State of the Debate

Debate: Utah, not making the trains run on time ...

Salt Lake Tribune July 8, 2015

Link: http://www.sltrib.com/home/2710423-155/debate-utah-not-making-the-trains

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." — Douglas Adams

Seriously, what's the point in living in a one-party state if the government can't make up its mind and get stuff done? Seriously?!?

— <u>Utah Prison Relocation commission will miss its deadline</u> — Matt Canham | The Salt Lake Tribune | Today

"A panel designated to recommend where to build a new Utah State Prison is going to miss its Aug. 1 deadline, extending a politically contentious process by at least one month, maybe two.

"The culprit? Reams of technical reports on everything from road access to wilderness characteristics on the four potential sites. ...

" ... The sites under consideration include land west of the Salt Lake City International Airport, at the south end of Eagle Mountain, near the tiny town of Fairfield and behind the Walmart Distribution Center in Grantsville.

"None of the cities want the prison, which is now located in Draper. Organized opposition groups, often including mayors and city council members, are fighting to keep it out of their area.

"The commission, including [Co-Chairman Brad] Wilson, argue the decision will come down to the technical details, essentially where it will be easier and more affordable to build a \$550 million, 4,000-bed prison. ..."

— <u>Utah leaders change Medicaid expansion deadline again</u> — Annie Knox | The Salt Lake Tribune | Yesterday

"Utah's governor and state lawmakers will miss their self-imposed, July 31 deadline to reach a deal on Medicaid expansion.

"Gov. Gary Herbert and a working group of GOP legislative leaders hope to pitch a compromise plan when the 2016 Legislature opens in January, House Majority Leader Jim Dunnigan said Tuesday.

"For several years, state leaders have been unable to craft a plan to provide health care to Utahns who fall into a coverage gap under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). But many had pledged that this month's deadline was hard and fast. Now that, too, has been put off.

" 'It's been helpful to have some time go by,' Dunnigan said in a news conference at the Capitol, noting that he recently picked the brains of legislative leaders in Illinois and Arkansas.

"Advocates disagreed, slamming state leaders for running out the clock.

" 'These are real Utahns who are being left out of health care options,' said RyLee Curtis, Medicaid policy analyst at the Utah Health Policy Project. ..."

Related:

- <u>Utah Cares: fewer services to fewer people, greater cost than Healthy Utah</u> Voices for Utah Children
- " ... Only Healthy Utah effectively closes the coverage gap. Thousands under Utah Cares will have access only to primary care, which covers only a small part of health care needs. ..."
- Medicaid Expansion May Have to Wait Until 2016 Session Bob Bernick | Utah Policy

"A new economic study comparing Gov. Gary Herbert's Healthy Utah Medicaid expansion – Healthy Utah — and the GOP Utah House's plan called Utah Cares finds Healthy Utah provides six times the financial benefits.

"But the House's expert on Medicaid expansion — Majority Leader Jim Dunnigan, R-Taylorsville – says the report is already outdated, biased and worth little in the current Medicaid expansion debate. ..."

- Report stirs debate on Utah's Medicaid expansion plans... again | Caroline Connolly | Fox 13
- Recommendation about new prison site may not come until October
 Lisa Riley Roche |
 The Deseret News