



General Session 2019

LEGISLATIVE

# NEWSLETTER

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## General Session: Week Four

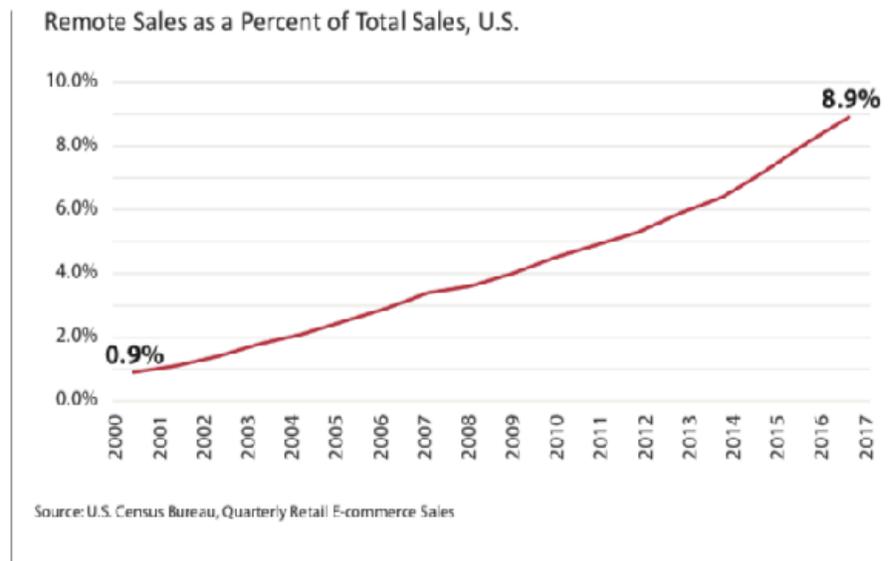
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# TAX REFORM

The first four weeks of the 2019 General Session have been very busy and eventful. However, several significant bills are yet to be presented and debated, including perhaps the most noteworthy topic of the session: tax reform.

With the drastic growth of Utah's economy, there is a critical need to restructure our current and outdated tax system to meet the needs of our growing population, modern economy, and changing spending habits.



Many constituents have taken the time to ask me about tax reform. I hope you find the information below on tax reform helpful.

## Services vs. Goods

Today, services account for a larger share of Utahns' purchases than ever before. In 1960, less than half of all personal expenses in Utah were in the service industry. Services now account for over two-thirds of consumer purchases in the state. This shift from a goods-based to a service-based economy is part of the economic development occurring due to the drastic increase in technological advances. Additionally, the sales tax base has decreased from 67% of taxable income in 1980 to 42% today.

## Baby Boomers

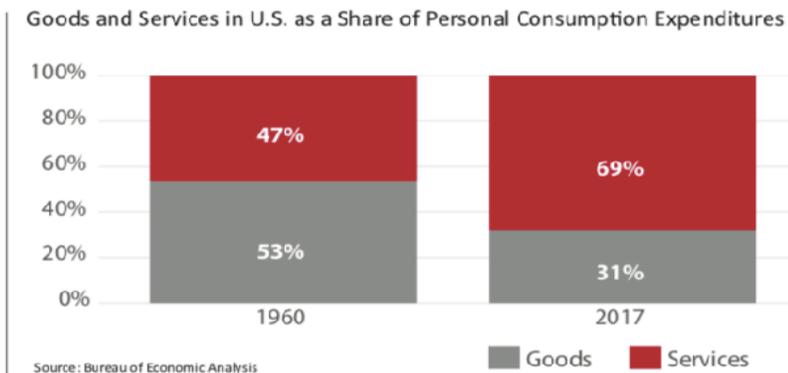
Due to an aging baby-boomer population, expenditure patterns have also experienced a shift over the last three decades. As elderly citizens increase their spending on tax-exempt services, such as medical expenses, the taxable base shrinks over time in a similar fashion. To put this in perspective, in 1985, 51% of household expenditures were taxable, but in 2015, only 41% of

those expenditures were taxable. Additionally, with the rise of e-commerce over the last two decades, less sales-tax revenue is being brought into the state.

## Taxes in the Past

Utah lawmakers have [modified the tax system several times](#) in the past to plan for the long-term fiscal stability of the state. For example, in the 1980s lawmakers increased income and sales tax

to account for the shutdown of Kennecott Copper and Geneva Steel – then Utah’s two largest employers. In the 2000s, the personal income tax base was expanded.



## Modern Tax Structure

In response to current economic trends, lawmakers are looking to broaden the tax base while lowering the overall rate. This will ensure future state revenue comes from stable sources as the economy continues to develop. As Utahns, we have a long record of making tough decisions with the future in mind. We will continue to take the long-view in crafting policy for the benefit of our children and our state’s future. This year’s tax system restructure is only a part of Utah’s proud history of looking toward the future with optimism and responsible policymaking.

# AT THE CAPITOL

This week was Arts Day on the Hill. Beautiful artwork filled the Rotunda as we celebrated the many creative abilities throughout the state.



My nephew's daughter, Noelle, was one of the talented young artists recognized at the capitol as she was presented a scholarship for her portrait, *Not Ophelia*.

I, along with Lt. Gov. Cox, presented the award to Noelle. Such a fun and unique experience!





Each year I hold a townhall meeting where anyone is welcome to come speak with me and ask any questions they'd like about policy and my work. I'm grateful for those who attend. Their input is critical to guide my votes in the legislature.

This group of nurse practitioners have fought day-in and day-out for HB 336, Nurse Practice Act Amendments. This will give nurse practitioners more flexibility to serve their patients. These are the people I would want by my side in any fight!





I recently won a bronze medal at the Phoenix, AZ games for mens volleyball. When my fellow Representatives got wind of this, they presented it to me on the floor.

So far during this session I have presented and passed 11 bills on the House floor.



# STUDENTS VISITING FROM DISTRICT 39

This week one school visited from district 39– Liberty Shining Light Commonwealth School. This school is actually a collaboration of parents who homeschool their children together. Both of the mothers there said it has given them the most amazing opportunity to continue learning along side, and from their children. It was a pleasure to meet this group of students, and to show them a little bit of what we do here at the Capitol.



Liberty Shining Light  
Commonwealth School

## FINAL NOTE

I would love for you to join me on the House Chamber floor. Sitting on the floor gives a unique perspective to the legislative process. If you would like to join me please reach out to my intern, Hannah. Feel free to either text or call her at 385-479-0833.