**August 2022 Monthly Report**

The month of July marks the first steps of the policy process starting again. Rulemaking, legislative ideas, budgets, and more are all being discussed in agency, board, and commission meetings during the summer. With the FY 2022 behind us, and FY 2023 now underway, agencies are already beginning the planning process for FY 2024. BB&A works diligently thought out the year to engage in these processes on your behalf and we strive to ensure your goals are met now, to better position us ahead of the curve in January.

The rulemaking processes this year also includes Gov. Brad Little’s Executive Order (2020-01) for zero-based regulation (ZBR) which includes the goal to cut restrictive language and unnecessary regulations. We continue to participate in many discussions with agencies as they decide between beneficial restriction cuts and necessary rules. August typically brings the next steps for these rules to move forward in the process and begin being presented to the boards. Agencies will bring forth their proposed rulemaking changes for approval, which then must be approved during the 2023 Legislature.

As mentioned, July is the beginning of FY 2023. The state of Idaho starts the new fiscal year with another massive surplus of $1.4 Billion. The Governor’s Department of Financial Management (DFM) has been able to complete the [FY 2022 General Fund Revenue Report](https://dfm.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/publications/eab/gfrr/gfrr2023/gfrr_jul2022.pdf). Governor Little stated, “*as the least regulated state in the country, we will be able to provide Idahoans even more tax relief and make key investments where they count*.” With a large surplus again this year, BB&A will continue to work with Governor Little and his staff, as well as legislative leadership to align their goals with ours including focusing on investments in education, transportation, water, broadband, cybersecurity, and other key areas to keep up with growth.

By October, all budgets, and legislative ideas for the 2023 Legislative Session must be approved through executive process. The fall season is typically the beginning of agencies starting their outreach for approved ideas ahead of the upcoming session. However, several boards and commissions are meeting for their monthly and quarterly meetings this month and have already started having these in-depth conversations. This has made for a busy summer full of meetings.

BB&A also attended Western Governors’ Association (WGA) 2022 Annual Meeting where numerous agency heads, Governor’s staff, and federal staff met to discuss a variety of issues facing the west. The meeting was held in Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho and Governor Little completed his term as Chair of WGA while hosting the conference. Many roundtables and presentations were given on topics including wildfire threats, drought, veteran’s behavioral health, cybersecurity, transportation, and supply chain issues. For more information on the meeting click [HERE](https://westgov.org/news/article/register-for-the-2022-annual-meeting).

Campaigns are starting to ramp up for the November General Elections. Statewide and legislative races as well as some federal and many local races are heating up. Some races have already been decided where Republican candidates won’t have a Democrat opponent in the General Election, but there are competitive races to start looking into. With nearly a 50% turnover in the Idaho Legislature as a result of this election cycle, there is much to be done going into the November General Election. After the elections are certified in November, House and Senate leadership races will be the primary focus, especially with many Chair and Vice-Chair positions to be filled at the discretion of leadership. BB&A is monitoring these races closely as we continue to learn more about our new members in the Legislature.

Between the many rulemaking sessions, committees, and board meetings, we are finding times to meet with various legislators and other elected figures. We welcome the opportunities for you to join us and to build and maintain your own working relationships with them as well. As always, please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help you achieve your goals.