



LUTHERAN ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY IN NEVADA

LEAN 2026 Utah Voter Guide

Faithful discernment for Utah's statewide ballot measures

On November 3, Utahns will choose candidates for public office and vote on two proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution. Their ballot language may be brief, but their effects can be significant and long-lasting for individuals, families, schools, communities, and public life.

LEAN's 2026 Utah Voter Guide is intended to help voters understand the amendments appearing on the ballot and consider reliable information as they prepare to vote. The guide also connects readers with relevant ELCA social teaching and civic-engagement resources.

LEAN serves congregations of the Grand Canyon and Sierra Pacific Synods, including **New Promise Lutheran Church in St. George**. We offer this guide to our Lutheran siblings throughout Utah as a resource for faithful discernment.

The ELCA Is a Public Church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America encourages faithful, nonpartisan participation in civic life. ELCA members are invited to learn about candidates and ballot measures, listen carefully to neighbors, and use the church's social teaching as a resource for moral discernment.

The ELCA's social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All* describes civic participation as one way Christians may take responsibility for the well-being of their communities. It draws on Luther's understanding of “daily bread,” which includes not only food and shelter but also “upright and faithful rulers” and “good government.”

Read the ELCA social statement at [ELCA.org](https://www.elca.org).

Direct Democracy in Utah

Utah voters do more than elect representatives to the Legislature's annual 45-day general session — they may also shape state law directly through citizen initiatives and referenda.

Citizens may propose new laws by initiative, but amendments to the Utah Constitution must be proposed by **a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature** and then approved by a majority of voters. Both amendments on this year's ballot were proposed by the Legislature in its 2025 General Session.

See vote.utah.gov for the official voter information pamphlet and full amendment text.

“Take time to read each question, understand what a ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ vote would do, and cast a complete ballot. Informed participation is one meaningful way to care for our neighbors and the common life we share.”



How to Approach This Ballot

Vote Ballot Measures First

It is important to research every part of the ballot, including the questions that appear after candidate races. Constitutional amendments can shape Utah's laws, democratic processes, taxation, and public institutions for decades — and they are easy to overlook or skip when time is short.

This year Utah voters will decide two constitutional amendments, labeled **Amendment A** and **Amendment B** on the ballot. If a majority of voters approve either one, it becomes part of the Utah Constitution. When voters skip these questions, fewer people make decisions that affect everyone.

Use this guide alongside your county sample ballot, the Lieutenant Governor's official voter information at vote.utah.gov, and the full text of each amendment. Share it with family, friends, neighbors, and congregations who may find it helpful.

Vote Faithfully

LEAN takes positions only on those measures that relate to its policy priorities, as set forth in Matthew 25 — to love and seek justice for “the least of these” — and ELCA social teaching via its Social Statements and Messages. Positions were adopted by the LEAN Policy Committee on October 6, 2026.

In baptism, we are called “to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,” and “to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” Faith informs not only whether we participate in civic life, but how we weigh the effects of public policy on our neighbors — especially those whose voices are too often overlooked.

BALLOT	AMENDMENT	LEAN POSITION
Amendment A	Publication of proposed constitutional amendments (H.J.R. 10)	No Position
Amendment B	60% vote requirement for tax-related citizen initiatives (S.J.R. 2)	Oppose

UNDERSTANDING LEAN'S POSITIONS

- **Strong Support** — ELCA social teaching addresses this issue directly.
- **Support** — ELCA social teaching addresses this issue generally.
- **Neutral** — The amendment relates to two or more social teaching documents in a contrary or contradictory way.
- **Strong Oppose** — ELCA social teaching addresses this issue directly.
- **Oppose** — ELCA social teaching addresses this issue generally.
- **No Position** — ELCA lacks social teaching upon which to decide.



The Two Amendments, Explained

Amendment A shows a plain-language summary; Amendment B shows the proposed constitutional text. See your sample ballot for the official ballot wording.

AMENDMENT A

Publication of Proposed Amendments

LEAN POSITION: NO POSITION

Should the Utah Constitution be amended to replace the requirement that proposed constitutional amendments be published in newspapers in every county for two months with a requirement that they be published, in a manner provided by law, for 60 calendar days before the general election?

A "YES" VOTE

Would remove the newspaper requirement and let state law set how proposed amendments are published for the 60 days before an election.

A "NO" VOTE

Would keep the current requirement that proposed amendments be published for two months in at least one newspaper in every county where a newspaper is published.

WHY NO POSITION

Amendment A concerns how voters are notified of proposed amendments. ELCA social teaching affirms transparency and an informed public but does not address particular forms of public notice. Voters may consider whether it keeps notice accessible to all Utahns, including those with limited internet access.

Related ELCA social statement: Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All.

AMENDMENT B

60% Vote for Tax Initiatives

LEAN POSITION: OPPOSE

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE — ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1(2)(a)(iii)

Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A), initiated legislation that is subject to a vote that occurs after November 1, 2026, shall be adopted upon approval of at least 60% of those voting on the legislation if the initiated legislation includes:

(A) the imposition of a new tax;

(B) an expansion of an existing tax to include additional items or transactions subject to the tax;

(C) an increase in an existing tax rate; or

(D) for a property tax, a change to the tax rate that causes the tax rate to decrease less than it would under current law.

A "YES" VOTE

Would require tax-related citizen initiatives to win at least 60% of the vote. The rule applies to initiatives voted on after November 1, 2026, including any on this year's ballot. Other initiatives would still pass by simple majority.

A "NO" VOTE

Would keep the current rule that all citizen initiatives, including those involving taxes, pass with a simple majority of those voting.

WHY OPPOSE

ELCA social teaching affirms broad democratic participation, equitable taxation, and government's duty to seek the well-being of all, especially people living in poverty. Amendment B would let a minority of voters defeat a tax initiative backed by just under 60%. In 2018, Medicaid expansion passed with 53.3% and relied on new tax revenue; under this rule, it would have failed. Supporters argue tax increases need broad consensus, and such proposals deserve scrutiny. But holding citizen revenue measures to a higher bar than other initiatives — while the Legislature may still raise taxes by simple majority — weakens majority rule and the people's ability to meet shared needs.

Guiding ELCA teaching: Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All; Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All; Social Message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy."

LEAN positions were adopted by the LEAN Policy Committee on October 6, 2026. This guide is a resource for discernment — it does not replace your county sample ballot or the official text of each measure.