



December 2022 Monthly Report

November was kicked off by the General Election on November 8, 2022. Most races were settled in the May 2022 Primary Elections, with a super majority of Republicans in the state and in many districts. Governor Brad Little's race was called just after polls closed at 9:00 PM, leading the way for the Republican statewide candidates on the ballot. Scott Bedke, the current Idaho Speaker of the House, will be the new Lieutenant Governor. Phil McGrane, current Ada County Clerk, will be stepping into the Secretary of State role, after receiving the largest lead among the statewide candidates with 72% of the vote. Raúl Labrador will be the incoming Attorney General, and Debbie Critchfield will be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Forty-nine (49) freshmen legislators will join the 105 members of the Idaho State Legislature meaning a 47% new Legislature. This marks the largest turn over in Idaho legislative history. With this huge turnover, we anticipate a heavy lift to educate policymakers in every committee. Along with the newcomers, many incumbent legislators will be moving to different committees and working on new policy areas this legislative session. With this challenge comes opportunities to discuss the options for success for both you and the state. With eighteen (18) freshmen joining the total of thirty-five (35) members in the Senate, the deliberative body seems to be leaning further right politically than previous years. This could mean the Senate will not be the traditional backstop for controversial bills from the House. Thirty-one (31) new members will join the House of Representatives total of seventy (70) members, with a similar political makeup to past sessions.

The massive turnover also produced leadership races, creating political gossip for months that finally came to a head as the House and Senate Majority Caucus' met at 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM on November 30, 2022. They caucused after a full day at the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho (ATI) Annual Conference and new legislator trainings. The House Majority leadership election began with Rep. Mike Moyle being voted in as the new Speaker of the House. The rest followed with Rep. Megan Blanksma as the new House Majority Leader and Rep. Sage Dixon being the House Assistant Majority Leader. Rep. Dustin Manwaring won a three-way race, via runoff, for House Majority Caucus Chair. The Senate Majority leadership held, with Sen. Chuck Winder as the Pro-Tem; Sen. Kelly Anthon as the Senate Majority Leader; Sen. Abby Lee as Senate Assistant Majority Leader; and Sen. Mark Harris as the Senate Majority Caucus Chair.

House and Senate Minority Caucus' met the day prior to elect their new Minority leadership. With a smaller caucus, these elections tend to be far more cordial. Rep. Illana Rubel will remain House Minority Leader with Rep. Lauren Necochea staying in the House Assistant Minority role. Rep. Ned Burns will be the new House Minority Caucus Chair; this will be only his second session and first full-term serving in the Idaho Legislature. In the Senate, Sen. Melissa Wintrow will be moving up to Senate Minority Leader, and new Senate member, Sen. James Ruchti, will be the Senate Assistant Minority Leader. Sen. Janie Ward-Engelking will remain Senate Minority Caucus Chair.

On December 1, 2022, the House swore in the 2023 legislative leadership and began the daunting task of office and committee assignments. Senate Chair/Cochairs, offices and committee members were determined later that afternoon while the House adjourned until Friday morning to give themselves extra time to do the same.

Included in this report is a list of Leadership, Chairmen/Vice-chairmen and Committee assignments for the House and Senate. To see the full list committee members and their bios, click [HERE](#). We have also attached the new 2023 Idaho Legislature list with contacts to this report. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.



Also in November, BB&A attended the North Idaho Legislative Tour. Both returning and new legislators joined the three-day event to learn more about a few of the prominent businesses and community issues in Lewiston and Moscow. The turnout for this event was a success; all legislators running for leadership were in attendance. Throughout the event, we were able to continue to meet and build working relationships with incoming legislators. All while learning about the issues they care about and want to focus on this upcoming session. Many of the presentations included conversations of cybersecurity, broadband, behavioral health, economic development, technical career needs, and more.

Throughout all the events in preparation for the session, agencies have been still hard at work to prepare for the session as well. Most agencies have successfully approved their rules including many zero-based regulation ZBR rules and are now waiting to bring the pending rules to the 2023 Legislature. All pending rules can be found [HERE](#). All agency's budgets have been submitted and vetted by the Governor's Office and the Department of Financial Management (DFM). The Governor's staff is collaborating with the Governor to address his priorities for the 2023 legislative session, which will be announced in the State of the State on January 9, 2022. This is also the first day of the 2023 legislative session.

December will provide us with the much needed opportunity to start having conversations with the now established leadership on your behalf. Throughout the month, we will be drafting, reworking, and discussing budgets, rules, and bill language with legislative and Governor's staff. This time is crucial to us to understand what leadership's priorities are and what to expect. Leadership has now peeled back one layer of the mystery that is the new Idaho Legislature, but there are more layers to work through between now and then.

BB&A is committed to ensuring your interests are protected and advanced. We continue to work to align your goals with the policymakers and their constituents, and always look forward to advocating on your behalf. As the unofficial kickoff to the 2023 Idaho Legislative Session is now behind us the work begins again preparing for January. All of the inaugural festivities and the new, and sure to be interesting, session is upon us. Please reach out if you have questions or if there is anything else we can do to accomplish your goals.