

The Official Draper City Newsletter

DRAPER FORWARD

SEP / OCT 2026
draperutah.gov

Mayor's Message
2026-27 Property Tax



As your mayor and the City's budget officer, I want to share background on the property tax rate increase for the 2026–27 fiscal year. Draper has long maintained one of the lowest property tax rates in Salt Lake County — previously 0.000936, and now 0.001128. We have run an efficient operation with lean staffing for many years. In 2024, the city implemented its first tax rate increase in 17 years to

help address police and fire staffing and retention. That step helped, but property taxes still fall significantly short of covering public safety costs, and relying on fund balances to fill ongoing gaps is not sustainable.

With the tax increase this year, we'll collect roughly \$13.6 million in property tax. Our public safety budget is \$22.8 million. To completely fund public safety with property tax we would need to raise an additional \$9.2 million. Draper has a blended budget where every department is part of the total City budget. Sales tax revenue is added to property tax and other taxes and fees to fund everything, including public safety, core services, and the infrastructure that makes Draper a great place to live.

Our neighboring cities of Riverton and Herriman do not have a blended City budget. They have formed special service districts that completely cover public safety. Those service district tax rates are much higher than our total tax rate. Those cities use property tax to completely fund public safety. Their

sales tax and other revenue funds the rest of their general operations. If we did this in Draper, we would have no issues because our sales tax revenue would cover general City operations.

For a typical Draper home valued around \$941,000, this year's tax increase equates to roughly \$9.75 monthly on the City's portion of the tax bill. For a typical business valued at \$941,000, the monthly increase is about \$17.72. This is only the City's share of the overall property tax bill, which also includes schools, the county, and other entities.

This adjustment is part of a balanced, multi-year approach. Rising costs continue to pressure the budget. Projects, supplies, equipment, and personnel expenses have increased. Sales tax revenue, which in the past has been a major support, fluctuates and has been less reliable in recent years. These realities mean we need a thoughtful, long-term plan to keep

essential services strong without large, sudden jumps later.

Future years may include modest adjustments — some higher, some lower — to build stable funding for public safety and other needs while avoiding sharper increases down the road. Small, consistent steps over time maintain an adequate budget more smoothly than infrequent larger changes. We continue to seek new sales tax and business revenue for the City. Regarding revenue, we have a bright future with The Point.

We remain committed to careful stewardship of tax dollars. We appreciate those who participated in the public hearings process and provided input. Together we can keep Draper safe, well-maintained, and financially responsible for the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of our community.

Mayor Troy K. Walker

BACK-TO-SCHOOL & HALLOWEEN PET SAFETY

Draper Animal Services wants to thank everyone for taking care of their furry family members through the hot summer months. With summer coming to an end and the school year beginning, we would like to remind you to keep your pets safe as we leave them home alone and go off to work and school.

Prior to leaving pets home alone for the day, ensure gates and garage doors are closed and secure; we don't want pets running around the neighborhood unattended. It's not safe for them. We love when they come to visit us at the animal shelter, but know they would prefer to be home with the family, safe and sound.

This is a great time to make sure your pet has an updated collar tag with their name and phone number, along with a current Draper City animal license. We would like to remind you that if your pet needs a microchip, the Animal Shelter is happy to put one in, free of charge to Draper residents. As always, keep a bowl of fresh water, a few dog cookies, and a toy or two to keep them busy until their family returns home at the end of the day.

October / Halloween is always a great excuse to eat chocolate and candy. Unfortunately, it can be very dangerous for your pet.

Chocolate in all forms — especially dark or baking chocolate — can be very dangerous for cats and dogs. It contains a caffeine-like stimulant that, when ingested, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, racing pulse, and seizures.

It's hard enough for a human to stop at just one piece of candy, so imagine how difficult it is for a pet. Large ingestions of sugary, high-fat candy can lead to pancreatitis, which may not show up for two to four days after the pet ingests the candy.

Some well-intentioned neighbors try to provide healthier Halloween treats, like raisins. Although fine for people, raisins can cause severe kidney damage to your pet.

Treats themselves aren't the only threat — ingestion of foil and cellophane wrappers can cause life-threatening bowel obstructions, which often require surgical intervention. Make sure all candies and wrappers stay far out of reach of your pet and inform your children about the dangers.

Have a safe and fun school year and Halloween season!

Dogs need to be leashed any time they are off your property. Whether on a City sidewalk or public trail, there are benefits to having your dog under control. Leashes prevent dogs from running away or jumping on people, and keep them safe near roads.

Use a long or retractable leash to allow your dog to wander up to twenty feet to stop, sniff, and explore. This allows dogs a measure of freedom, without increasing the risk of their dog suddenly running off or venturing into private property or potential danger.

Dogs are allowed on-leash in City parks, on Bonneville Shoreline Trail and any trails below it, starting from Hidden Valley Park in Sandy to Potato Hill Trail in Draper. They may also be on the Potato Hill Trail and trails below to the Ann's Trail junction. Dogs are not allowed in the Corner Canyon watershed area, which includes trails above the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Dogs trained for and assisting persons with disabilities, law enforcement, or search and rescue work are permitted on all trails.

When walking a leashed dog, keep your pet within a reasonable distance to you to avoid disruptive contact with people or other animals. This can be particularly

helpful when exploring trails and open spaces, where you can encounter snakes and other wildlife.

If you want to let your dog roam freely, visit one of our three designated off-leash areas: Dayland Dog Park, Galena Dog Park, and the West Bluff trails at 1455 E. Deer Ridge Drive. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting these areas. Owners are legally responsible for the behavior of their dog(s), and must be present with them at all times. Owners must keep dogs under voice control, have only three (3) dogs per owner/user, and clean up dog waste immediately. Dogs must have a current City license and rabies vaccination.

Enjoy the trails, neighborhoods, and parks. We don't want to ruin your time with a citation, or worse — your dog running away or getting hurt. Help us out by keeping your pets leashed.

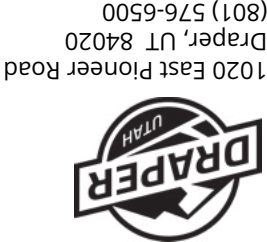


DRAPER CITY AFTER-HOURS CONTACTS

Parks Department: (801) 831-7194
Water Department: (801) 831-7212
Streets Department: (801) 831-7195
Non-emergency Fire/Police: (801) 840-4000

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City Council Message

Council Member
Mike Green



It’s hard to believe, but another summer has come and gone, and a new school year is already here. For many families, this season brings a mix of excitement, anticipation, and maybe a few first-day jitters. It also marks a fresh start and opportunities for students to learn, grow, and build new friendships.

As our neighborhoods become busier each morning and afternoon, I'd encourage all of us to do our part to keep students safe as they travel to and from school. As we settle back into our routines, here are a few important reminders:

Driver Awareness
If you’re driving, slow down in school zones and on school grounds. Speed limits are reduced near schools for a reason — children are present. Obey crossing guards and avoid distractions like cell phones.

Pedestrian Safety
Lots of students and families use crosswalks to get to school. Make eye contact with drivers before stepping into the street, follow crossing guard

instructions, and always use marked crosswalks.

Bus Safety
It is illegal and dangerous to pass a school bus displaying red flashing lights. Drivers must stop completely and remain stopped until the lights are turned off and the bus begins moving again. A few extra moments of patience can help prevent a tragedy.

E-Bike & Scooter Safety
Families should take a few minutes to review Draper City’s rules regarding helmet requirements, age restrictions, and where e-bikes and scooters are permitted. Knowing the rules helps everyone stay safe and can prevent citations and/or the confiscation of e-bikes and scooters.

Group Safety
Students are often safer when they walk or bike together and remain visible to drivers. Consider organizing walking or biking groups so children can travel safely with friends and neighbors.

Drop-Off Rules
Each school has specific drop-off and pick-up procedures. Follow posted signs, pull forward when directed, and avoid blocking crosswalks or double parking. A smoother traffic flow creates a safer environment for everyone.

Real Safety Starts at Home
Some of the most important safety lessons begin at home. From choosing the safest walking route to reminding children to stay alert around traffic, families play an important role in helping students develop lifelong safety habits.

To every student returning to school, I wish you a successful, rewarding school year. To our parents, teachers, school staff, crossing guards, and volunteers, thank you for everything you do to help our children learn and thrive. By working together, we can help make this a safe and successful school year for everyone.

Councilmember
Mike Green

STEEP MOUNTAIN: DRAPER’S MOUNTAIN OF ADVENTURE

If you’ve ever looked up at Steep Mountain from Flight Park and wondered why a scar runs straight up the hillside, you’re looking at a remnant of one of the most famous motorcycle hill-climb races in American history.

From 1964-88, Draper’s legendary Widowmaker Hill Climb challenged the nation’s best riders to conquer what many considered an impossible mountain. Organized by the local Bees Motorcycle Club, the event drew competitors from across the United States. Thousands of spectators lined the slopes to watch motorcycles battle their way toward the summit. The race became so well known that it appeared in the 1971 motorcycle documentary *On Any Sunday*, ABC’s *Wide World of Sports*, and frequent articles in *Cycle World* magazine.

To help preserve this remarkable chapter of Draper’s history, the Draper Historic Preservation Commission recently installed a commemorative plaque at Flight Park. The plaque tells the story of the Widowmaker, lists every champion from the race’s 24-year history, and points out the original racing lines that can still be seen on Steep Mountain today.

While researching the project, the Commission interviewed members of the Kimball family, one of the legendary families of motorcycle hill climb racing. Their memories reveal that the event was about far more than motorcycles.

The Widowmaker became a yearly reunion for racing families. Competitors traveled thousands of miles together across the western United States and Canada, helping each other repair broken bikes, sharing tools and parts, and forming lifelong friendships. As one racer recalled, if your motorcycle broke before a run, your competitors were often the first people to help get you back on the hill.

Widowmaker was unlike anything else in the country. Riders say there simply wasn’t another hill quite like Draper’s steep, rocky terrain.



For more than sixty years, people from around the world have come to this mountainside to challenge gravity — first on motorcycles, and today beneath silken wings. Photo courtesy of the Kimball family.

American competitors, who were primarily from California and Utah, built custom motorcycles to conquer the Widowmaker, then used the bikes to tackle other courses on the international hill climb circuit.

Today, Flight Park is known around the world for another gravity-defying sport. Pilots travel from across the country and around the globe to launch hang gliders and paragliders from the very same mountainside that once tested the world’s best hill-climb racers. The activities have changed, but the spirit of adventure remains.

The next time you’re visiting Flight Park, take a few minutes to stop by the new plaque. Read the names of the champions. Imagine the roar of engines echoing across the valley. Look up at the mountain and trace the race lines that are still visible today. They are more than scars on a hillside — they’re part of Draper’s story.



JOIN US FOR THE LIGHTS & LADDERS SAFETY FAIR
SEPTEMBER 10

Draper City is excited for the first combined Lights & Ladders Safety Fair that will be held Thursday, September 10 at Draper Park from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. In years past, these have been two separate events between the Police and Fire Departments, held in August and October, respectively. This combined event will give residents an opportunity to learn more about the duties and services of these departments, while getting to know our first responders in a fun, interactive environment.

The Lights & Ladders Safety Fair features activities for children and adults, fire and police vehicles on display, demonstrations, and much more. One of the booths and demonstrations will be from Draper Ready, the community initiative of Mikelle Molen, Miss Draper 2026. Mikelle’s initiative is dedicated to helping residents feel confident and prepared to respond when it matters most. By making emergency readiness education and certifications more accessible, Mikelle aims to ensure our community has the skills to act quickly and effectively.

“I’m very excited to have a booth at the Safety Fair,” Mikelle said. “I’ve always admired this event for the way it brings our community together while promoting practical safety education.”

Visitors at the Lights & Ladders Safety Fair can expect to learn about extrications, school resource

officers, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), crossing guards, and divisions within the Police Department, including K-9, SWAT, CSI, and more. At the Draper Ready booth, attendees can learn CPR, practice stopping life-threatening



Mikelle Molen, Miss Draper 2026, will represent her service initiative, Draper Ready, at the Lights & Ladders Safety Fair

bleeding, and receive guidance on emergency response and medical preparedness.

“The community is our heart and soul,” said Sgt. Cory Smith of the Draper City Police Department. “We normally do two events, one for Police and one for Fire, and we figured why not be a joint event this year and show each other that we’re partners in the community?”

The individual Police and Fire fairs have always been popular, fun events for families, and we’re excited to bring them both together for a bigger, better event. Learn more at draperutah.gov/safetyfair

DID YOU KNOW? Draper has its own Trails app!

New Features

- GPS route recording with distance and time tracking
- Drop pins to mark favorite spots on the map
- Enhanced trail search and filtering options
- Passive offline map functionality
- Dark mode support

This version represents a complete rebuild of the app with modern technology and user-requested features. Download offline maps and start exploring Draper's trails today!

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

DRAPER CITY RECYCLED MATERIALS REPORT
JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2026

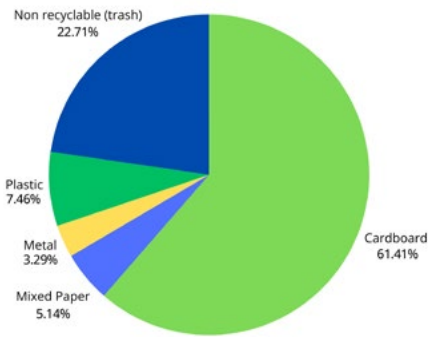
Curbside Recycling
During the 6-month period from January 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026 Our recycling trucks have picked up 762.46 tons of recyclables from your curbside blue lid recycling containers. We refer to this as mixed load collection because it includes plastic bottles, metal cans, corrugated cardboard, and paper. Each day we deliver these mixed loads to Rocky Mountain Recycling Services in Salt Lake City. Rocky Mountain Recycling is a material recovery facility (MRF). They use a state-of-the-art sort line, as well as trained staff to ensure that as much recyclable material as possible is reclaimed. The sorted cardboard, paper, plastic, and metal is then baled and sent to various production mills across the country to be made into new products.

Mixed Load Contamination
Rocky Mountain Recycling runs a test sort each month where our driver empties the load in an open area and then a recycling staff member sorts through the truck load and determines how much is recyclable and how much is contamination, meaning materials that cannot be recycled. Our average during this 6 month period is 22.71% contamination, which means 22.71% of what we pickup in curbside containers is not recyclable. This is where we need your help.

What can I put in my recycling can?
Cardboard (please flatten boxes), paper, newspaper, cereal boxes,

toilet roll and paper towel tubes, aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic containers with necks/ lids. The recycling can is for loose materials only — don't put recyclable items in bags.

Keep these things out of your blue-lid recycling can!
Plastic bags of any kind, fast food containers, greasy or soiled wrappers and packaging, wax-coated cardboard, Styrofoam, packing peanuts, bubble wrap, yard waste, and glass.



Glass
From the dumpster at City Hall we have recycled 56.8 tons of glass. We take the glass to Momentum Recycling, where it is cleaned, dried, and crushed, then sorted into various sizes ranging from pebbles to sand and even powder, depending on its end market. Momentum offers monthly curbside glass recycling in Draper. For rates and pickup schedule, contact them directly at 801-355-0334 or sign up online at utah.momentumrecycling.com/draper

TIPS FOR A SAFE, ENJOYABLE HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a favorite time of year for kids and families, but with costumes, candy, and more pedestrians on neighborhood streets after dark, it's important to keep safety in mind. A few simple precautions can help everyone enjoy a fun and fright-free Halloween.

Be Visible
Choose bright-colored costumes whenever possible, and add reflective tape or other reflective elements to costumes and treat bags. Carry a flashlight or glow stick so trick-or-treaters can see and be seen.



Watch for Traffic
Drivers should slow down and stay especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Trick-or-treaters should use sidewalks and cross streets at designated crossings when available. Look both ways before crossing and never dart between parked cars.

Choose Costumes Carefully
Make sure costumes fit properly and don't drag on the ground or create

a tripping hazard. Avoid masks or accessories that restrict vision, and choose soft, flexible props instead of sharp or hard objects. Flame-resistant materials are recommended, especially around candles and other decorations.

Stay Together
Young children should be accompanied by a responsible adult. Older children should stick with friends, follow an agreed-upon route, and check in with parents or guardians. Only visit homes that are welcoming trick-or-treaters, and never enter a stranger's home.

Check the Treats
Wait until you get home before digging into the candy. Parents should inspect treats before children eat them and discard anything that appears to have been opened or damaged.

Make Your Home Welcoming and Safe
If you're handing out candy, keep walkways, stairs, and porches clear of obstacles. Use battery-operated candles or other flameless lights in jack-o-lanterns and decorations whenever possible, and keep decorations away from open flames.

Most importantly, have fun! Halloween is a great opportunity to get outside, spend time with neighbors, and enjoy the creativity of the season. A little preparation can help make sure the only surprises are the seasonally spooky kind.

Happy Halloween from Draper City!

GLASS RECYCLING LOCATIONS

If you've recycled at the old Alta Canyon Recreation Center, please note that the drop-off dumpster was removed back in April due to ongoing construction. Draper residents can drop off glass at two locations in the City: there are glass dumpsters in the south parking lot at City Hall (1020 E. Pioneer Rd.), and the parking lot at IKEA (67 IKEA Way).



Winter Snowshoe Hiking
Featuring a new trail each week, learn about the area's history, flora, and fauna by escaping the inversion with other Draper residents on a winter hike. Showshoes and poles provided.
Who: Anyone age 16+
When: TBD; check website for details
Where: Instructor will contact participants in advance
Cost: \$35 per participant, per session
Register at draperutah.gov/recreation

Full Moon Snowshoeing
Join us for this exciting showshoeing experience. Sign up and enjoy Corner Canyon by moonlight!
Who: Anyone age 16+
When: January 22, February 20, March 22
Where: Instructor will contact participants in advance
Cost: \$15 per participant, per session
Register at draperutah.gov/recreation



2026 - 2027 DRAPER CITY MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL
BY CAROLINE SAGAE, DRAPER CITY MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL ADVISOR

The Draper City Mayor's Youth Council (DCMYC) is a phenomenal organization that keeps youth active in service for Draper City. The DCMYC provides youth grades 9 - 12 an opportunity to increase their knowledge of civic education through practical, hands-on experience. This year, there were 110 applicants accepted to the DCMYC — 62 are new Youth Council members, and 48 are returning.

We have an excellent Executive Board which consists of five Advisors and twelve Youth Council members that meet once a month to plan activities. We would like to thank them for all the hard work that they do during the year.

Our Executive Board for the 2026 - 2027

year are:
Activities
Andrea Page (Advisor), Kathy Kimball (Advisor), Payton Johnson (Youth Mayor), Ryan Cheng, Jerry Joseph, and Ana Paniagua-Vargas

Leadership
Joaquim Sagae (Advisor), Kimball Jones (Pre-Tem Mayor), Drew Dodson, Jack Romasanta, and Avery Spiel

Service
Mindy Van De Graaff (Advisor), Arie Van De Graaff (Advisor), Parker Van De Graaff (Pro-Tem Mayor), Nick Jolley, Julia Wheat, and Eganth Vasanthakumar

ADVANCED LEARNING AND DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS WITH CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Does your child have an insatiable curiosity, a need to explore subjects in surprising depth, or ability to quickly learn complex information? Your student may be a candidate for Canyons School District's Supporting Advanced Learners Toward Achievement (SALTA) magnet program, which serves students who demonstrate significantly high cognitive and academic abilities in comparison to their peers. K - 7 grade students can apply to test in to the program September 8 - October 2.

In Canyons District, it's possible to learn two languages at the same time, and to graduate from high school fluent in both. Ten elementary schools offer dual immersion programs in Spanish,

French, or Chinese. It's nearly time for entering first graders (current kindergartners) to apply to enroll for the 2027-28 school year. Applications are being accepted online September 30 - December 15. A lottery will be held to determine entrance if the number of applicants exceeds the seats available, but any kindergarten-aged student in Utah may apply. Immersion programs are a great way to challenge students while preparing them to compete in today's global marketplace. Students with siblings who are currently enrolled in a Dual-Language Immersion school must still submit applications by the December 15 deadline. More information can be found at canyonsdistrict.org or calling 801-826-5044.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

YOUTH WRESTLING

Youth grades K - 8

This beginner-to-intermediate program teaches new skills and builds on current ones by focusing on fundamentals, balance, agility, body control, basic stance, rules, holds and techniques, and — most importantly — having fun.

Where: Corner Canyon High School
When: 3-day clinics October 19 - 21
Cost: \$45 per child; includes shirt

NEVERWAS ACADEMY

Youth grades 1 - 5

Get excited about science! Have fun with hands-on experience through positive, motivating, and inspiring interactions.

Where: Draper Parks and Recreation Office
When: September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, November 2; or November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 14
Cost: \$125 per person

JR. JAZZ

Youth grades K - 12

Jr. Jazz emphasizes the development of teamwork and fundamental basketball skills. Resident-only registration open through October 1.

Where: TBD
Length: 8 weeks; Grades 3 - 12 begin November 30, Grades K - 2 begin January 4
Cost: Varies per league

MEN'S WINTER BASKETBALL

Men ages 16+

Put your team together and hit the courts for 8 regular season games, followed by a single-elimination tournament.

Where: Draper Park Middle School
Length: 8 weeks, November - February
Cost: \$675 per team

Register online at draperutah.gov/programs

COMMUNITY EVENTS



5:00 - 8:00 PM
Draper City Park
12500 South 1300 East

Learn more about the duties and service of the Police and Fire Departments, while getting to know our first responders in a fun, interactive environment. Free event.

Learn more at draperutah.gov/safetyfair



10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Draper City Park
12500 South 1300 East

Vendors offer clothing, pottery, home décor, jewelry, works of fine art, and more. The festival features live entertainment, food, and a children's activity area. Free event.

Learn more at draperutah.gov/artsandcrafts



4:30 - 10:00 PM
Andy Ballard Arena
1600 Highland Drive

Prepare to be spooked on the Haunted Trail. This is a fun, family hike for children 15 years and younger, along a rustic, wooded dirt trail filled with creepy creatures, spooky sounds, and ghostly special effects.

Learn more at draperutah.gov/hauntedtrail



11:00 - 11:30 AM
Draper City Park
12500 South 1300 East

Draper City's annual Veterans Day Ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Free event.

Learn more at draperutah.gov/veteransday

Learn more at draperutah.gov/events

Tickets on Sale Now



September 11, 12, and 14

Gates: 7:00 PM | Music: 7:30 PM | Show: 8:00 PM

Draper Amphitheater | 944 Vestry Road

Get tickets at draperutah.gov/amphitheater



September 19
7:00 - 11:00 AM
Ballard Arena

Half Marathon: \$65
10K: \$35
5K: \$30

+\$15 for same day registration

Last chance to get in on the fun.

Register at draperutah.gov/half

CITY INFORMATION

MAYOR

Troy K. Walker

CITY MANAGER

Mike Barker

CITY COUNCIL

Kathryn Dahlin

Mike Green

Bryn Heather Johnson

Tasha Lowery

Fred Lowry

CONTACT

(801) 576-6500

draperutah.gov

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[f @drapercityutah](https://facebook.com/drapercityutah)

[@drapercity](https://instagram.com/drapercity)

[@drapercitygov](https://youtube.com/drapercitygov)

FARMERS MARKET & FOOD TRUCK NIGHT

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13
5:00 - 9:00 PM* | Smith Fields Park

Enjoy the opportunity to purchase fresh, locally-grown produce, artisan goods, and delicious food in a friendly gathering place. Food trucks, music, and entertainment round out an enjoyable atmosphere all season long.

* 5:00 - 8:00 PM in October | Learn more at draperutah.gov/events