



**Idaho Association of Counties  
Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes**

3100 S. Vista Ave., LGC room | Boise, Idaho | February 1, 2017 | 1:30 pm

Conference Call # 208-717-1950

**700 W. Washington St. Boise, Idaho**

**Members Present:**

Chair: Joe Larsen, Cassia Clerk  
Vice-Chair: Jim Tibbs, Ada Commissioner  
IACA: Justin Baldwin, Gooding Assessor  
IACC: Terry Kramer, Twin Falls Commissioner  
IACT: Donna Peterson, Payette Treasurer  
ISA: Chris Goetz, Clearwater Sheriff  
ISA Alt.: Vaughn Killeen, ISA Executive Director  
ISACC: Dotti Owens, Ada Coroner  
District 1: Dan Dinning, Boundary Commissioner  
District 2: Chris Goetz, Clearwater Sheriff  
District 2 Alt.: Pat Vaughan, Latah Assessor  
District 3: Gordon Cruickshank, Valley Commissioner  
District 4: Helen Edwards, Gooding Commissioner  
District 4 Alt.: Larry Schoen, Blaine Commissioner  
District 5: Ladd Carter, Bingham Commissioner  
District 6: Abbie Mace, Fremont Clerk

**Members Not Present:**

IACRC: Carrie Bird, Clearwater Clerk  
IPAA: Bryan Taylor, Canyon Prosecutor  
IPAA Alt: Holly Koole, Ada Deputy Prosecutor  
ISACC Alt.: Pam Garlock, Boise Coroner  
District 1 Alt.: Glenda Poston, Boundary Clerk  
District 3 Alt.: Vicky McIntyre, Ada Treasurer  
District 6 Alt.: Shelly Shaffer, Butte Clerk

**Other Guests:**

Rep. Nate, Idaho State Legislature  
Sen. Guthrie, Idaho State Legislature  
Larry Maneely, Ada Commissioner's Office  
Tracie Lloyd, Canyon Treasurer  
Kelli Brassfield, IAC Staff

Rep. Blanksma, Idaho State Legislature  
Sen. Brackett, Idaho State Legislature  
Nancy Werdel, Ada Prosecutor's Office  
Teresa Baker, IAC Staff

1:30 pm

**I. Call to order - Chair Joe Larsen**

- A. Introductions
- B. Approval of January 25, 2017 Minutes.

***Gordon Cruickshank made a motion to approve the minutes from January 25, 2017.***

***Helen Edwards seconded. Motion carried.***

1:35 pm

## **II. IAC Legislative Committee Structure/Process (Review)**

A. Meeting Schedule – Next meeting reminder 2/9/17 In-Person 6:30 am Cinnabar Rm

1:40 pm

## **III. Non-IAC Legislation (Presentation/Discussion/Action)**

### **A. Electronic Notice Option – Rep. Nate**

Rep. Nate stated that his county commissioners came to him with the idea of having the ability to publish public notices online. This bill would not be a mandate. Governmental entities would still have the option to print in the newspaper. Rep Nate is presenting this bill in committee on 2/2/17.

Donna Peterson stated she likes this option and would like to see it available. Ladd Carter stated that this option would save Bingham County about \$60,000. Helen Edwards mentioned that a notice in the paper letting everyone know that there are electronic notices would be appropriate.

Justin Baldwin reminded the committee to remember what happens to the communities that lose their newspapers. It was mentioned that the community loses a piece of themselves when they lose their newspaper.

### **B. Assessment Notice Changes – Rep. Nate**

Rep. Nate stated that one of his constituents was frustrated because the assessment notice and tax notice did not break out the bonds so he could compare year to year. The constituent wanted to make sure he was paying what he was told. This will provide transparency. Rep. Nate stated he would like to see bond information listed for two years.

Justin Baldwin stated that the primary problem is that the levies are not set at the time of the assessment. To show the information the proposal is suggesting, Assessors would have to know what the levy is. With the timing of the notices, it does not work together.

Donna Peterson mentioned that the information on the assessments would confuse people. The assessments used to have more information on them and people thought it was a bill and started sending money. This creates a problem for Treasurers. Pat Vaughn stated that this form would not be the appropriate place to provide this information.

Rep. Nate asked if the counties would be able to separate bonds. Donna Peterson stated that the smaller counties would be able to do this easier, but the larger counties will end up having multiple pages and which would be a lot of work. Teresa Baker mentioned that maybe this information could be provided online. Justin Baldwin said that Gooding County shows a pie chart on their website.

Tracie Lloyd mentioned that if this were for all taxing districts, this would be information overload. Canyon County has over 60 taxing districts. Tracie also mentioned that if someone wanted to know this information, they could call the treasurers office and get it.

### **C. Idaho Public Health District Formula – Sen. Brackett & Rep. Blanksma**

Senator Brackett stated that he was approached a few years ago about the formula because it was changed to drop public assistance. Senator Brackett approached OPE

to do a study on the Idaho Public Health Districts. Senator Brackett represents Districts 3, 4, and 5.

Senator Brackett mentioned that he is becoming aware of how divisive this really is. This is local control issue and a unique situation that doesn't happen very often. Instead of looking at individual districts, the state as a whole needs to be looked at. He said he could see that this is a bigger issue than what it was thought to be. Senator Brackett stated that he could support an increase in appropriation to the health districts but that won't happen with the contention within the districts.

Donna Peterson stated that there was a vote to leave the formula as is as they work to find a better solution. Of the seven districts, five districts agreed to leave it and two disagreed. The two districts decided to move legislation forward. Senator Brackett said he would encourage the trustees to keep moving forward on finding a good working formula since they have better knowledge to do this.

Gordon Cruickshank asked about additional monies. Gordon said that he heard that additional monies would go to Districts 3 and 4. We are always asking for local control and this doesn't give us that. Abbie Mace stated that her county is concerned because it would leave her district at a shortfall and they would not be able to provide services because of the lack of funds.

Senator Brackett mentioned that OPE suggested setting up objectives and we moved right to the bottom line of picking winners and losers. Five districts would lose a little and two would gain some. The current formula was not phased in and so there was shock. There is a phase in, in this legislation.

Rep. Blanksma stated that people were misled. She stated an original draft was released and input was asked for. Input stated that the five districts were not willing to negotiate. Rep. Blanksma stated that at another meeting personal contact for discussion was encouraged. She stated no one has contacted her. Owyhee and Elmore County want this to move forward. Blanksma said she understand there are other counties that would like to see this kind of change. We can still work on this and I am willing to continue this discussion. If there are additional monies there is a distribution but no one said that they would just go to Districts three and four.

Kelli Brassfield asked how our member could get a copy of the fiscal impact to the health district. Rep. Blanksma said she had it and would be willing to share that with the group.

1. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2017/legislation/H0080.pdf>

#### **D. Early Voting Start Date – Sen. Guthrie**

Sen. Guthrie stated that he has a proposal to amend the early voting statute. Currently the statute allows for counties to start early voting on or before the third Monday before the election. This proposal would allow the early voting to begin on the third Monday prior to the election but not before. This would put a limit on the early voting. It has been brought up that some counties have taken advantage of this ability to start. This can become an issue when campaigners come across people who have voted. They are out spending money on people that have already voted.

Joe Larsen asked if Sen. Guthrie has reached out to the Secretary of State's office.

Sen. Guthrie stated that the Secretary of State's office is okay with this proposal.

Abbie Mace mentioned the only thing she can see is maybe not getting their media back in time. When the absentee ballots are prepared, the Election's Office is able to start early voting as absentee voters can already come into the office and vote. Absentee voting can't really be changed because we need time to allow the their mailed-out ballots to arrive back.

Dan Dinning asked what problem is trying to be fixed. Sen. Guthrie said this statute leaves it open ended as to when early voting begins. Joe Larsen asked if the intent of this proposal is to save counties money or changing the time frame to allow someone to vote? Sen. Guthrie said that it was the intent to change the time frame and to save the counties money, as they wouldn't have to have additional staff for that extra time. He also mentioned the frustration of spending money on people that have already voted. Clerks present commented that they generally do not use additional staff to what they already need processing absentee ballots.

2:45 pm

## **V. Other Business (Discussion)**

### **A. 63-602NN**

Donna Peterson stated that one of her commissioners is concerned with the term "associated" on page 1 and how the depreciation is going to be handled. Dan Dinning mentioned that as he understands it, it allows parameters that give the commissioners authority.

Justin Baldwin stated that he received a fairly good consensus that the assessors do not like this. This represents a tax shift to the residents. Pat Vaughn stated this is an authority to the commissioners; however, this is quite a broadening of what was originally intended. I think my commissioners supported the concept of lowering the threshold.

Terry Kramer stated his concern is the broad scope of this. We will be inundated with requests and put counties against each other. I think we need to have a break down of this. Gordon Cruickshank stated that when this was originally implemented we got the \$3M and we were not on board. We did ask for population thresholds and they did not go for that. I think it needs the population cap.

Kelli Brassfield stated that those parameters could be established through the resolution process. Teresa Baker said that this gives maximum flexibility that we are looking for with our local control.

***Abbie Mace made a motion to support the 63-602NN-legislation proposal. Dan Dinning seconded. Two nays, Pat Vaughn abstained, 13 supports. Motion carried.***

### **B. Park Model**

Gordon Cruickshank mentioned that with information received, we should oppose the Park Model as written. He felt this did not allow the assessors to create market value.

***Gordon Cruickshank made a motion to oppose this Park Model legislation proposal. Justin Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.***

### **C. HB0042 – Behavioral Health Board - Review Changes – Dan Chadwick**

Kelli Brassfield stated that the IDHW agreed to Dan Chadwick's suggested changes.

This will keep the counties involved in the appointment process of the behavioral health boards. The IDHW has decided to have a new RS for this proposal.

Joe Larsen suggested that we delay until it is printed. The board concurred.

**D. HB0067 Income Tax Rates – Rep. Moyle**

Teresa Baker stated that this proposal would eliminate tax from the first \$750 of individual income and additionally reduce the rate on the highest bracket to 7.2%. This proposal is just tax related and Theresa stated she didn't think we needed to take a position.

1. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2017/legislation/H0067.pdf>

**E. HB0083 New Construction Roll – Rep. Trujillo**

Teresa Baker stated this proposal would allow property if it is new construction and if it is exempted, it will be taken away from the budget capacity. We will have to figure out what the fiscal impact is. We may put out a poll to counties to see how this would affect them individually.

Abbie Mace stated that this would be a nightmare to track. It would require tracking with all taxing districts. She asked how would be done. When property tax is set, you can't go back because you don't like it. We wouldn't know what our base would be if we had to go back and change things and we would have another line or lines on the L2.

Justin Baldwin mentioned that when we have value change it goes on the new construction roll. We have to show shifts as they occur, we can already have a negative construction roll.

***Abbie Mace made a motion to oppose HB0083. Donna Peterson seconded. Motion Carried.***

1. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2017/legislation/H0083.pdf>

**F. HB0068 Personal Property Tax Exemption – Rep. Trujillo**

Abbie Mace stated that when this proposal was brought forward a while ago, we did take a stance to support this concept. Dan Dinning mentioned that there has been talk about replacement dollars as well.

Justin Baldwin felt we should ask for an incremental increase. That would account for increases in personal property values in question rather than the initial base amount carried forward that clearly increases.

Dan Dinning felt statistical analysis should be done to see what the affect has been.

Joe Larsen asked if incremental values can be shown on personal property items that have increased in values. Justin Baldwin said that can be quantified.

Dan Dinning suggested gathering additional information before moving forward.

1. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2017/legislation/H0068.pdf>

3:15 pm

#### **IV. IAC Legislative Resolution Priorities (Update)**

##### **A. Recording Fees for Irrigation Districts**

Kelli Brassfield stated that she had a conference call with the IWUA and they did pass a motion to support our proposal if we only seek the fee increase. They opposed the legislation as written with the option for recording. Kelli spoke with Patty Temple and she is ok with amending the language to only reflect a fee increase.

*Abbie Mace made a motion to remove recording option language and to only amend statute for fee increase to \$25. Terry Kramer Seconded. Motion carried.*

##### **B. Missed Property Roll – No update.**

##### **C. Magistrate Court Funding**

Larry Maneely met with Sen. Lodge and stated she is very supportive of the language we have come up with. Kelli Brassfield stated that Teresa Baker is still working with all parties involved to come up with a solution.

##### **D. Open Meeting Notification – No update.**

##### ~~E. Early Voting – Need more History~~

##### ~~F. Records Retention for LE media – No Update~~

##### ~~G. Rule of 80 – No Update –~~

1. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2017/legislation/H0021.pdf>

##### ~~H. Whistleblowing/Protection of Employees – No Update~~

3:30 pm

#### **VI. Adjourn**