

# Legislative Preview

Real Property Section

January 6, 2021

# Session Overview

- Session starts: January 11, 2020
- Friday January 22—Senate Deadline for personal bill introduction, S. Rule 11.
- Friday January 29— House deadline for bill/ constitutional amendment introduction, H.Rule 6.
- JFAC begins budget setting on February 19.
- Expected to complete budget setting process: March 12, 2020.

# Pandemic Protocols

- Limited Capacity
  - Spaced seating in committee rooms
- Masks Recommended
- Streaming of all proceedings
  - Remote Testimony Available
- JFAC Hearings will be different—agency head in person, but remainder remote (Option to present remotely)
- Lessons learned from Special Session

# Setting the Table

- New Legislators: 17 new members, 4 returning served previously, 3 house to senate, and 3 appointed
- New Senate Leadership: Senator Winder, new Pro Tem
- New Committee Chairs:
  - House State Affairs—Rep. Crane
  - Senate Transportation—Senator Den Hartog
  - Senate Resources: Senator Vick

# Property Taxes

- Cap on local gov't property tax increases including new construction
  - 4% unless 2/3 voter approval
  - Growth tied to CPI
- Limit rainy day, reserve funds in local governments
- Transparent Idaho: collect and publish local government budget/ spending
- Homeowner's exemption adjustments
  - Tie to each county's housing market
  - Raise cap + tie to federal
- Senior Citizen/ Veteran/ Disabled Circuit Breaker increase
- Impact fees—Schools (referenced in LLUPA, but then not in Development Impact Fee Chapter (Title 67, Chapter 82)).

# Legislative Authority

- Pandemic Response
- Article III, sec. 27: Continuity of Operations?
- Amendment to allow for legislature to call itself into session?
- Limits on length of emergency declarations
  - Declaration requires legislative approval for extension
    - Article IV, sec. 5?
- Limits on Health & Welfare, Health District, & City Authority
- Limits on Schools

# Rules Review

- No rules were approved last session
- Article III, sec. 29 (may review for legislative intent)
- Process for approval/ rejection in flux
- Constitutional Amendment + Statutes
  - Idaho code secs. 67-5291 & 67-5292

# Budget

- Projected \$630 million surplus (as of 12/07/20).
- State agencies currently operating under 5% holdback
- CARES ACT (\$1.25 billion)
  - Balanced \$99 million state education holdback with \$99 million in CARES Act
- Could form basis for tax cuts, transportation projects, additional education \$\$\$, and water projects.
- Sales tax on groceries
- Intrastate air travel issues



# Looking forward

- Could be tumultuous, long session or
- Could be very focused short session