

Resolution 2018-003

(A) Resolution about the motor and special fuel tax

(B) We, the members of the Utah League of Cities and Towns find:

Whereas, the motor and special fuel tax (gas tax) provides significant revenue to cities and towns to address transportation needs; and

Whereas, the gas tax operates as a surrogate for a user fee of the road system; and

Whereas, ULCT has publicly supported legislative efforts to increase and modernize the gas tax, including through HB 362 in 2015 and SB 136 in 2018; and

Whereas, ULCT negotiated in 2007 the formula for the gas tax that entitles cities, towns, and counties to 30% of the gas tax revenues; and

Whereas, the gas tax distribution formula is a ULCT endorsed consensus formula, with 50% based on weighted lane mile and 50% based on population for the 30% local portion; and

Whereas, the Utah State Legislature passed HJR 20 in the 2018 session which poses an opinion question to voters whether “to provide additional funding for public education and local roads, should the state increase the state motor and special fuel tax rates by an equivalent of 10 cents per gallon?”; and

Whereas, the primary impetus of HJR 20 was to increase funding for education, but the funding method of gas tax would also provide needed revenue for local government transportation needs; and

Whereas, if voters approve Question 1, the Utah State Legislature will have to take official action to ratify the will of the voters, increase the gas tax, and allocate an equivalent amount to 70% of the gas tax for public education and 30% to local roads.

(C) THEREFORE, we, the members of the ULCT resolve that:

1. Cities and towns support legislative action, either through the legislature or directly by the people, that would result in an increase of the gas tax.
2. Cities and towns support efforts to inform the general public about local transportation funding needs in order to repair, replace, or construct vital road infrastructure.
3. Cities and towns urge the Utah State Legislature, if voters approve Question 1, to increase the gas tax by ten cents.
4. Cities and towns urge the Utah State Legislature to allocate the ten cent gas tax increase according to consensus formulas.

Submitted by:

The ULCT Board of Directors

September 11, 2018