



# GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING & BUDGET

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## GOBP History

In 1963, the State Planning Coordinator's Office (SPCO) was created ([Laws of Utah, 1963, Chapter 157](#)) to promote coordinated planning across state government. To address concerns that individual agencies could not, "foresee the consequences on the whole system of government or society of their use of public resources" ([Office of Planning and Budget, 1984, p. 3](#)), the State Planning Coordinator position was to oversee statewide strategic planning and development.

The Budgetary Procedures Act was passed by the Legislature in 1969 to establish a formal framework for Utah's budgeting process ([Laws of Utah, 1969, Chapter 207](#)). This Act detailed the responsibilities of the Governor and the Legislature in preparing and overseeing the state budget. Over the years it has undergone amendments and recodifications to reflect evolving fiscal policies.

In 1979, recognizing the need for a more centralized budget and planning process, the Utah Legislature created the State Budget Office to be housed within the Division of Finance ([Laws of Utah, 1979, Chapter 227](#)). The State Budget Office was separated from the Division of Finance that same year and placed under the Office of the Governor, marking its official establishment as an independent entity ([Office of Planning and Budget, 1984, p. 36](#)).

Beginning in 1981, specific policy and planning themes were developed. "These themes were identified after economic and demographic data were analyzed and after state conditions and departmental issues were examined" ([Office of Planning and Budget, 1984, p. 10](#)).

In 1983, Governor Scott M. Matheson consolidated the State Budget Office and the State Planning Coordinator's Office into a single entity, the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), formalizing the integration of budget and planning functions ([Office of Planning and Budget, 1984, p. 10](#)). This restructuring ensured that long-term planning and fiscal management were more closely aligned, allowing for more strategic resource allocation and government efficiency.

In 2003, OPB was integrated into the Governor's Office and officially renamed the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) to better reflect its comprehensive role in state government operations ([Laws of Utah, 2003, Chapter 16](#)).

The name was changed to the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) in 2013 ([Laws of Utah, 2013, Chapter 310](#)), but reverted back to GOPB in 2021 ([Laws of Utah, 2021, Chapter 310](#)).

Throughout the years, the office has adapted to various challenges, including economic recessions, shifts in state revenue sources, and evolving policy priorities. It has played a crucial role in modernizing Utah's budgeting process, increasing transparency, and enhancing government efficiency and accountability.

With its unique position within the Governor's Office, the office is responsible for a wide range of functions, both statutorily and administratively mandated. Over time, it has expanded its role in overseeing contracts, conducting studies, and the prudent management of state resources.

**Executive Directors  
Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget  
1983-2025**

Michael D. Zuhl (Governor Matheson 1983 - 1985)  
Dale C. Hatch (Governor Bangerter 1985 - 1991)  
Charles E. Johnson (Governor Bangerter 1991 - 1993)  
Lynn N. Ward (Governor Leavitt 1993 - 2003)  
Richard K. Ellis (Governors Huntsman Jr. & Walker 2003 - 2006)  
John E. Nixon (Governors Herbert & Huntsman Jr. 2006 - 2010)  
Ron Bigelow (Governor Herbert 2010 - 2012)  
Kristen Cox (Governor Herbert 2012 - 2021)  
Sophia DiCaro (Governor Cox 2021 - present)

**State Planning Coordinators  
State of Utah - Planning Coordinator  
1963-2025**

Robert Huefner (Governors Clyde & Rampton 1963 - 1967)  
Ken Olsen (Governor Rampton 1967 - 1971)  
Burt Carlson (Governor Rampton 1971 - 1976)  
Jed Kee (Governors Rampton & Matheson 1976 - 1978)  
Kent Briggs (Governor Matheson 1978 - 1981)  
Martha Dynner (Governor Matheson 1981 - 1983)  
Ralph Becker (Governor Matheson 1983 - 1985)  
Mike Christensen (Governor Bangerter 1985 - 1990)  
Brad Barber (Governors Bangerter & Leavitt 1990 - 2000)  
Natalie Gochnour (Governor Leavitt 2000 - 2002)  
Wes Curtis (Governors Leavitt & Walker 2002 - 2005)  
Richard Ellis (Governor Huntsman 2005 - 2006)  
John Nixon (Governor Huntsman 2006 - 2007)  
Kim Hood (Governor Huntsman 2007)  
Mike Mower (Governors Huntsman & Herbert 2007 - 2013)  
Alan Matheson (Governor Herbert 2013 - 2015)  
Evan Curtis (Governor Herbert 2015 - 2021)  
Laura Hanson (2021-Present)