

## IAC Legislative Committee

March 10, 2021 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

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#### Call to Order

Vice Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The following committee members were present:

Chair: Justin Baldwin, Gooding Assessor  
Vice Chair: Donna Peterson, Payette Treasurer  
IACA: Brad Wills, Twin Falls Assessor  
IACC: Doug Zenner, Nez Perce Commissioner  
IACRC: Carrie Bird, Clearwater Clerk  
IACT: Annette Dygert, Owyhee Treasurer  
District 1: Dan Dinning, Boundary  
Commissioner

District 2: Justin McLeod, Lewis Commissioner  
District 3: Phil McGrane, Ada Clerk  
District 4: Don Hall, Twin Falls Commissioner  
District 5: Terrel Tovey, Bannock  
Commissioner  
District 6: Brent Mendenhall, Madison  
Commissioner

The following guests were present:

Seth Grigg, IAC  
Sara Westbrook, IAC  
Kelli Brassfield, IAC  
Phil Lambert, Benewah Commissioner  
Kathie LaFortune, Latah Commissioner

Tracie Lloyd, Canyon Treasurer  
Angie Barkell, Owyhee Clerk  
Chris Goetz, Clearwater Sheriff  
Dotti Owens, Ada Coroner  
Murphy Olmstead, ISA

#### Minutes Approval (Action Item)

*Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall moved to approve the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes. Owyhee County Treasurer Annette Dygert seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

#### Discussion Items

- [H0278](#) Property taxes, urban renewal
  - HB278 is not moving. new bill may be coming. This bill would require the URA to go to all the agencies within the district and get sign off. Agencies within the districts can opt out and the remaining districts would still be included. If a URA wants to modify, a district could opt out of modification. There are some counties that support this but being late in the session it may not move forward. IAC staff is working to make sure this is optional. This bill would apply to all districts but the new bill may limit this option to the larger districts.

- [H0290](#) Elections, signature verification
  - This bill clarifies requirements to ensure current signature verification practices continue. There was a court decision in Bonneville County that stated the clerks should not have denied signatures because the court stated clerks do not have authority to verify signatures. This would fix that, giving the authority, and bring the law into alignment with current practice.

*Clearwater County Clerk Carrie Bird moved to support House Bill 290. Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

- [H0308](#) Appropriations, transportation, additional
  - HB308 provides for \$42.6M to various transportation programs. \$15M would go the strategic initiatives program. These funds go through the highway distribution account. Each county would get a good amount of money.

*Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner moved to support House Bill 308. Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

- [H0309](#) Property tax deferral program
  - HB309 increases access to the state tax deferral program. As home prices rise, homeowners could use this. The program would place a lien on the property and then the state would pay the taxes. This bill lowers the interest rate on the program, and it also increases the income limit to \$50,000. The income would continue to move with the inflation rate.
  - Committee will monitor.

Chair Justin Baldwin took over from Vice Chair Peterson and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

- [H0310](#) Property tax reduction
  - Older people have a hard time putting their medical costs together. This makes it a little easier for those people. This would create an asset/means test if your home price value goes up above the median rate in the county. This is a little heavy handed. The county does not want to have to do these tests. It would be very difficult to perform these tests at the county level. There is no definition for the means test.

*Twin Falls County Assessor Brad Wills moved to oppose House Bill 310. Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

- [H0311](#) Public art, approval
  - This bill was sent to the amending order. This may not go anywhere. They are looking at excluding private funds in this proposal. It takes away local control.

*Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner moved to oppose House Bill 0311. Onybee County Treasurer Annette Dygert seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

- [H0314](#) Transportation funding, sales tax

- There is a benefit for locals. It increases the total sales tax dollars sent to TECM from 1% to 4.5%. This bill also amends access to TECM to allow for locals to be included. When the state takes out a bond, 30% of the bond proceeds would go to locals. That 30% would be available via grants. ITD would process those grant applications. There is a provision to allow locals to pool their funds together to do shared projects. The money can be used for many different types of projects. Over a 10-year period, locals could see \$200M. This has no impact on counties revenue sharing.

*Nez Perce County Doug Zenner moved to support House Bill 314. Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

- [H0316](#) Public Health Funding
  - This is the proposal that was indorsed by this committee. It would limit eligibility for our programs and would provide that counties take over the state funding for public health districts. Was there any more discussion about the levy rate that we use for public health? Yes, it was reviewed and there isn't any county that is above 50% of that levy rate. The Ada County commissioners have a few concerns. There are a few questions about the health districts. Are the admin costs of the health districts going to go up? What kind of entity are they? There was a lot of conversation about these districts. There is more work and discussion to be had. Inspection fees need to be reviewed in the future as well.
  - This proposal is going to make it through the House but it is unknown if it will move through the Senate. The Senate Health and Welfare committee chairman is partially on board but the hospitals will be working the Senate. There will be bills in the future to clean up some questions that we have. We could also see a bill to repeal the indigent and CAT programs in the future. This is a first step.
  - It may be able to use the federal funds from the next COVID relief package to help pay for health districts.
- [S1100](#) Highways, public transportation, pedestrian
  - Changes the definition of highways. It would add "warranted public transportation and bicycle" to the definition. This would also expand what the funds can be used on. This appears to allow for double dipping. What's the purpose? ACHD wants to be able to expand how they use user fees. The intent is to use those funds to put in sidewalks and bike lanes. It is unknown if it adds to the lane miles. This will need to be clarified. Would this help the cities that want the safe sidewalk programs? This is specific to counties and highway districts, not cities. ACHD has jurisdiction over the city's roads. This allows them the flexibility to spend their funds how they want.
  - Committee will monitor and try to get some answers to questions.
- [S1166](#) Elections, registration, ballots
  - This relates to same day registration. It would allow clerks to designate polling locations for this registration. It also allows for provisions ballots but Idaho has been exempted from provisionals due to the fact that we have same day registration. This is a bad idea. Other states are trying to be more like Idaho. Not the other way around.

*Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane moved to oppose Senate Bill 1166. Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

- [S1167](#) Absentee ballot assistance

- SB1167 states that this gives additional assistance to those who need it in long-term care facilities. The clerks would go or train volunteers to go help these individuals. This bill also provides that a team could be appointed to go into these facilities made up of a member from each of the majority parties. This bill creates a lot of work.

*Clearwater County Clerk Carrie Bird moved to oppose Senate Bill 1167. Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane seconded. Motion carried.*

- [S1168](#) Election admin, private moneys
  - There was a non-profit organization that did a grant in response to the pandemic. It was private money, later to be found connected to Mark Zuckerberg. The funds were used for additional elections costs. It is thought that this private funding could impact the election results. This prohibits private funding to be used in elections. Only public funding can be used. Some clerks feel that there should be a hearing on this to dispel the rumors that are out there. There are generally more strings attached to the federal funding that counties receive.
  - Why would we limit the funding coming in and save the taxpayer money? Maybe the SOS could approve funding first.
  - Committee will monitor.
- [S1170](#) Taxing district budgets
  - This is a trailer bill to 1108. This would allow for calculating the levy rate in regards to new construction. This would allow clerks to use the current year assessed values to determine the levy rate except for operating property which would use the prior year's assessed value. Senator Rice has IAC's alternate property tax draft proposal that we have endorsed. Rice has been given a couple of days to bring 1108 to a vote. If he doesn't, our proposal may be introduced. Rice wants to make some amendments to our proposal. We are likely going to see the percentages for new construction and URA increase. We will need to make some quick decisions. May need to meet again this week.
- [SJM103](#) Dam Breaching
  - SJM103 is the House and Senate's response to Simpson's proposal to remove the 4 dams on the lower Snake River. This passed the Senate yesterday. This would go to the president of the US, and other leadership in the current administration upon approval.
- [SJR101](#) Psychoactive Drugs
  - Has been pulled but replaced with HJR4. The concern was that the constitution was being amended to include statute. The new draft would require a 2/3 vote of the legislature if something would be removed from the schedule 1 list. No Governor's signature would be required.
- Federal Package
  - Congress has passed the American Rescue plan. There is a lot of money for locals in this plan. In Idaho, the state will receive \$1.3B, counties will directly receive \$347M, and cities will receive \$229M. The funds need to be used in response to COVID. The Treasury has not yet released guidance on usage. We do know that it could be used to pay essential workers hazard pay. It could be used for backfilling the loss of tax moneys. It could also be used for broadband. In addition to this, there is more for rural counties. We anticipate that a lot of our counties would receive this particularly if they are SRS counties.

- Treasurers are frustrated with the progress on tax relief and the legislators need to look at homeowner's and the PTR. We are trying to get the Canyon County draft introduced. Most aren't inclined. Canyon County elected officials met with some House members yesterday. The meeting went ok. They weren't told absolutely no.

*Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning moved to adjourn the committee meeting at 11:24 am. Payette County Treasurer Donna Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

The meeting was adjourned.

# IAC Legislative Committee

## MEMBERSHIP

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### CHAIR

Justin Baldwin  
*Gooding Assessor*

### VICE CHAIR

Donna Peterson  
*Payette Treasurer*

Brad Wills  
*IACA: Twin Falls Assessor*

Doug Zenner  
*IACC: Nez Perce Commissioner*

Carrie Bird  
*IACRC: Clearwater Clerk*

Annette Dygert  
*IACT: Owyhee Treasurer*

Danny Clark  
*IPAA: Bonneville Prosecutor*

Kieran Donahue  
*ISA: Canyon Sheriff*

Scott Carver  
*ISACC: Valley Coroner*

Dan Dinning  
*District 1: Boundary Commissioner*

Justin McLeod  
*District 2: Lewis Commissioner*

Phil McGrane  
*District 3: Ada Clerk*

Don Hall  
*District 4: Twin Falls Commissioner*

Terrel Tovey  
*District 5: Bannock Commissioner*

Brent Mendenhall  
*District 6: Madison Commissioner*

## ALTERNATES

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*IACA:*

Tracie Lloyd  
*IACT: Canyon Treasurer*

Dotti Owens  
*ISACC: Ada Coroner*

Sherry Maupin  
*District 3: Valley Commissioner*

*IACC:*

Phil Lampert  
*District 1: Benewah Commissioner*

Jack Johnson  
*District 4: Twin Falls Commissioner*

Shayne Young  
*District 6: Jefferson Commissioner*

Angie Barkell  
*IACRC: Owyhee Clerk*

*ISA:*

Kathie LaFortune  
*District 2: Latah Commissioner*

Jessica Lewis  
*District 5: Bingham Commissioner*