

## Justice and Public Safety Committee

January 27, 2026 | 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Boise Centre | Room 130 | Boise, ID

### MEETING MINUTES

---

#### **Call to Order | *Chair Brent Reinke***

*Fremont County Commissioner Blair Dance made a motion to approve the minutes from September 2025, Bonneville County Sheriff Sam Hulse seconded. Motion carried.*

#### **State Inmates & IDOC Update | Bree Derrick, executive director**

The director from IDOC presented updates, noting a tremendous growth in the prison population, specifically 4.5% growth in 2025, which exceeded the typical projection of 1.72%. This growth has resulted in a 25-year population high and operating at 123% capacity, causing significant jail backlogs statewide, with about 1,200 people backlogged in county jails as of the previous week.

IDOC is collaborating with the sheriffs' association to solve the backlog problem. The solution involves contracting with counties that have available infrastructure, such as Jefferson, Bonneville, and Adams counties, to operationalize additional IDOC beds. Additionally, IDOC is working to expand its out-of-state bed capacity by adding 320 beds to an existing contract with an Arizona facility, with the first move expected in February. The goal is to utilize in-state county beds first before sending additional people out of state, which causes disruptions to families and re-entry efforts.

IDOC is implementing five fully funded infrastructure projects in various stages of design or construction, which will add over a thousand beds to their system within the next two years. Key projects include the Pocatello Community Re-entry Center (100 beds), a new unit at the Idaho State Correctional Institute (280 beds) designed for an aging population and incentive housing, a secure mental health facility in partnership with the Department of Health and Welfare, and a minimum custody unit at Orofino (100 beds). These projects are intended as long-term solutions, hopefully allowing the use of county and out-of-state contracts to be temporary measures.

IDOC Director confirmed that construction for the infrastructure projects is fully funded, but staffing will be funded as the facilities become operational. The Director expressed confidence in receiving funding for staffing because housing people in-state is considered more fiscally responsible and leads to better public safety outcomes. Although the Governor exempted IDOC from a 3% holdback for public safety reasons, the department still implemented programmatic cuts like restricting travel and training, and significantly reduced external contracts, including the potential removal of community intervention stations in the 2027 budget.

*IAC promotes county interests, encourages ethical behavior, advocates good public policy on behalf of Idaho counties, supports best practices, and provides education and training to assist Idaho county officials in performance of public service.*

### **Senator Lakey and Representative Skaug**

- State Inmate reimbursement rates: \$80/day/inmate
- PERSI rehire: allows law enforcement officers to retire and return to work, noting efforts to clarify its implementation for management positions
- Lease Option: Extend to 30 years with the vote of the people 50% + 1
- Local Option: support from Skaug and Lakey but probably won't see the light of day.
- Enhanced penalties for the murder of a police officer:
- Juvenile probation officers: allow them to arrest or detain juveniles if violation in their presence.
- Human Trafficking: allows for any LE to go to the AG for assistance.
- Sheriff election certification qualifications:
- Solicitation (Raybould): addressing the demand side of human trafficking by making soliciting sex a misdemeanor for those 18-21 and a felony for those over 21
- Immigration: to align Idaho Code with federal code and clarifying definitions
- Masks for crimes: violent misdemeanor and all felonies
- Minimum fine for marijuana: is this being used?
- DNA collection and fingerprinting:
- Crime victims' rights: trying to strengthen victim rights in the constitution
- Son of Sam: no profits for crimes committed.
- Sex offenders living near daycares

### **Legislative Update | *Seth Grigg, IAC; Kelli D Brassfield, IAC***

All updates were given above.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 am MT.

# Justice and Public Safety Committee

## MEMBERSHIP

---

### CHAIR

Brent Reinke  
Twin Falls Commissioner

### VICE CHAIR

Sam Hulse  
Bonneville Sheriff

Adam Mabey  
*Caribou Sheriff*

Alex Sosa  
*Boise Prosecutor*

Angie Barkell  
*Owyhee Clerk*

Andy Creech  
*Payette Sheriff*

Bart Heslington  
*Bear Lake Sheriff*

Bart Quayle  
*Fremont Sheriff*

Benjamin Allen  
*Shoshone Prosecutor*

Bill Thompson  
*Latah Prosecutor*

Blair Dance  
*Fremont Commissioner*

Brent Mendenhall  
*Madison Commissioner*

Cuyler Stoker  
Franklin Sheriff

Daren Ward  
*Adams Commissioner*

David Dose  
*Shoshone Commissioner*

Doug Miller  
*Valley Clerk*

Gordon Vaden  
*Custer Commissioner*

James Roberts  
*Bingham Coroner*

Joshua Hall  
*Nez Perce Coroner*

Kevin Copperi  
*Valley Sheriff*

Kristina Glascock  
*Twin Falls Clerk*

Leslie Duncan  
*Kootenai Commissioner*

Lynn Bowerman  
*Lemhi Commissioner*

Rich Riffle  
*Ada Coroner*

Rick Carlson  
*Lemhi Commissioner*

Samuel Beus  
*Jerome Prosecutor*

Scott Carver  
*Valley Coroner*

Sharee Sprague  
*Power Clerk*

Shelly Blackner  
*Butte Clerk*

Steve Anderson  
*Jefferson Sheriff*

Torey Danner  
*Bannock Coroner*