

## IAC Legislative Committee

January 8, 2025 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm MST  
700 W Washington | Boise, ID

### MEETING MINUTES

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#### **Call to Order | Chair Don Hall**

*Vice Chair Tom Dayley motioned to approve the October 11th minutes, seconded by Kootenai Commissioner Bruce Mattare. Motion carried.*

#### **Priorities**

##### **IGA-02 | Youth Vape Prevention**

- Further discussion took place with Jason C., who is a lobbyist for one of the tobacco companies that worked on the registry last year. Discussion about there being general support for the registry that has information about what is an approved product vs. an illicit product. They are really close on a draft of the bill that they are writing themselves and it will have a tax component. They aren't against a 'fair' tax. The new bill will be different from the one introduced last year, which will include a registry or a 'red light' and 'green light' list of what is approved to be sold and what is not.

##### **IGA-07 | Consolidated Elections**

- Was being worked on last year by the clerks and their lobbyists. Those lobbyists have continued to work on it and are working with Rep. Jaron Crane on it. The chairman has shown support overall for the bill and is likely willing to carry it.

##### **IGA-10 | Travel and Convention Tax for Counties**

- Not a ton of traction on this bill at the moment. There is some willingness to explore a split of this tax to be used for public safety, EMS, and emergency communications. The hope is to focus on providing a range of options to legislators so that this tax can be used to help fund EMS, 911 emergency communications and justice related services and infrastructure, and is certainly a part of current and future conversations surrounding this legislation. The challenge will be finding the appropriate side-boards to help the legislature feel comfortable with the counties utilizing this revenue for essential services. Importance placed upon emphasizing to legislators that this is not a tax on Idaho citizens, but rather a tax on others outside of the counties and Idaho are providing a service to. A broader discussion on revenues for counties with the House Speaker may be necessary in order to make this legislation work. The concern is that by pushing for this tax, the legislature will remove another revenue source that the counties are already receiving.

### **IGA-13 | Completing Public Defense Reform**

- This will require a lot of political capital this session, because of the current funding structure and how to pay for enhancements. The narrative/rumor, *although this isn't true*, is that prior to the transition to the state based system, counties raised all the public defenders hourly wages so that the state would be left holding the bag. A decision from the supreme court determined that the county does not pay for certain public defense related costs anymore and it is the state's responsibility. Another major piece is determining who is responsible for the costs of housing public defenders. The Governor is proposing \$37 million of additional funds to public defenders, and a large majority of these funds will go to contracted public defenders. The way it is structured in legislation is not the way that it is currently being carried out. Some committee members mentioned that it is more of a structural issue, rather than a dollar issue.

### **JPS-01 | 911 Grant Fee Adjustment & Inclusion of FCC Guidance on Expenditures**

- A lot of progress over the summer was made on this issue. Hoping to meet with mobile carriers in the next week or two for further discussions. This year, the 25 cent grant fee will be increased and instead, leave the dollar amount alone. The project manager of the public safety communications division put together an estimate to upgrade systems to next gen 911, and it came out to approximately 65 cents. The total for the project would be approx. \$14.5 million in order to move counties to next gen 911. Possibility of a sunset clause to be implemented as well. Reducing the fee of the user and not requiring additional audits for mobile carriers should help push this legislation forward.

### **Policies**

#### **IGA-01 | PTR Benefit Increase**

- Proposal would raise PTR eligibility to \$2000. There are some reservations in the legislature to advance it because of the additional physical impact to the State. There will have to be continual conversations with the speaker to make progress on this.

#### **IGA-03 | Coroner Records: Public Records Exemption**

- The last update received was that the Sheriff's also support this legislation, and that there may be pushback from legislators, but will update when we hear back.

#### **IGA-04 | Optional Public Notices: Local Entities Published on County Website + IGA-05 | Allowing Abbreviated Publication of Public Notices + IGA-06 | Synopsis Publication Requirement (change name to public notices)**

- The Senate has authorized a bill to be drafted and Canyon Commissioner Zach Brooks is working with Rep. Lakey on some language for this legislation. There seems to be a good opportunity to move legislation forward this year, although newspaper companies are pushing back hard on this. Hoping to have something introduced early on in the session. This won't stop counties from publishing in the newspaper. These resolutions will become a consolidated bill eventually, but currently there isn't anything yet. Will keep the committee updated when a draft is received. There have also been issues with local papers reducing their output from daily, to tri-weekly, to just weekly, affecting county notices as well.

#### **IGA-09 | Hospital Property Tax Exemption**

- Some discussions took place with Brian Whitlock, the Executive Director for the Idaho Hospital Association. Brian wasn't super enthusiastic about it, and many of the challenges faced last year will remain this year. Conversations happened in November with the Chairman of the Rev and Tax committee, but nothing since then.

#### **IGA-11 | Responsible Bidder**

- Conversations have taken place with Bob Perkins, the Procurement Director in Ada County, and have also had a few conversations with the Association of General Contractors of Idaho, and the idea is to bring state procurement laws to apply to the county as well. Currently, the State can take the 'lowest responsible bidder'

whereas the county must take the 'lowest bidder'. The AGC is not in favor of the change, so we are looking for ways to show that it is working with the state, so it can work on the local level as well.

#### **IGA-12 | Allow District Boards of Health to Set Food Establishment License Fees**

- More work to do on this legislation. The Director of the Department of Health and Welfare, Alex Adams, seemed interested in working with us on this.

#### **JPS-02 | Coroner Powers/Duties, Definition, Education/Standards**

- Taking recommendations from the OPE report that came out last year and prioritizing recommendations based upon political feasibility. The biggest thing that has started was the resolution on basic standards. The draft was included in the resolution. The draft is moving forward and the reigns have been passed for this legislation, but we are still keeping tabs on its progress.

#### **JPS-04 | EMS Identified as Critical by State Legislature**

- The word 'critical' is strategic, and is intended to replace 'essential'. Better update next week on this.

#### **TRI-01 | Solid Waste Disposal Responsibility**

- A bill has been put together that covers most of what was desired in the resolution. Republic Service Company has a dueling bill that they are running in the Senate, so we intend to run ours in the House. Republic Service Company's bill is essentially attempting to control solid waste flow, so we hope we can kill their bill and pass ours.

#### **General Discussion**

- Idaho Power court ruling. Idaho Power challenged that their operation property was being taxed at a higher rate than other operating property throughout the State, and claimed it was in violation of Idaho's existing uniform tax clauses. The Supreme Court ruled in Idaho Power's favor. Clay has emailed every clerk and county getting a database on each county's approach to the payment of the statutory interest, and determining how it is being handled in the judgement. There has been interest in bringing back the kilowatt hour tax bill. Part of the language hopes to prevent future 'operating property' arguments that Idaho Power has made, although there is not 100% confidence that the language will make its way into the bill.
- In a talk with Rep. Eilers, the goal with the homeowners exemption ID requirement is to match up records with the DMV. There will be an effort to create clarification around these requirements with Rep Eilers.
- Lava Ridge development updates hopefully coming soon.
- Cell towers issues are causing conflict between counties and their communities, but many counties have little authority to say no to cellular tower development, and other counties who have denied development are being sued.

**Adjournment @ 11:40 am.**

# IAC Legislative Committee

## MEMBERSHIP

\*MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED WERE IN ATTENDANCE

CHAIR <b>Don Hall</b> <i>Twin Falls Commissioner</i>		VICE CHAIR <b>Tom Dayley</b> <i>Ada Commissioner</i>	
<b>Bruce Mattare</b> <i>District 1: Kootenai Commissioner</i>	<b>Donavan Harrington</b> <i>District 5: Bingham Assessor</i>	<b>Annette Dygert</b> <i>LACT: Owyhee Treasurer</i>	
<b>Chris Goetz</b> <i>District 2: Clearwater Sheriff</i>	<b>Brent Mendenhall</b> <i>District 6: Madison Commissioner</i>	Vic Pearson <i>IPAA: Franklin Prosecutor</i>	
<b>Sherry Maupin</b> <i>District 3: Valley Commissioner</i>	Hollie Ann Strang <i>IACA: Gem Assessor</i>	<b>Andy Creech</b> <i>ISA: Payette Sheriff</i>	
<b>Ben Crouch</b> <i>District 4: Jerome Commissioner</i>	<b>Jared Orton</b> <i>IACC: Minidoka Commissioner</i>	<b>Scott Carver</b> <i>ISACC: Valley Coroner</i>	
	Trent Tripple <i>IACRC: Ada Clerk</i>		

## ALTERNATES

Phil Lampert <i>District 1: Benewah Commissioner</i>	Eric Jackson <i>District 5: Bingham Commissioner</i>	Elizabeth Mahn <i>LACT: Ada Treasurer</i>
Brad Higgins <i>District 2: Idaho Commissioner</i>	Shayne Young <i>District 6: Jefferson Commissioner</i>	Vacant <i>IPAA:</i>
Zach Brooks <i>District 3: Canyon Commissioner</i>	<b>Josh Dison</b> <i>IACA: Elmore Assessor</i>	<b>Matt Clifford</b> <i>ISA: Ada Sheriff</i>
Vacant <i>District 4:</i>	<b>Kim Keeley</b> <i>IACRC: Teton Clerk</i>	Pam Garlock <i>ISACC: Boise Coroner</i>

\*More attendees listed below

### IAC Staff

Seth Grigg

Sara Westbrook

Kelli Brassfield

Chase Christensen

Clay Boeckel

**More**

Logan Weis-Hurzeler