

IAC Legislative Committee

January 22, 2025 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm MST
700 W Washington | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | Chair Don Hall

Madison Commissioner Brent Mendenhall motioned to approve the January 15th minutes. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Tom Dayley. Motion carried.

Potential Reprioritization of priorities discussion:

With the Midwinter Conference approaching next week, and having got a better feel about what is achievable in the legislature this year, there is discussion about condensing and re-prioritizing the Legislative Committee's priorities to deliver a firm stance on the legislative goals to our members. Many of these bills that focus on revenue are going to dominate much of the discussion this session because of their nature and the timing of the session. With the anticipation of some bills that will look to lower income taxes, the grocery tax, and homeowner tax relief, in addition to potential for education related tax credits, there could be a point in the session where these are included in a bill that becomes combined. There is potential for some of the revenue focused IAC priorities to be roped into that.

Notable changes are as follows:

Owyhee Treasurer Annette Dygert motioned to move the following:

Move IGA-02, Youth Vape Prevention down to an IAC policy, and roll JPS-01, 911 Grant Fee into IGA-10 now referred to as "Tourism Tax". Additionally moving IGA-11, Responsible Bidder and H0033, Public Notices up to IAC priorities. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Tom Dayley. Motion carried.

Priorities

IGA-02 | Youth Vape Prevention

- A draft is still being worked on, so IAC will reach out and see if anything has changed. LSO is very backed up, so things are a bit slow going at the moment. This will be moved down to become an IAC policy.

IGA-07 | Consolidated Elections

- The Chairman of State of Affairs in the House has agreed to give it a hearing and wants Brandon Mitchell to be the sponsor. Meeting on Thursday to talk about the bill some more, so more updates to come next week.

IGA-10 | Travel and Convention Tax for Counties

- Will become a 'tourism tax' with funding dedicated to critical county infrastructure, roads, EMS, public safety, search and rescue, etc.

IGA-13 | Completing Public Defense Reform

- To be maintained as a priority, and will remain a heavy discussion during the session. More updates to come.

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

- Will likely be condensed with other legislation (tourism tax).

Policies

IGA-01 | PTR Benefit Increase

- Rep. McCann will be the sponsor. Increase the PTR threshold from \$750 to \$2000. Some real-world blocks will likely happen this session, but getting it out there is important.

IGA-03 | Coroner Records: Public Records Exemption

- Legislators are getting connected on this issue and more updates to come next week.

H0033 | Public Notices

- Will be moved to an IAC priority. It was introduced yesterday. It would allow counties to have the option to post public notices on the state controllers website (similar to the town hall website used by state controller right now), and includes the language “may” so that counties can continue publishing in the local paper if they desire. The State Controllers Office feel that they can get the ability to allow counties to publish on their website much sooner, but the deadline for full functionality would be July 2027. Sending out emails would be a part of the website functionality, this responsibility would not fall on the counties. Hoping to have a full hearing next Wednesday.

IGA-09 | Hospital Property Tax Exemption

- No new updates from last week.

IGA-11 | Responsible Bidder

- Final language will depend on what we can get the AGC on board with. Will be moved to an IAC priority. More information to come.

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

- Rep. Rasor will run it in the house. The public hearing part has been removed after discussion with LSO to reduce redundant language. Senator Nichols to be the sponsor.

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

- Co-sponsors are Rep. Pickett and Senator Wintrow. JLOC made a motion to send a letter of support from their committee. One piece may be amended in the autopsy section as requested by the speaker of the house. Will be discussed by Coroners next week at the conference.

JPS-04 | EMS Identified as Critical by State Legislature

- Hosted legislators yesterday for a lunch to provide an overview of property taxes and levies, and discussed why just raising an EMS levy is not possible, which helped provide context to legislators for the purpose of this bill. As written right now, part of it would provide \$50,000 to be utilized to help with administering EMS (administration side of things, such as billing, etc.).

TRI-01 | Solid Waste Disposal Responsibility

- A draft should be ready to go by the end of this week by the LSO. There has been vocal encouragement from the Local Gov & Tax Committee to maintain communication with IAC on progress.

New Legislation

H0014 | Idaho Code Cleanup

- Bill introduced by the Speaker. It sailed through the House. Basically Idaho's version of "DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency)", but in a really cramped timeline. Agencies would be expected to look through their code or other agency codes, to remove redundant, appealed, or non-relevant code, to repeal any of that code. Deadline of September 1st, 2025. Counties are touched on by all but (3) lines of Idaho Code.

H0018 | Electric Vehicle Building Code (SUPPORT)

- Bill introduced by Chairman Palmer that would prohibit any governmental entity from requiring as a condition of development that any number of electric vehicle charging stations be made available. Chairman Palmer is bringing the bill because of an impact on Ada County. Ada County is in the midst of development of their kitchen/jail redevelopment and as a condition of the project, the city of Boise wanted Ada County to build out 131 electrical vehicle charging lots in the old and new construction. Would add about \$2 million to the project.

Gem Assessor Hollie Ann Strang motioned to support H0018, seconded by Owyhee Treasurer Annette Dygert. Motion carried.

H0025 | TECM Sales Tax

- 4.5% threshold to be eliminated, and establish fixed amounts in code to be distributed. The way the proposal is laid out, over the next 3 years, an additional \$20 million would be added to the bond capacity, basically going from \$80 to \$140 million for state projects. The drawback is that the cap would increase now, but would remain fixed at a max of \$45 million. The positive is that, once the fixed amount is in statute, and isn't a percentage of sales tax, counties may be able to leverage bond authority to increase this amount.

Potential New Legislation

Apprentices

- Brought by AFL and asked IAC and its members for an opinion on it. A current law requires a certain amount of apprentice hours on projects, and AFL doesn't feel that those hours are actually being achieved. A lot more apprentices are in the pipeline because of the Idaho LAUNCH program. Essentially it would have public works construction companies required to submit a report that 10% of the total labor hours are performed by apprentices on jobs over \$100,000, and they would have to submit that report to the public entity that the contractors are performing the work for (i.e., if work is being performed for the county, the report would go to the county, if it is being performed for a city it would go to the city, etc.).

Short Term Rentals

- Working group that has been discussing this issue since last year. When realtors brought the bill last year, its intention was to grab the attention of McCall on an ordinance that has since been rolled back (so it essentially accomplished its goal). Will keep an eye on this bill as the session goes on.

Highway District Special Levy (OPPOSE)

- County and highway districts have some tools to levy taxes for maintenance of their roads. This draft legislation comes from the City of Middleton. It would tie the county or highway districts' hands in how they use the existing levies. It would require that prior to using a special levy, you would have to max the current

maintenance levy that exists for counties. Essentially lowering the amount of funds coming to the county and/or highway district, and increasing the funds going to the city. This will have a big impact on the counties that levy the special levy currently. Long term concern is that cities may use this as leverage for future legislation.

Clearwater Sheriff Chris Goetz motioned to oppose this legislation as currently drafted, seconded by Valley Commissioner Sherry Maupin. Motion carried.

Kilowatt Hour Tax

- Some language has been drafted that would clarify that the 4-R only applies to railroads, so that no other property class can go to the courts in the future and make the argument that Idaho Power did. Another piece would include that any funds that the rate regulated utility companies get back from the judgement, are passed through the rate payer, rather than going back into the companies bottom line. This section of the language will be tricky to draft. Broader discussion around a desire from the State Tax Commission to move an assessment of other energy generators from themselves to the Assessors, so a discussion will take place with the Assessors soon to find a solution to this.

Solar Tax

- Nothing new on this, will update as new information comes in.

Domestic Water

- Final language is still being fleshed out on the area of impact issues. When that language is sent to us, it will be circulated.

Public Utilities (remove)

- Can be removed from the agenda as it is part of the Kilowatt Hour Tax.

County Fair Boards

- Legislators asked for feedback on this after feeling some pressure from the Agricultural sector. The goal of this legislation is to repeal the statute that requires an advisory board once it reaches the population threshold.

General Discussion

- Truth and Taxation: Chairman Cannon would like to do something that would make taxpayers aware of what their actual taxes paid are over the different districts and would like to trend it out over time. Potentially an opportunity to address the assessment notices confusion. Discussion on transparent Idaho to build out a portal where the taxpayers could go in and look up their information on taxes paid over a 10 year period. This is all in a rough draft form, and the Chairman isn't sure how this will evolve, but wanted to bring it to our attention.

Adjournment @ 11:48 am.

IAC Legislative Committee

MEMBERSHIP

*MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED WERE IN ATTENDANCE

CHAIR Don Hall <i>Twin Falls Commissioner</i>		VICE CHAIR Tom Dayley <i>Ada Commissioner</i>	
Bruce Mattare <i>District 1: Kootenai Commissioner</i>	Donavan Harrington <i>District 5: Bingham Assessor</i>	Annette Dygert <i>LACT: Owyhee Treasurer</i>	

<p>Chris Goetz <i>District 2: Clearwater Sheriff</i></p> <p>Sherry Maupin <i>District 3: Valley Commissioner</i></p> <p>Ben Crouch <i>District 4: Jerome Commissioner</i></p>	<p>Brent Mendenhall <i>District 6: Madison Commissioner</i></p> <p>Hollie Ann Strang <i>IACA: Gem Assessor</i></p> <p>Jared Orton <i>IACC: Minidoka Commissioner</i></p> <p>Trent Tripple <i>IACRC: Ada Clerk</i></p>	<p>Vic Pearson <i>IPAA: Franklin Prosecutor</i></p> <p>Andy Creech <i>ISA: Payette Sheriff</i></p> <p>Scott Carver <i>ISACC: Valley Coroner</i></p>

ALTERNATES

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

***More attendees listed below**

IAC Staff

Seth Grigg
Sara Westbrook
Kelli Brassfield
Chase Christensen
Clay Boeckel

More

Dayton Reed
John David Davidson
Angie Barkell