

IAC Legislative Committee

June 6, 2022 | 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting

Best Western Plus Burley Inn & Convention Center

[ZOOM LINK](#)

MEETING AGENDA

The following committee members were present:

Chair: Justin Baldwin, Gooding Assessor
Vice Chair: Don Hall, Twin Falls Commissioner
IACA: Josh Dison, Elmore Falls Assessor
IACC: Doug Zenner, Nez Perce Commissioner
IACRC: Angie Barkell, Owyhee Clerk
IACT: Annette Dygert, Owyhee Treasurer
IPPA:
ISA:

ISACC:
District 1:
District 2:
District 3: Sherry Maupin, Valley Commissioner
District 4:
District 5:
District 6: Brent Mendenhall, Madison
Commissioner

The following guests were present:

Seth Grigg, IAC
Sara Westbrook, IAC
Kelli D Brassfield, IAC
Lorna Jorgensen, Ada Prosecutor
Tom Lamar, Latah Commissioner

Call to Order | *Chair Justin Baldwin*

Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall made a motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2022. Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall seconded. Motion carried.

Property Tax Discussion

Sen. Grow will bring legislation that will be similar to HB741 which would increase the sales tax to cover owner occupied property tax. A challenge will be all of the turnover of representatives and senators. The grocery tax will more than likely be on the table. We need to remember that 11.5% of the sales tax on groceries comes to counties through revenue sharing. There could potentially a big hit to cities and counties between these two proposals.

Two ideas heard outside of these: 1) there is discussion of using the surplus for property tax through revenue sharing and 2) there is also review of the county mandates and seeing which counties should continue to pay or having the surplus pay for those mandates, such as court processes (judiciary). Education funding is going to be a big part of this as well.

The impact to the non-owner-occupied parcels need to be figured out. This was one of the reasons that HB741 didn't pass. Has there been more discussion about whether or not it will be focused on the budgets or will be on the assessments? Sen. Rice was the one who was looking at assessments. It will probably be more on the budget side. Should we bring in the state tax commission to this discussion or to change the authority of the STC? The legislature would have to amend the law that assessors assess at market value. They would have to dictate how appraisals are done.

Where are the areas that we have opportunities to do property tax relief? Specialty courts, district court, law clerks could be taken over by the state. The funding could come from the state but the function would still lie with the clerk. There are some risks with have the whole judiciary system funded by the state because we would have conflict on oversight and the concept of local control. How much money do counties get to keep and how much is going to the state for court fees and fines? It is unknown at this time.

What about education? Monks is looking at possibly not allowing bonding for school facilities and have the state pay for that to have more consistency.

Public health districts: possibly move the funding back to the state? This county funding has changed the public health districts and they are a mess. It has been a challenge. This possibly a low fruit that the state could fix. Need to look at the public health food fees.

The more uniform programs are going to be the easier things to get funding for. There hasn't been too much interest lately to increase business personal property tax. They increased it a few years ago.

Local option? There is a disconnect in the legislature about local option. Might be a good idea if you tie it to school districts. Maybe it is stated that it could be used for facilities and then the districts could figure out how to spend it. (Iowa does this – 1% for schools with a general 6% sales tax). Some don't want to tie it to specific things and just allow locals decide how to spend it. In Valley County there is a need for housing. In some areas of the state, local option tax will be extremely hard to pass. It is complex and could be a struggle between the cities and counties. If we take care of the schools maybe counties would be able to pass a bond again. Voters are bonded out when the school bonds pass and then counties try to pass one.

What if there was a regional sales tax or creating an “area of impact” and then share the proceeds? Maybe there could be a program similar to the PTR program for all owner-occupied properties. It would be the easiest and cleanest.

Public Defense Discussion

Sometime this month we will have a somewhat formal working group to work on public defense models. The idea is to have county commissioners, public defenders, and legislators to explore different ideas. We think there may be an approach of having a regional model within each judicial district. Public defenders are working on a framework they would like to see move forward and it is similar to the regional model. There is a need to have oversight. The state would like to have authority of the oversight. You may see a chief public defender and then have offices in each judicial district. There have been discussions about having to have one institutional office within each district. The governor's office wants to make sure that whatever is moved forward needs to strengthen the position of the Tucker lawsuit.

The money needs to come from the state and the state needs to control it. The system needs to answer to the state. This is what has created the problem. Some funding comes from the state but counties bear the majority of the funding currently but have to operate through the authority of the PDC and this doesn't work. There is a lack of public defenders. What if we look at debt loan forgiveness, like prosecutors, to help with this lack of interest? It is unknown what the impact would be.

Seth said the working group will develop the product to bring to the IAC members in a fall. Lorna said if the state is going to control public defense, then they need to provide it all including the facility costs. Other commissioners agreed. Seth anticipates that to be part of the conversation regarding different models discussed. Seth shared that we'll need to work on some clean up legislation on CAT regarding reimbursements (how to handle settlement agreements), and jail medical. Right now, CAT

is doing pricing for jail medical. When CAT Board goes away, that pricing goes away, so this will need to be addressed as well. CAT/indigent: settlements and jail medical.

Sen. Lakey would like to create a group to work on areas of city impact.

The meeting was adjourned.

IAC Legislative Committee

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR Justin Baldwin <i>Gooding Assessor</i>	VICE CHAIR Don Hall <i>Twin Falls Commissioner</i>	
Dan Dinning <i>District 1: Boundary Commissioner</i>	Terrel Tovey <i>District 5: Bannock Commissioner</i>	Annette Dygert <i>IAC: Owyhee Treasurer</i>
Justin McLeod <i>District 2: Lewis Commissioner</i>	Brent Mendenhall <i>District 6: Madison Commissioner</i>	Vic Pearson <i>IPAA: Franklin Prosecutor</i>
Phil McGrane <i>District 3: Ada Clerk</i>	Josh Dison <i>IACA: Elmore Assessor</i>	Kieran Donahue <i>ISA: Canyon Sheriff</i>
Wayne Schenk <i>District 4: Minidoka Commissioner</i>	Doug Zenner <i>IACC: Nez Perce Commissioner</i>	Scott Carver <i>ISACC: Valley Coroner</i>
	Angie Barkell <i>IACRC: Owyhee Clerk</i>	

ALTERNATES

Phil Lampert <i>District 1: Benewah Commissioner</i>	Jessica Lewis <i>District 5: Bingham Commissioner</i>	John David Davidson <i>IAC: Blaine Treasurer</i>
Kathie LaFortune <i>District 2: Latah Commissioner</i>	Shayne Young <i>District 6: Jefferson Commissioner</i>	<i>IPAA:</i>
Sherry Maupin <i>District 3: Valley Commissioner</i>	<i>Brad Wills</i> <i>IACA: Twin Falls Assessor</i>	<i>ISA:</i>
Ben Crouch <i>District 4: Jerome Commissioner</i>	<i>IACC:</i>	Dotti Owens <i>ISACC: Ada Coroner</i>
	Kim Keeley <i>IACRC: Teton Clerk</i>	