



## November 2024 Report

There's an election going on – just in case you haven't noticed. Ok, seriously, it's a frenetic time of year for the team here at BB&A. In the last month, we've been tracking campaign spending, who's giving, who's spending. We've been watching the competitive and intriguing races in several legislative districts across the state and tracking contest for President and Congress. We're poised to stay up late Tuesday night, monitor results and begin thinking strategically about what the new legislative landscape means for the upcoming session. In addition to this monthly report, you will also receive an Idaho-centric election memo next week.

Keep in mind that things don't slow down when the dust settles on the General Election. In fact, the opposite is true. The weeks between the election and the start of the 2025 Legislature are some of the most important for us. Here's why:

- **Legislative Leadership:** The persuasion game intensifies among the contenders vying for the top four majority leadership positions in each chamber.
- **House Majority**  
Speaker Mike Moyle is expected to keep his role as House Speaker. House Majority Leader, Jason Monks, who stepped into the roll mid-session last year, is also expected to retain his title. Assistant Majority Leader, vacated by the retirement of Sage Dixon, is an open and competitive position. Majority Caucus Chair is currently held by Dustin Manwaring, who needs to win Tuesday and potentially deal with a contender for his post.
- **Senate Majority**  
With the May primary election loss of veteran Senator, and current Pro Tem Chuck Winder, all four positions in majority leadership are up for grabs, with several of those roles potentially filled by Senators new to the leadership role if selected by their peers. This has created Chaos and plenty of senators flexing their political muscle to vie for these key positions in leadership and chairmanships.
- **Committee Chairs:** Once leadership has been determined in early December, committee chairmanship appointments follow. We anticipate some turnover in the House and Senate committees. The committee Chair serves an important role, and we will be working closely with them after the shuffle, as it creates new opportunities to work with them in their new roles.

The next few weeks are critical as well because state agencies are wrapping up proposed legislation and budget requests. We have been – and will continue to be – in close communication with agency heads to review legislation and budgets to determine how it impacts your priorities and goals for the session. We're also communicating regularly with the Governor's staff as the final budget and legislative priorities are woven into the State of the State Address, which kicks off the 2025 first regular legislative session.

So, what does this all mean to you? In simplest terms, it's time for us to sit down so we can wrap up planning and strategy before the session begins on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. The new leadership and committee heads will wield significant influence over legislative priorities, budgetary decisions, and the success or failure of proposed administrative rules. We will be ready, and we want to make sure you are too. It's time to set expectations, plan for achieving goals, and figuring out how best we can help in the execution and communication of your plans for next year. Meanwhile, don't forget to [VOTE!](#)



## November 2024 Monthly Notes

BB&A sat in on a monthly call with the IDHW leadership, who presented the legislation the department is currently working on. Next month's call will focus on the IDHW FY 26 Budget Requests.

### **IDHW Sponsored Legislation – 2025 Legislative Session**

#### Obsolete Code Section Bill:

- Removes 166 Sections of code deemed antiquated, unnecessary, contradictory, duplicative, or contrary to federal law.

#### Updating Agency References

- Removes references of agencies no longer accurate.

#### Moving Existing Regulations into Statute

- Long standing, non-controversial rules will be moved to statute. This includes Adult Mental Health, SUDs, and Children's Mental Health.

#### Hospitals Bills

- Removes duplicative licensing; thus, if the hospital is licensed through CMS, then it will be licensed for Idaho as well.

#### Child Welfare

- Allows children to be adopted faster and be granted permanency sooner.

#### Health Insurance Third-Party Liability

- Currently in federal law and needs to be enacted as directed by CMS.

#### State Agency Tax Information

- Allows IDHW to enter an agreement with the Tax Commission to share personal income tax information to investigate fraud.

IDHW is also providing technical assistance on a new EMS bill, similar to S 1416 that was not approved in 2024. This bill would have declared EMS as an essential service and dedicated a new fund that the Legislature could use to expand EMS in Idaho. Licensing reciprocity was a huge issue, and the agency is making suggestions to improve the bill.