



August 2024 Monthly Report

July brought hot and smokey days, and the summer wildfire season is in full effect in Idaho and the western United States. As the state continues to battle fires throughout Idaho and the west, the real threats of wildfire are on full display, and Idaho is in the center of it all. With the high temperatures and fires, comes the start of a new fiscal year (budget) and the roll out of programs and policies passed by the Legislature. While we look to expand upon past success, the summer months can be considered the off season for many, but for us it is a perfect chance to build and begin to implement strategies, reaffirm, and deepen relationships to ensure we are doing all we can to advance your efforts in Idaho.

July marked the first month of the 2025 Fiscal Year, meaning new programs, full-time positions, and FY 25 funding now available. July 1, 2024, marked the start of much of this year's new laws to going into full effect. This time of the year creates a natural reset for state government to shift focus from this year's session to the next year's. August brings the opportunity to begin the initial process of policy drafting and budget line-item planning. While this seems routine, it can be compelling, exciting, and at times difficult, but it often sets the stage for session. Being a part of this process is essential to the success of our work for you year-round.

Agencies have now started to work with the Governor's staff and the Division of Financial Management (DFM) to craft their asks for the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session. The first round of budgets is typically due on September 1st, and revised budgets are due October 20th. This gives DFM and agencies time to refine requests to best fit budget constraints and align with the Governor's priorities. Legislative ideas from agencies were due June 21st, and if an agency idea was approved, they then have until August 9th to submit their proposed legislation. Thus, giving the Governor's office plenty of time to decide what pieces of legislation will become a priority and Governor's recommendation.

During the budget and policy drafting process, BB&A has been keeping up with checkups with agency leadership to ensure we are remaining ahead of the curve with their priorities as conversations develop. With the new JFAC process for ongoing costs from previous years versus line items and new budget requests, agencies internally are questioning what their absolute needs are to ask from the Legislature.

New and returning legislators have also started to craft their own legislation and policy ideas to shop around as the session draws closer and closer. Some new lawmakers have taken a more educational approach, and don't plan on running their own legislation the first year, while others are ready to jump in headfirst with their policy priorities. Rumblings continue regarding House and Senate leadership races, as those who are running or may run continue to make horse trades and campaign promises to secure the votes needed. These races will determine which legislators will serve as a chair of a committee and what committees each legislator will sit on. BB&A has also continued to make progress to meet with every new legislator prior to the start of 2025 session.

Elections and politics at the national, state, and local level have begun to flare up as the November General Election draws closer. The political rhetoric at every level has progressed again since the May Primary and will only continue to grow louder as we come closer to November. In Idaho, most of the races are set to favor the Republican candidates; however, a few swing districts across Idaho still are up in the air. We have been watching the progression of these races closely, as these districts will have major impacts on leadership races, policy outcomes, and more for the 2025 and 2026 sessions.

We remain committed to working throughout the summer months on your behalf to provide you with the most updated intel and necessary relationships. Do not hesitate to reach out to discuss your goals and ideas for the upcoming 2025 session. Click [HERE](#) to see the laws that went into effect July 1, 2024.