

As November arrives, so does the General Election. Federal, state, legislative, and local races are all on the ballot on November 8th. Absentee ballots are being mailed in, and early voting continues until Friday, November 4th at 5:00 PM. Although voter pre-registration is closed, you can still register at the polls on election day. BB&A encourages everyone to vote in this election if you haven't already. BB&A will be tracking the election results and will be sending out a special report shortly after the election.

This election will determine the turnover in the 2023 Idaho Legislature, which is anticipated to be around a 50%. A select few races are in highly competitive districts, which will play a role in leadership races. All eyes will be watching these leadership races after the election results are finalized; then looking to which legislators will be House and Senate Chairs/Co-Chairs. We will have much to do after elections to learn more about our incoming legislators before January. Until committees are officially determined, it is all speculation about leadership races and the potential makeup of committees. BB&A has continued to observe all races across the state, as we meet with returning and new legislators.

During the month of October, the authorized agency revised budget requests were due on Friday, October 21, 2022, to the Department of Financial Management (DFM). This reflected the changes the Governor's staff and DFM coordinated with each agency on to refine their requests. Some budgets grew while many will be reduced from their initial request submitted in September 2022. DFM did put a 3% cap on each agency's budget increase for FY 24, so budgets have been adjusted to reflect this maximum increase.

BB&A has been following the progress of these budget requests, as well as the agency legislative ideas that will move forward. DFM and the Governor's staff is hard at work creating the Governor's Budget and the State of the State Address. BB&A continues to work with Governor Little, his staff, and potential legislative leadership to align their goals with ours to make crucial investments for Idaho. After the Governor reveals his goals for next year, we will be able to better define what the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session leading Idaho initiatives will be. With a large group of freshman legislators coming in, we know the 2023 Idaho Legislative Session will be full of educational opportunities as we work to deliver success for you and meet the needs of the state. There are many unknowns at this moment, but as the dust settles after the General Election, we will be able to peel back the layers of what to expect in the coming months.

Meanwhile, the zero-based regulation (ZBR) negotiated rulemakings, per Governor Little's Executive Order 2020-01, have agencies aiming to cut regulation, reduce unnecessary language, and add clarification. October is typically the time where agency boards and commissions start to review and approve the proposed rules. Many have gone through this process, and the rules are now considered pending rules and are awaiting the Approval of the Idaho Legislature. Agencies will have November and December to finish this process in order to submit their pending rules in time to be approved by the 2023 Legislative Session. Once approved by the Legislature and/or the Governor, rules are considered adopted and are in full effect. <u>HERE</u> is a list of all proposed rules.

In between rulemakings, interim committees, and board meetings, BB&A has been finding time to meet with agency heads, elected officials, and the Governor's staff to maintain working relationships and advance your priorities. BB&A always welcomes you join us during meetings so you can build and maintain your own working relationships. We are consistently looking for opportunities on your behalf for additional partnerships with the state as well.

As we ramp up throughout November and head into the nest session, we will continue working to uphold your goals and protect your interests, and we look forward to continuing to advocate on your behalf. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or if there is anything else we can do for you to achieve your goals.