

Volume 1 Issue 3

UTRSOL WEEKLY

Utah for Rational Sex Offense Laws

Week of July 20 – July 24, 2026

This was a milestone week for UTRSOL's governance and legislative tracks. We held our first formal Board of Directors meeting, submitted our federal 501(c)(4) application, advanced sponsor outreach for three 2027 session bills, and built a promising new coalition partnership around housing research. Here's the rundown, track by track.

ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONE: FORMALIZING OUR BOARD

UTRSOL held its first formal Board of Directors meeting on Monday, July 20. The Board adopted our Bylaws, elected the Board's official officers, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Relations Director, and formally accepted our first membership applications. The Board also selected our primary banking partner for organizational banking. With this structure in place, our nonprofit attorney submitted UTRSOL's federal 501(c)(4) tax-exempt application to the IRS on July 23, a major step toward the recognition timeline we shared last month. This sequencing was intentional: establishing clear governance and financial infrastructure first ensures UTRSOL is built to sustain its growing legislative, housing, and coalition work for the long term. With our foundational structure now in place, our focus shifts to strengthening the internal systems that will support that work in the years and months to come.

LEGISLATIVE TRACK: 2027 SESSION SPONSOR OUTREACH

We advanced sponsor outreach this week for three bills headed into the 2027 General Session. Two bills restore protections dropped from this year's criminal justice legislation: a statutory victim and agency notification scheme, and lived-experience victim representation on the state Sentencing Commission and Victim Services Commission. A third bill, a comprehensive ban on underage marriage in Utah closing multiple existing legal avenues to it is currently being drafted with exploratory legislators for sponsorship. UTRSOL supports victim rights legislation because meaningful criminal justice reform must serve both public safety and the people directly harmed by crime, and we believe evidence-based policy and strong victim protections are complementary, not competing, goals.

HOUSING TRACK: A NEW COALITION PARTNERSHIP

We met in person with Homeless Veterans Fellowship (HVF) in Ogden on July 24 to present our housing research and explore a data and referral partnership. We walked through our three-barrier framework for understanding registry-related housing exclusion, Good Landlord Program training curricula, supervision proximity zones, and reentry program exclusion policies. We also shared our growing landlord referral network and discussed two specific policy opportunities worth pursuing together.

COALITION AND EMPLOYER NETWORK BUILDING

Our conversation with the Utah Department of Corrections' Second Chance Employer Network ("The Hive") continued this week, as we work through their board's membership review process. In the meantime, we've been invited to present UTRSOL's work directly to the network as an interim step at their September meeting, which we see as a meaningful opportunity to build visibility with second-chance employers even before formal membership is finalized. We're optimistic this early engagement will lay the groundwork for a strong, lasting partnership once the review process concludes. In the coming weeks, we'll continue preparing employer-facing materials and refining our talking points so we can make the most of this presentation opportunity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HOUSING CASEWORK

We continued to hear directly from the community this week, including new prospective members reaching out to learn more about getting involved, and individuals sharing firsthand supervision and housing experiences that inform our advocacy work. We also built a new, more comprehensive residential intake application to better capture housing preferences, household composition, and support needs for individuals seeking placement through our network. These direct conversations remain one of our most valuable sources of insight, keeping our advocacy grounded in the real challenges our community faces.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Monday July 27 — UTRSOL Board Meeting
- Monday July 27 — Alpha Counseling Introductory Presentation
- Friday July 31 — Draft rule language for Utah State Board of Education (USBE) released

August

- August 6 — Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Board Meeting
- August 10 — Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) Advocacy Outreach
- August 14 — Salt Lake Housing Stability Division HEART Homeless Resource Fair
- August 19 — Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Hearing
- August 25 — Utah Valley Job Fair (Provo)
- August 30-September 1 — Rental Housing Association (RHA) Housing Conference

September

- September 2 — Weber County Community Reentry Coalition Meeting
- September 16 — The Hive
- September 29-October 1 — UDC Ranger Simulation

UTRSOL is an evidence-based policy research and advocacy organization. This newsletter is distributed to external partners, coalition members, and stakeholders to share updates on our research, legislative activities, and organizational initiatives.