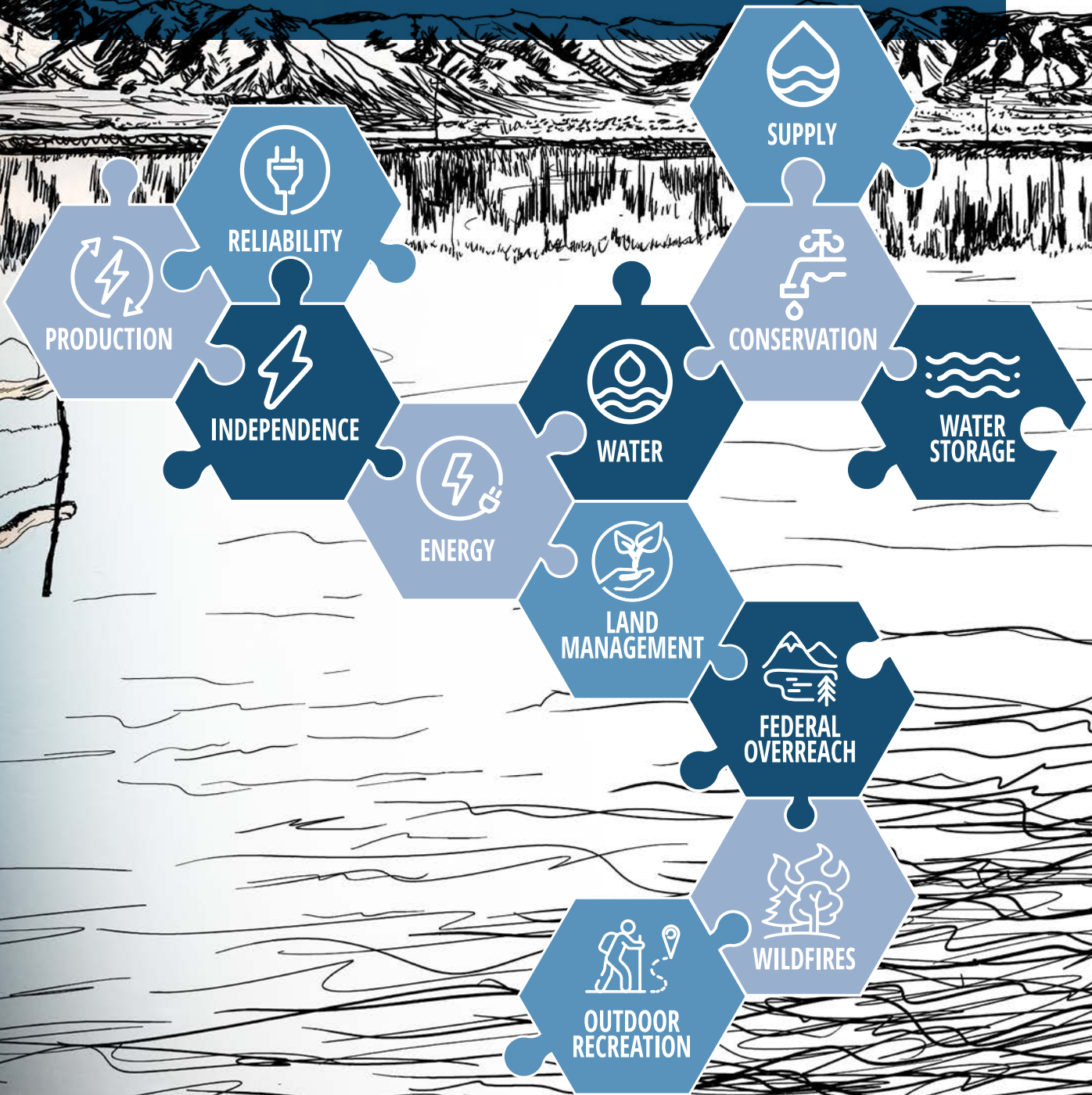
# STEWARDSHIP

SAFEGUARDING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES



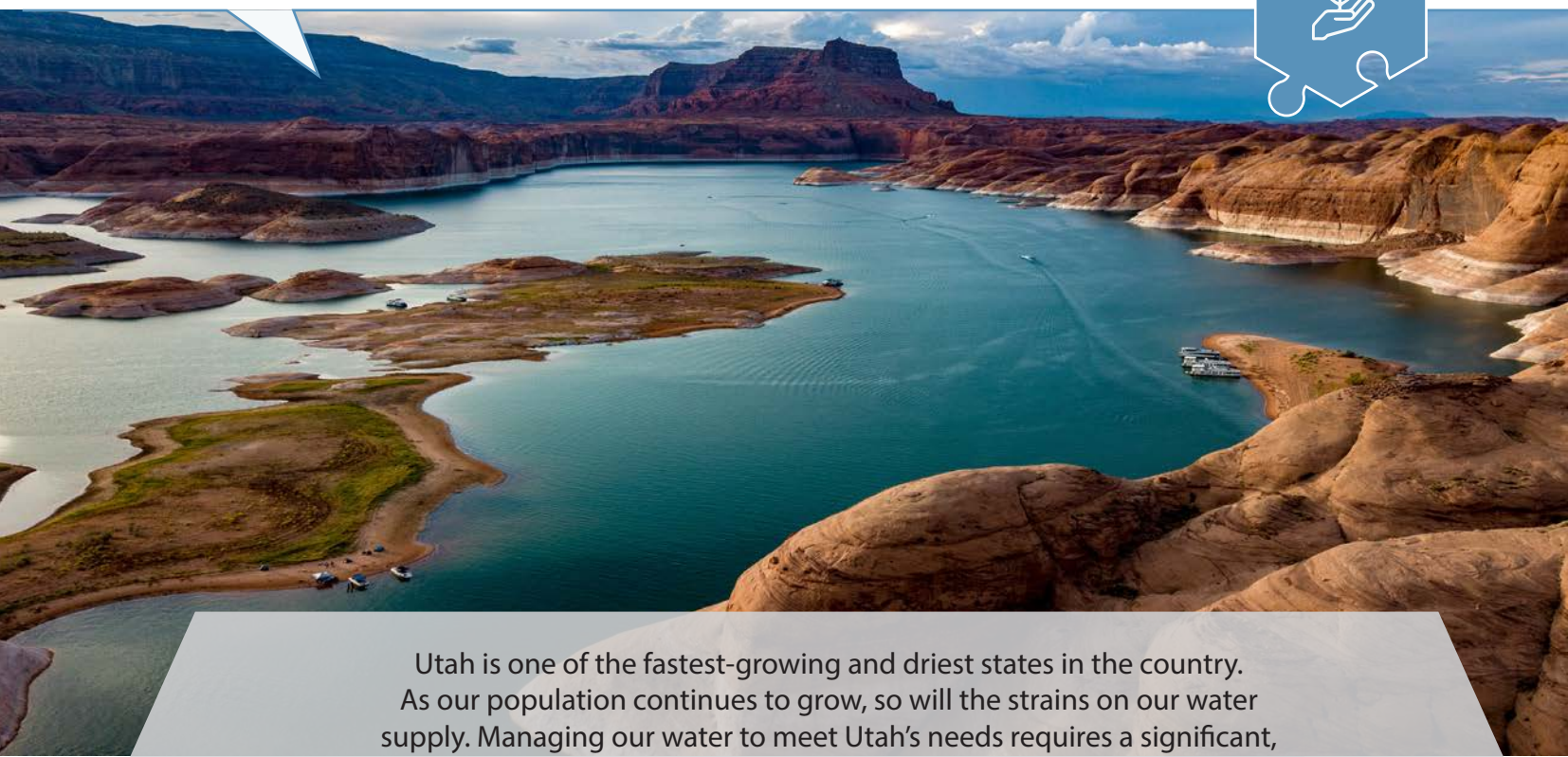
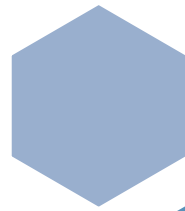


Utah is rich with resources that inspire, provide recreation, fuel industries, and create economic vitality. Responsibly utilizing and safeguarding our natural resources will ensure that current and future generations can continue to enjoy the natural abundance we all know and love.





# WATER



Utah is one of the fastest-growing and driest states in the country. As our population continues to grow, so will the strains on our water supply. Managing our water to meet Utah's needs requires a significant, coordinated, statewide effort. Over the next several years, we will increase water capacity, expand conservation efforts, prepare for future water needs, and enhance outreach efforts.



## THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

- Expand agriculture optimization and other conservation efforts
- Plan and prepare for future water needs
- Increase capacity by investing in technology and infrastructure
- Enhance education, outreach, and research efforts



Creating a public-private entity focused on water conservation, education, and outreach will help Utahns become conscious water consumers and streamline statewide conservation efforts.

**IN** **2022** Utahns conserved over **9 BILLION** gallons of water

enough to fill Panguitch Lake

We will build upon last year's policy success to encourage conservation and provide resources to help Utahns do their part to save water.

It will take the efforts of all Utahns – individuals, organizations, and governments – to return the Great Salt Lake to sustainable levels.

FOR EVERY

**\$1**

SPENT ON AGRICULTURE OPTIMIZATION EFFORTS IN 2022

THERE WAS A

**\$4.29**  
RETURN

RESULTING IN 174,000 ACRE FEET OF WATER SAVED

# STATEWIDE WATER STORAGE

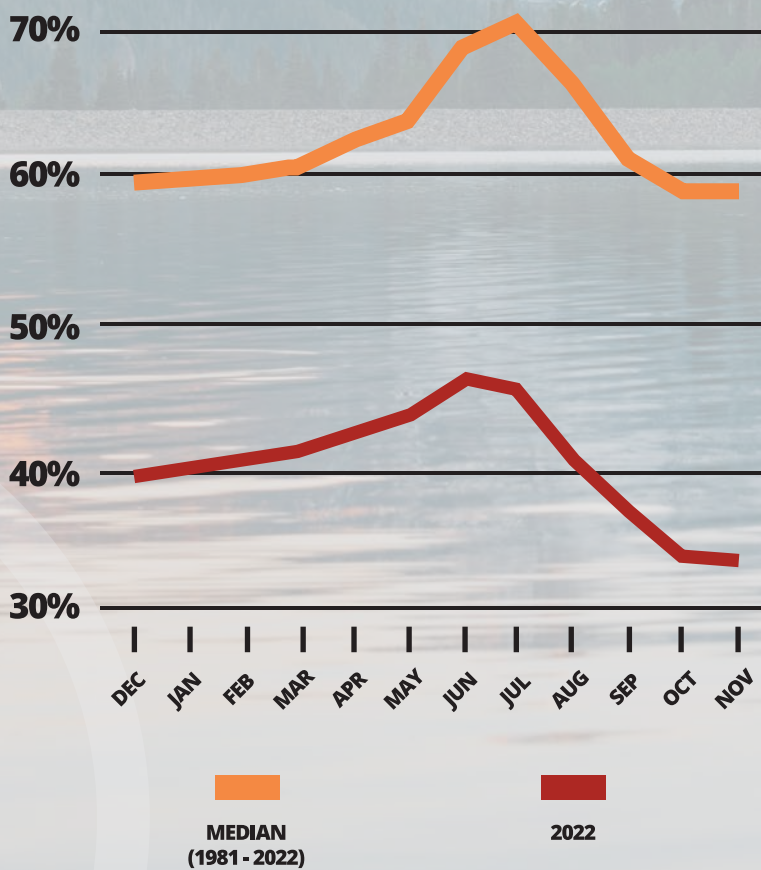
IS CURRENTLY AT

# 32%

OF CAPACITY



## RESERVOIR CAPACITY



MEDIAN  
(1981 - 2022)

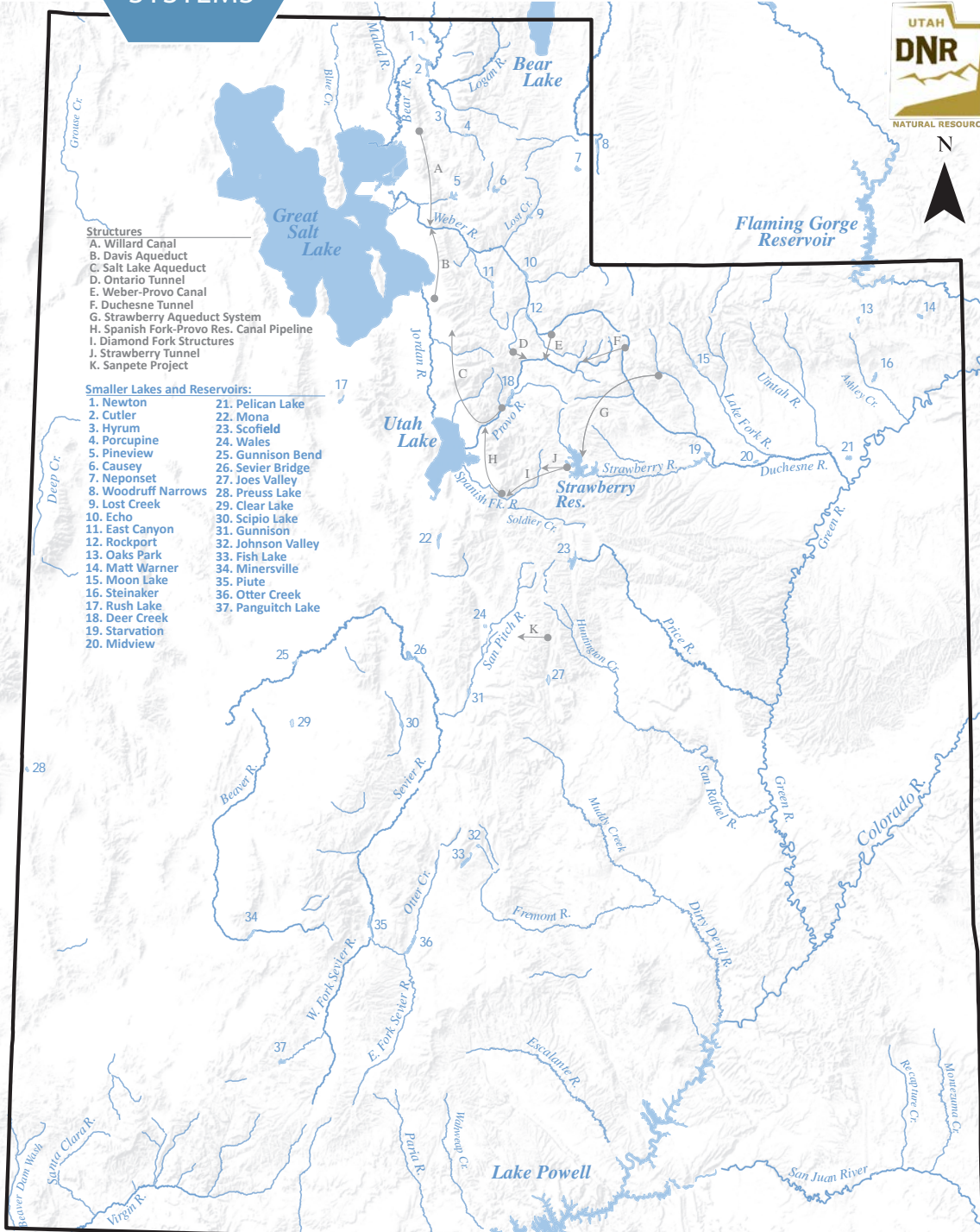
2022

Utah Division of Water Resources



In an arid state like Utah, innovation and infrastructure are key elements in developing and deploying water resources. From the Bear to the Colorado rivers, we must find ways to bring more water into our statewide system and ensure Utah's current water storage systems are up-to-date and modernized to help our state flourish now and in the future.

## UTAH'S WATER SYSTEMS





# ENERGY



Utah's measured, all-of-the-above energy policy has powered decades of prosperity by providing some of the most reliable and affordable energy in the country. As Utahns often do, we will apply common sense solutions and push back on federal regulatory overreach that threatens our ability to provide power to our state, fuel our economy, and maintain a high quality of life for the people of Utah.



## THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

- Safeguard Utah's ability to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power
- Explore ways to fulfill nuclear and advanced energy needs

# UTAH'S ENERGY STRENGTHS



## GEOHERMAL

Utah is home to the largest geothermal experiment in the nation managed by the University of Utah and located in Millard County.



## LITHIUM

Utah is projected to lead the nation in lithium production within a few years.



## CRITICAL MATERIALS

Utah possesses a very large percentage of the critical materials for the manufacture of sustainable energy technologies and a smarter energy transmission grid.



## ENERGY STORAGE

Utah has salt caverns not found anywhere else in the country that can be used for large scale hydrogen or natural gas storage.



## NUCLEAR

Utah has a strong relationship with the Idaho National Laboratory, the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research & development and the land & infrastructure to introduce safe, clean, reliable nuclear power to our region.



## WIND AND SOLAR

Utah has excellent wind and solar quality and accessible land for developing renewable energy facilities.



## CLEAN COAL

Utah has some of the cleanest coal in the western US.

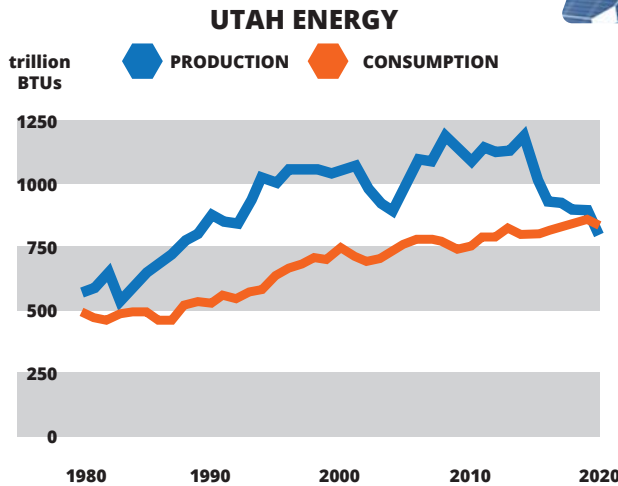


## CENTER OF POWER TRANSMISSION

Utah is a regional energy hub with unmatched transmission infrastructure.

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

UTAH HAS BEEN A NET ENERGY EXPORTER SINCE 1980, PRODUCING 26% MORE ENERGY THAN CONSUMED. IN 2020 WE BECAME A NET IMPORTER OF ENERGY.



SOURCE: US ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

As we continue to move towards cleaner sources of energy generation, nuclear power is the key to providing cheap, reliable, and consistent baseload power other sources of renewable generation cannot.



Moonshot investments in energy research and workforce development will prepare Utah for our energy future. We will work with Utah's higher education institutions to foster the scientific and engineering expertise needed to develop the next generation of nuclear power and advanced energy.

In the face of growth, changing technology, and security threats, we must protect the reliability of our electric grid.



# LAND MANAGEMENT



Utah's public lands provide beauty, abundant outdoor recreation opportunities, and a rich supply of natural resources. We must ensure our lands are managed in a way that provides benefits for Utahns today and for generations to come.



## THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

- Support our ability to manage Utah lands
- Support efforts to protect Utah from monument designation tug-of-war
- Improve wildfire response capability and shared stewardship
- Invest in outdoor infrastructure





2  
3

# OF UTAH'S LAND *is managed* by the Federal Government

With most of our land controlled by Washington, DC, every step made toward Utahns managing the land we live with everyday helps us get the most out of our lands and resources.



We must improve our wildfire response capability to keep costs low and keep Utahns safe when disaster strikes.



Recreating on Utah's public lands is a key driver of our quality of life and brings myriad economic and other benefits. We must provide tools to encourage investment in outdoor infrastructure on public lands.

# AFFORDABILITY

LOWERING THE COST TO CALL UTAH HOME



Utah's economy remains strong, but the cost of living continues to increase for individuals and families. From federal policies that drive inflation, to local policies in some cities that increase home prices, as lawmakers, we must look at the big picture and enact policies that improve housing, lower taxes, increase jobs, and benefit our economy.





# HOUSING



Housing prices in Utah have skyrocketed in recent years, making the reality of buying a home out of reach for many Utahns. The three-pronged challenge of rising interest rates, price inflation for building materials and labor, and overburdensome local housing regulations, has resulted in a housing supply shortage.



## THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

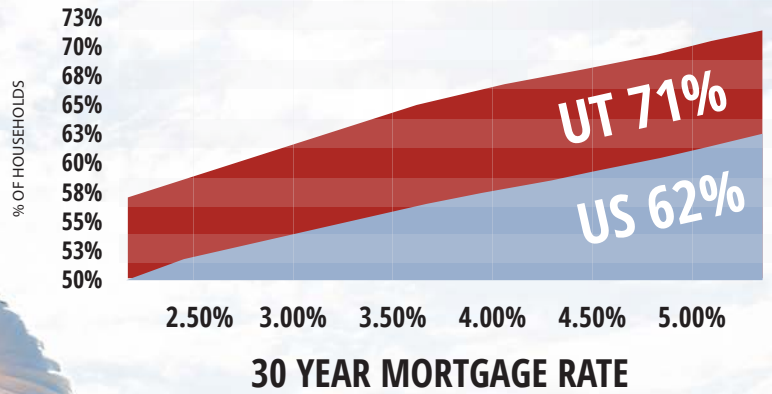
- Reduce regulatory barriers at the local level that limit housing supply
- Identify tools that facilitate market-based solutions to our housing shortage
- Support options to increase housing in rural Utah



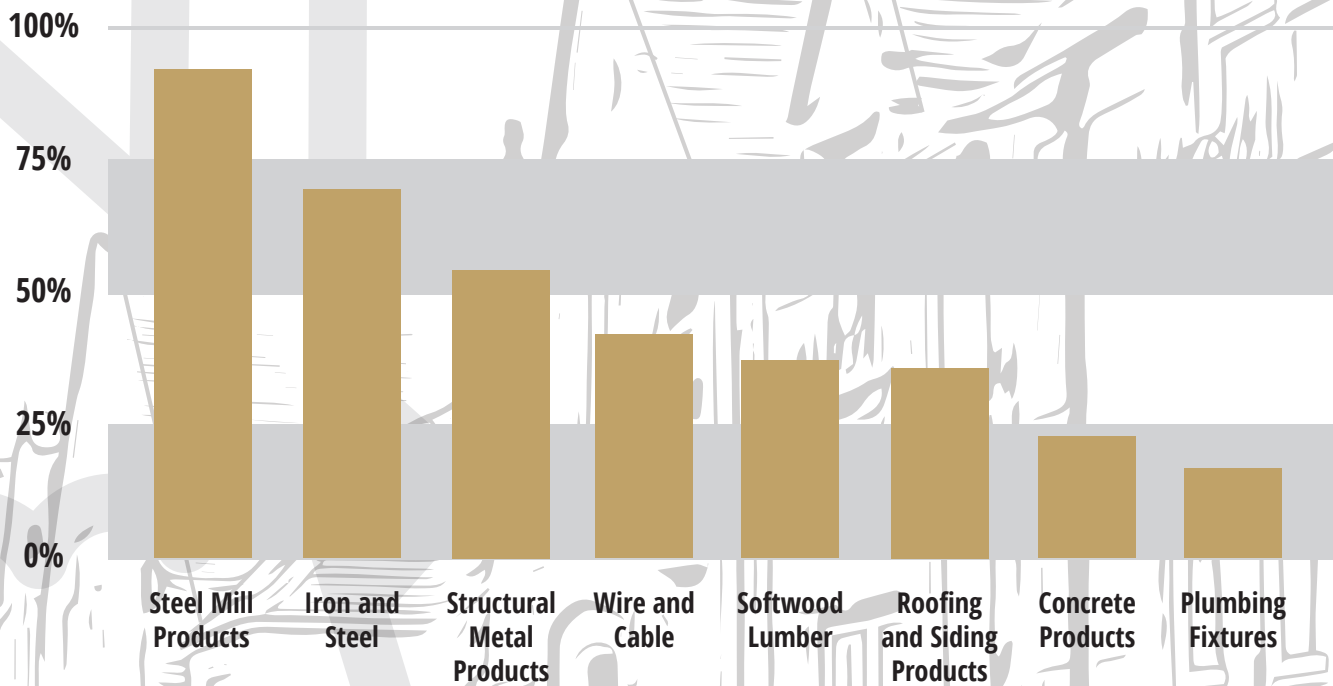


# HOUSEHOLDS PRICED OUT OF HOMES

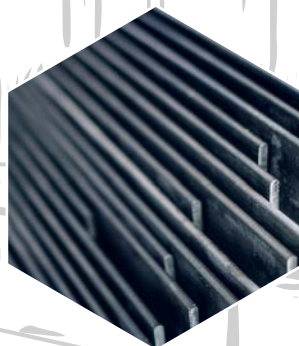
Mortgage rates are higher than they've been in over a decade making the dream of calling Utah home out of reach for many of our kids and grandkids.



## CONSTRUCTION COST INCREASES (Feb 2020 - 2022)

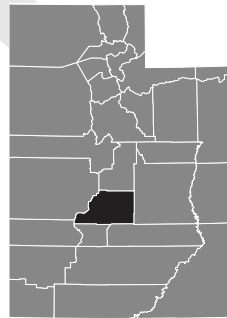


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics





FOR EVERY **4** FAMILIES **+** ADDED TO UTAH **3** NEW HOMES ADDED



IN SEVIER COUNTY, THE COST OF A HOME HAS INCREASED BY **OVER 49%** SINCE LAST YEAR.

### AVERAGE COST OF REGULATION

Changes to building codes over the past 10 years	11.10%
Costs when site work begins (fees, required studies, etc.)	8.50%
Dev. requirements (layout, mats, etc.) beyond the ordinary	5.40%
Fees charged when building construction is authorized	4.40%
Cost of applying for zoning approval	3.20%
Costs of affordability mandates (e.g., inclusionary zoning)	2.70%
Cost of land dedicated to the government or left unbuilt	2.40%
Pure cost of delay (if regulation imposed no other cost)	0.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.20%</b>

Source: National Association of Home Builders



### ADDRESS LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS THAT ADD TO THE PRICE OF HOMES.

With increasing price pressures, the last thing the housing market needs is additional fees, bureaucratic red-tape, and unnecessary regulations.



## GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

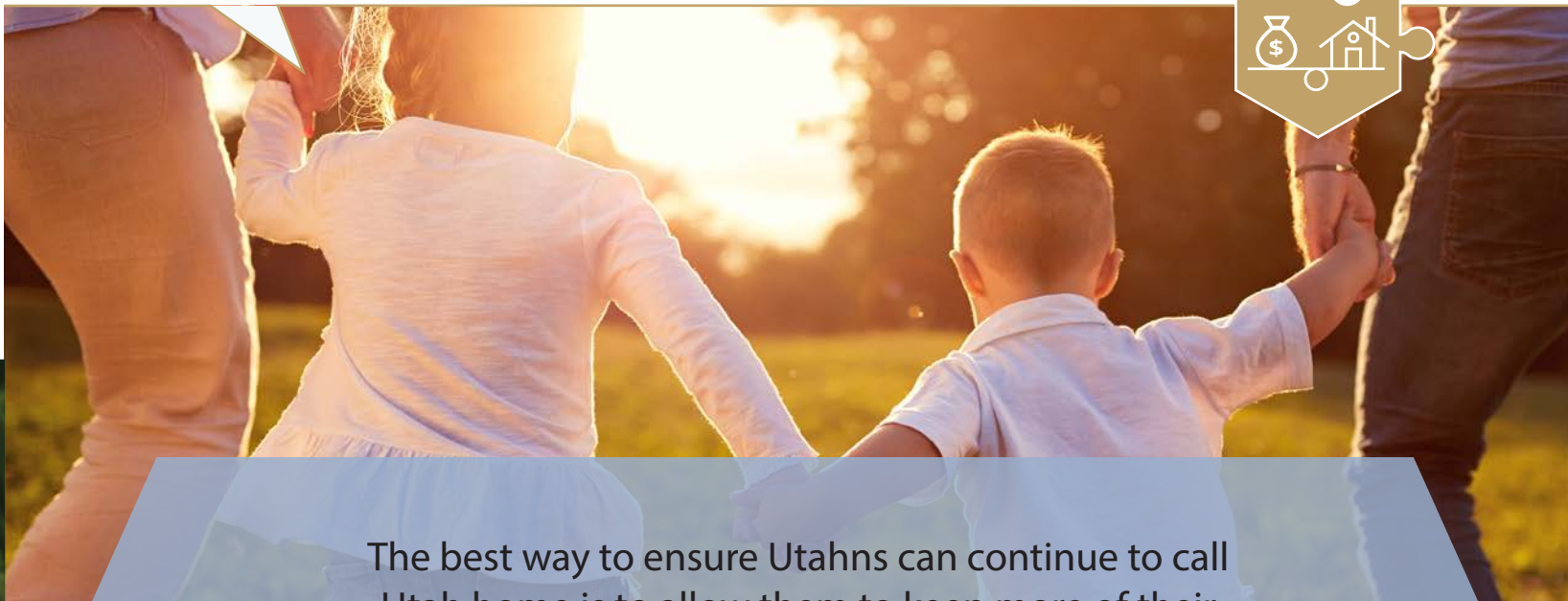
### THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

- Block efforts to distort financial markets and limit access to capital based on artificial and subjective criteria

Although not as obvious as taxes, fees, and other overt costs, government overreach distorts markets and places real financial costs on the people of Utah. Investment schemes based on political assessments of companies' Environmental, Social, and Governance outcomes are not sound investments for state resources.



# TAXES



The best way to ensure Utahns can continue to call Utah home is to allow them to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets.



## THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

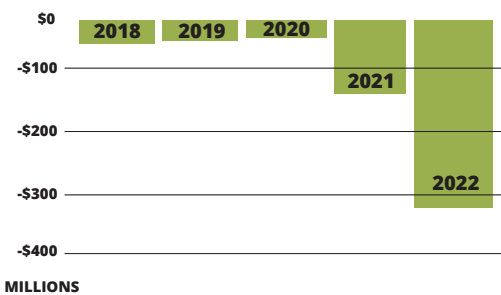
- Provide significant tax relief to Utahns through strategic tax cuts
- Carefully assess tax related policies that impact Utahns

OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS THE UTAH LEGISLATURE HAS PUT OVER

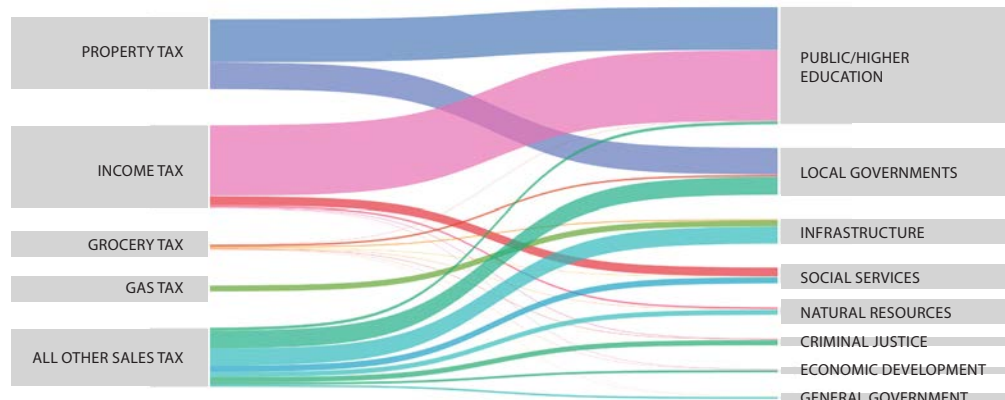
### \$325 MILLION

BACK IN THE POCKETS OF HARDWORKING UTAHNS.

#### CUMULATIVE TAX CUTS 2018-2022



#### WHERE UTAH TAXES COME FROM AND WHERE THEY GO



Utah will continue its commitment to lower taxes to cultivate the family and business friendly environment that makes our state a place where people thrive.

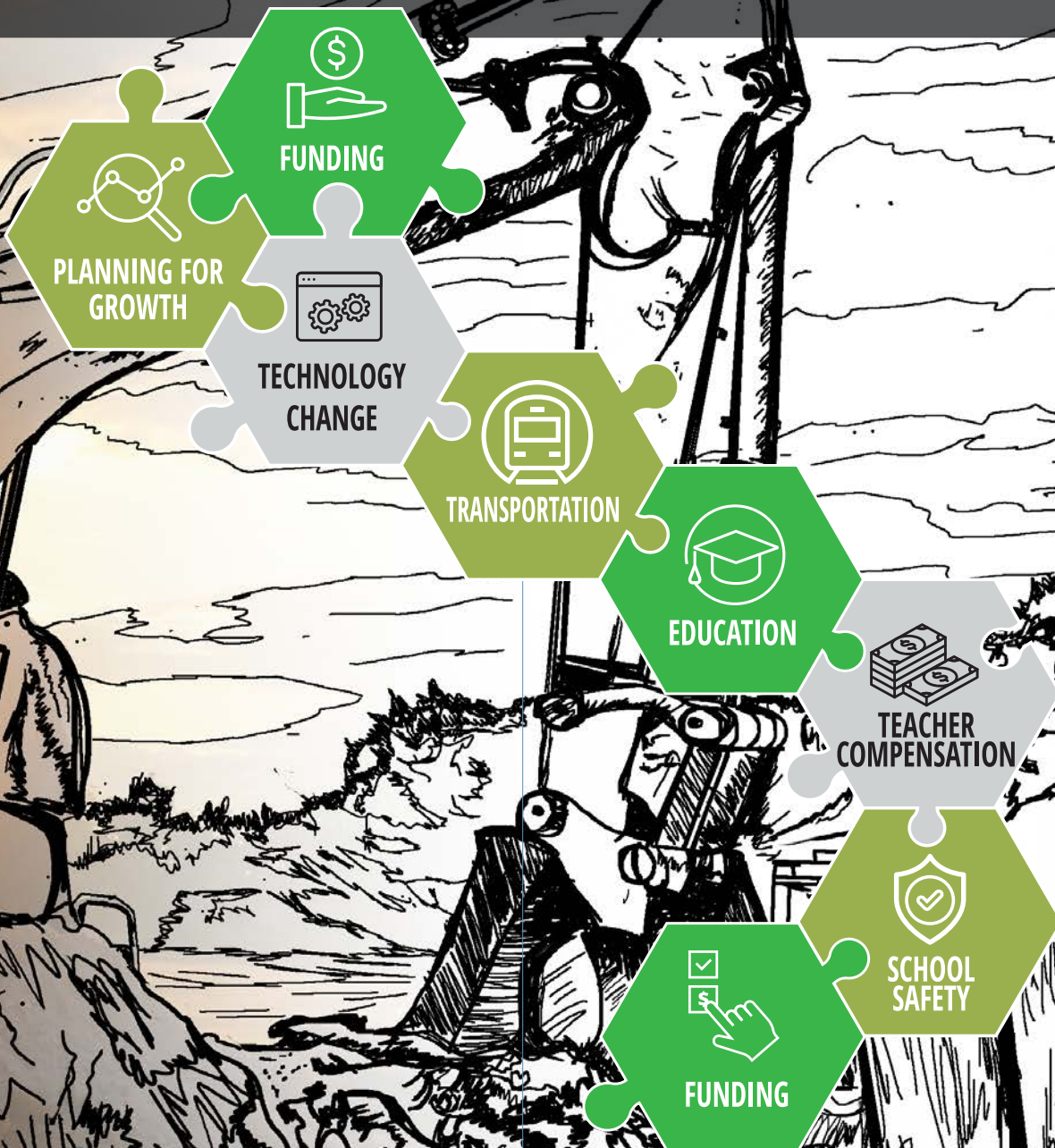
# INVESTMENT

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR FUTURE





Utah's growth comes as no surprise. Our top-ranked economy, natural wonders, and creative problem-solving not only attract new people to our state but motivate Utahns to continue calling our state home. Our commitment to planning for and investing in the future is more important than ever before as we prepare for technological change and continued growth.





# TRANSPORTATION



With changes in our transportation system come changes in how we pay for roads, transit, and other infrastructure at both the state and local levels. We must work together to meet the demands of a growing state and population.



## THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

- Extend transportation planning time horizons for future projects
- Continue to invest in multimodal transportation infrastructure
- Implement policies to ensure all road users contribute to the cost of road maintenance






WE MUST PLAN FOR GROWTH  
AND CONTINUE TO INVEST IN  
UTAH'S TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE.

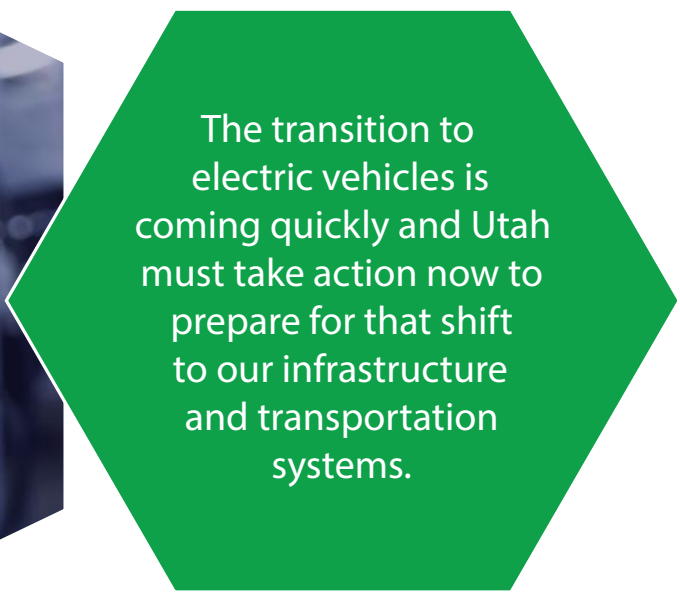
OVER  
\$1 BILLION  
INVESTED

IN UTAH'S  
TRANSPORTATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE

IN  
2022



IN 10 YEARS  
UTAH IS PROJECTED TO HIT  
4M PEOPLE  
AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES WILL BE OVER  
60% OF NEW CAR MARKET



The transition to  
electric vehicles is  
coming quickly and Utah  
must take action now to  
prepare for that shift  
to our infrastructure  
and transportation  
systems.





# EDUCATION




Education inspires upward mobility, fosters innovation, and opens the doors of the future. We must ensure our classrooms are a place of learning and safety and that each student can learn in a way that best fits their individual needs.



## THE UTAH WAY TOGETHER

- Increase teacher compensation
- Improve the way parental, student, and community concerns are addressed
- Expand teen mental health receiving centers
- Invest in student safety to ensure best practices are used to protect Utah schools
- Streamline teacher licensure
- Allow all students the opportunity to learn in a way that makes sense for them

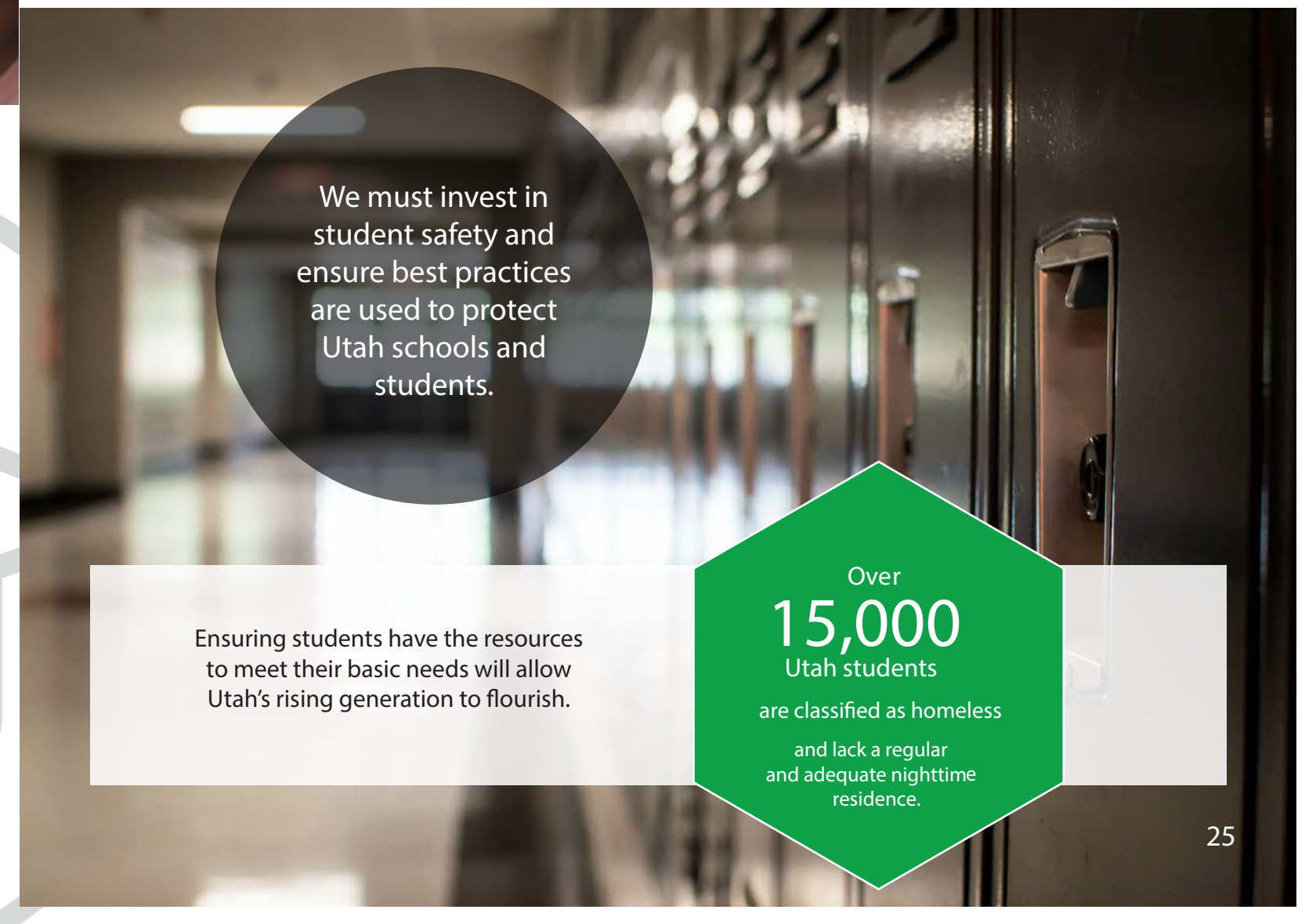




To improve teacher capacity and retention, we will work to streamline licensure and increase compensation.

**42%**  
of Utah teachers  
leave within the  
first 5 years

Parents need a way to have a voice in their children's education and educators need the time to spend with students to provide the education our kids need. A streamlined process to receive and address feedback will benefit everyone.



We must invest in student safety and ensure best practices are used to protect Utah schools and students.

Ensuring students have the resources to meet their basic needs will allow Utah's rising generation to flourish.

Over  
**15,000**  
Utah students

are classified as homeless  
and lack a regular  
and adequate nighttime  
residence.



## EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT

Supporting education means supporting the best approach for educating each individual child in the state.







**STEWARDSHIP**



**AFFORDABILITY**



**INVESTMENT**



**House Majority**  
State of Utah