

2020 So Far and Looking Ahead



This marks our first release of quarterly e-News—a change from our monthly updates. In this extensive edition, we cover the major outcomes in the 2020 Utah legislative session, important event dates, labor rules and licensing, other various updates, and new opportunities.

« [Click here for information on your COVID-19 resources.](#)

2020 Utah Legislative Session Review

With the 2020 legislation session officially wrapped, we can all breathe easier for a number of reasons, including additional monies being allocated for clean air initiatives. During this session, the UMCA was actively engaged in at least fifteen pieces of legislation affecting the mechanical contracting industry, supporting two bills that were amended and five bills that passed. We also opposed four bills that effectively failed and were involved neutrally on four additional bills (two that passed, two that failed).

A highlight of this session, Senate Bill 23 and its amendment successfully passed despite opposition.

Senate Bill 23 to Improve Occupational Licensure

The UMCA worked with UA Local 140 to amend SB-23, a bill that allows anyone with a license in good standing in another state to receive a license in Utah. The successful amendment to SB-23 now requires the state to place a union plumber and a union plumbing contractor on the State Plumbing Board. (Read more about this on page 3).

Key Issues That Passed

Regarding the serious COVID-19 outbreak, \$24 million was allocated to fund the state's response. For more information and resources on COVID-19 visit our [UMCA website](#). In addition to funding the response to COVID-19, critical issues that were covered included reforms for polygamy, education, and tax bills:

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An expanded education funding reform was adopted, which will require voter approval in November to extend income tax dollars to programs for children and the disabled. Additionally, legislators increased the weighted pupil unit by 6 percent (one of the largest increases in recent years) and topped off the state's education rainy day fund, adding just over \$14 million.

A further \$11 million was allocated to the general fund, and legislators repealed the tax reform package passed in a December special session.

Legislators reached a compromise with Better Boundaries; Utahns keep citizen-adopted independent redistricting commission but with fewer controls on the Legislature's constitutional redistricting authority.

Other News

Legislators voted to suspend the press credentials of Bob Bernick, contributing editor of UtahPolicy.com, for one week for taking an unauthorized video of US Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, in the House Majority Caucus Room.

They further decided to send a certificate of appreciation to President Donald Trump, thanking him for taking several actions, such as cutting down the size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments in southern Utah. The decision to send the certificate did not require a vote.

Unchanged Issues

A number of political and civic issues were not reformed in this session:

- Extended gun background checks were not implemented.
- Tax cuts (even though the state saw \$921 million in both ongoing and one-time tax surpluses) were not approved.
- No attempts were made to single out “conservative” speech protections at Utah public colleges and universities.
- A study will not be required of a drug used to help minors transition their gender.
- Carrying a concealed lethal weapon is still only allowed with a concealed carry permit.
- US Sen. Mitt Romney was not censured for voting to convict GOP President Donald Trump on one count of articles of impeachment.
- No bill was passed to set up official recall procedures for US senators from Utah.
- SB-54, the current law allowing candidates to pick the signature-gathering route, delegate/convention route, or both to a political party’s primary election, was not drastically changed.
- A cabinet-level position in the executive branch to coordinate and command actions helping homeless citizens was not created.



Meet CODA—UMCA and UA Local 140’s New Drug Testing Company

In other news, documenting the progress we’ve made this year, the UMCA is entering into a new business partnership. We are excited to introduce CODA, our new drug testing company.

CODA (Consortium of Drug and Alcohol Testing and MRO Services) is a full-service drug and alcohol testing agency. Founded in 1988, CODA is one of the earliest TPAs in the industry and has been a pioneer since its inception. CODA strives to be the best in the industry with unmatched proprietary software, knowledgeable collection technicians, and timely drug test results.

CODA also has an experienced medical review officer who will work closely with donors to expedite any test results that need further confirmation. CODA is a confident and able partner to the UMCA and strives to bring exemplary service to their drug and alcohol testing programs; they only use the gold standard when it comes to our practices and procedures. CODA looks forward to a successful business relationship with all those involved within the association.

CODA's motto:
“Details Determine the Results”

Please reach out to CODA for any questions or concerns regarding the testing program: 801.561.2777.

Labor Relations Update

The leaders of the UMCA and UA Local 140 have been busy this year. The quarterly labor-management meeting was held recently, and a number of items were agreed upon that will be accessible online in the next couple months. Please review the updates below that may potentially impact you.

- **Electronic Out-of-Work List:** Local 140 has agreed to make the out-of-work list available electronically. Now contractors can view the list without traveling to the Union Hall. The list will be hosted securely on the UMCA server and updated weekly. Look for that resource to be made available in the coming weeks.
- **Plumbers 911:** UA Local 140 and the UMCA have established a subcommittee to assist with implementing the UA’s National Plumbers 911 Residential Plumbing Service Program. This is a very

exciting initiative that will create new market share opportunity for the UA Local 140 and UMCA partnership. Look for a comprehensive report in the coming months.

- **Manpower Projections:** While the full impact of COVID-19 is still unknown, we must plan for the future. By now you have received a request from the UMCA to share your manpower projections for the next twelve months. If you have not already, we urge you to participate in this important data collection effort. The Labor-Management Committee has been focused on strategies to grow the union's market share and to address manpower shortages in times of economic downturn. Your participation will aid us tremendously as we continue to plan and strategize going forward.

Utah State Plumbing Board

With the passage of SB-23, the UMCA will be looking for members to serve on the Utah State Plumbing Board. The bill will become effective May 11, 2020, at which time the UMCA will forward information for potential candidates to the director of the Department of Commerce, who will share his recommendations with Governor Herbert.

If you are interested, please submit your resume to Robert Bergman, at robert@umca.com, by the end of April.

CE Rule Update

The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing is sending a letter to all Utah contractors notifying them of the new continuing education (CE) requirement. One hour of energy conservation CE will be required to renew your contractor's license within the current renewal period, ending on November 30, 2021. (This one-hour energy conservation CE credit is part of six total required hours). The UMCA will facilitate this training for upcoming contractor license renewal needs.

Construction Trades Licensing Act Rule R156-55a-303b.
Continuing Education - Standards.
(1) (c) For all contractors with a renewal cycle that ends after January 1, 2020, at least one of the six hours described in Subsection (1) shall include energy conservation.

And don't forget to save the date! While the **ConTech Roadshow has been rescheduled**, the other events are still going forward as of the date of this publication. Please stay tuned in case of further changes.

| Save the Date | |
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| April 15 - 17, 2020 (CANCELED) | Western Mechanical Labor Management Conference in La Jolla, California |
| June 26, 2020 | UMCA Annual Golf Tournament at Park City Golf Club |
| September 10, 2020 (new date) | ConTech Roadshow at SLC Marriott University Park |
| September 14 and 15, 2020 | MSCA Dispatchers Professional Development Training at Little America Hotel |
| October 1, 2020 | UMCA Annual Trap Shoot at Lee Kay Public Shooting Range |
| December 10, 2020 | UMCA Annual Holiday Celebration at Utah Museum of Fine Arts |