



### January 2023 Report

As we start 2023, January marks the beginning of both an array of state traditions and many new occasions in Idaho. Governor Little and the rest of Idaho's Constitutional Officers will be ceremoniously sworn in on the Idaho State Capital steps as part of the 49<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Celebrations beginning on January 6, 2023. The following day, the inaugural ball will occur where our state legislators, new statewide officials, their families, and friends will celebrate their achievement prior to beginning their work on Monday, January 9, 2023.

On January 9 2023, Governor Little will give his State of the State Address where he will outline his priorities for the 2023 Idaho Legislative Session. These priorities have historically set the scene for what Governor Little would like to see come across his desk during the session. Often, this includes specific legislation, budgets, policy concepts and commitments many of which were outlined in his "[Leading Idaho](#)" plan from last year. The Governor and his staff have been hard at work perfecting this speech, his budget, and the highlights.

With this being an inaugural year, statewide officials will take on the budget process from those who previously were in office. We expect to see a few adjustments to their office's budget as they get settled into their new roles. These presentations will begin on January 10<sup>th</sup> as JFAC begins their budget hearings for the next six (6) weeks. This is where the work with agencies over the last year is showcased as they make their requests to the legislature for FY 24.

As the legislators get their feet under them, many committees will begin by hearing and approving agency rules that were passed by agencies, boards, and commissions throughout the year. Per Governor Little's Executive Order, 2020-01, agencies continue to move through the zero-based regulation (ZBR) rulemaking process in an attempt to eliminate regulatory burden and unnecessary language from rules. Due to this, there are more rules being approved than prior to ZBR. To see a comprehensive list of all rules that will be reviewed during 2023 session, click [HERE](#). We will be tracking the progress of the relevant rules for you, so please let us know if there is a rule that is not in your weekly reports that you would like to see.

During December, we spent most of the month having conversations with the Governor's staff, agency heads, and legislators to prepare for the upcoming session. We continue to reach out the new leadership to understand priorities and expectations for the coming months. This month has been the perfect opportunity to strategize, research, and finalize plans. As we move into the session, we will have more opportunities to fine tune plans as we have conversations with legislators.

The session is what all our groundwork has been leading up to, and we will have much to do during this time. With a nearly 50% turnover and various incumbent legislators moving to new committees to work on different policies, we will be educating legislators on who you are and advancing your priorities. We will begin sending out weekly reports as the session begins; this will include a one pager summarizing the lay of the capital, a bill tracker, a rule tracker, a budget tracker, and an appointment tracker.

The bill tracker will be comprised of the top five (5) to ten (10) bills that we are tracking for you, so if there are bills that you would like added or removed from our report please do not hesitate to ask. Another thing to be aware of is with the number of new legislators, there will be a high amount of personal bills that arise during the first month. The vast majority of personal bills will not receive hearings or continue through the process but can have surprising ideas and provide a glimpse at priorities for individual legislators. Please do not be alarmed if you come across an extreme (personal) bill as this is very common, especially after a contested election year. We will be monitoring all bills and will update reports if progress is seen from these bills.

With weekly reports and full days of committee hearings for the next few months, we will forego standing meetings to ensure we are in the mix and representing your interests in the Capitol. This time allows us to stay ahead of the curve during the most productive and fast-paced parts of the year. With that said, we are happy to schedule meeting(s) with



you if necessary and will call with any news or opportunities as they arise. As always, if you need anything or have any questions please reach out.

BB&A is dedicated to creating a successful session for you. As opportunities arise, we will continue to work with legislators to align your priorities with the Governor's and Legislature's (and their constituents) public policy. We look forward to advocating and working on your behalf during the upcoming 2023 Idaho legislative session. We are grateful for your trust and for our relationship with you and we will do everything we can to help you be successful. We are prepared for an interesting and unpredictable session. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Michael, Peyton, Bailey, or I if you have any questions or if something arises.

Lastly, we want to introduce you to our 2023 Legislative Session Intern, Abby Delmas, Abby recently graduated from Boise State University with her bachelor's degree in Political Science and an Intermediate Spanish Certificate. She's an Idaho native and traveled to Spain for a semester of college. You may see or hear from Abby throughout the session as she helps us with reports, committees, and other tasks to aid BB&A in advocating for your interests. Please feel free to reach out to Abby to welcome her. Her contact information is listed below.

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Welcome Abby!