



New Redistricting Commission to Meet

The 2011 Redistricting Commission was unable to agree on a legislative or a congressional redistricting plan and failed to submit any plans to the Secretary of State as required by law.

After the Commission's 90-day deadline passed, Secretary of State Ben Ysursa filed a lawsuit with the Idaho Supreme Court, as did the Republican commissioners. The Supreme Court held that it lacked jurisdiction because no plan had been filed and, therefore, dismissed the GOP commissioners' suit and denied some of the Secretary of State's requested relief, but held that the Secretary of State could convene a new commission.

The Secretary of State issued an order on September 13, 2011, convening a second 2011 Redistricting Commission with new commissioners and starting the clock on another 90-day period. The first meeting has been scheduled for September 28, 2011, in order to accommodate the full 15 days that appointing authorities are allowed under the law to name their choices.

Both Republicans and Democrats have appointed three new commissioners:

- ▶ **Sheila Olsen**, Idaho Falls, was appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore Brent Hill;
- ▶ Former Rep. **Delores Crow**, Nampa, was appointed by Speaker of the House Lawrence Denney;
- ▶ Former Rep. **Randy Hansen**, Twin Falls, was appointed by Republican State Chairman Norm Semanko;
- ▶ Former Sen. **Ron Beitelspacher**, Grangeville, was appointed by Idaho Democratic Party Chairman Larry Grant;
- ▶ Former Rep. **Elmer Martinez**, Pocatello, was appointed by Senate Minority Leader Edgar Malepeai; and
- ▶ **Shauneen Grange**, Boise, was appointed by House Minority Leader John Rusche.

The first meeting of the new Commission for Reapportionment will be held September 28 at the Statehouse. Follow the work of the commissioners on their website: www.redistricting.idaho.gov.

[Lawsuit](#) filed by Secretary of State

[Lawsuit](#) filed by first GOP Commissioners

[Opinion](#) of the Supreme Court

[Order](#) of the Secretary of State

Staff Contact: Kristin Ford

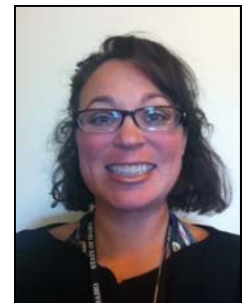
Legislators to Attend WLA

The Council of State Governments-*WEST* will conduct the Western Legislative Academy (WLA) in Colorado Springs October 3-6. Idaho legislators slated to participate this year are **Rep. Brian Cronin**, **Rep. Jeff Thompson**, **Sen. Melinda Smyser** and **Sen. Lee Heider**.

Each year CSG-*WEST* conducts a professional development training program for a select group of western state legislators. The goals of the WLA are to help newer legislators become more effective and to build stronger state legislative institutions. Academy members are selected on the basis of their dedication to public service, desire to improve legislative effectiveness and commitment to the institution of the Legislature.

Secretary of the Senate: Jennifer Novak

Jennifer Novak was appointed Secretary of the Senate in August, after serving the Senate for four years as a majority staff assistant and, most recently, as calendar clerk. In her new position, Jennifer oversees the Office of the Secretary and assists the Office of the President Pro Tempore in the management of the Senate attachés. She served as a page and an intern to the Idaho House of Representatives and has a passion for politics. She completed her major in political science at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her husband Joe and daughter Marlee.



Jennifer Novak

Bonnie Alexander Appointment

Chief Clerk of the House **Bonnie Alexander** has been appointed to the 2020 Mason's Manual Commission. *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure* serves as the official parliamentary manual of most state legislative bodies in the United States. It is to legislatures what *Robert's Rules of Order* is to club groups. A new commission is selected every ten years and consists of eighteen members from the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS), a staff section of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The commission is responsible for editing and revising the manual to keep pace with the modern challenges and developments in parliamentary procedures.

GEMS Team Receives National Award

The Legislative Services Office GEMS Development Team received a Legislative Staff Achievement Award at NCSL's Legislative Summit in San Antonio, Texas, in August. The Government Electronic Management System (GEMS) was developed in-house by IT Systems Analyst **Norma Clark** and the team she supervises, **Noreen Chen**, **Michael Ramshaw** and **Kelly Reister**.

GEMS is a complex database system that manages vital information for the Legislature including legislative bill drafting and tracking, creation of subject and code indexes, House and Senate journals, floor calendars, agendas, print publications and web publishing. Other documents produced in GEMS include Session Laws, Weekly Bill Status, the Legislative Directory, and standing committee agendas and minutes. The newest function of the system is the processing of state agency rules.

Interim Committee/Task Force Activities

Natural Resources Interim Committee

The Natural Resources Interim Committee met in Boise on August 29 and 30. Members received an update from Chief Brian Patton, Planning Division, Idaho Department of Water Resources, relating to various water storage projects, as well as the Rathdrum Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan and ESPA management efforts.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to seven panel presentations by the Idaho Department of Lands. Presentations included:

- ▶ An introductory panel comprised of Jay O'Laughlin and Dennis Colson, both authors and professors, who discussed constitutional and trust law principles applicable to management of state endowment trust assets.
- ▶ The second panel was comprised of Secretary of State Ben Ysursa and former State Controller J.D. Williams, who addressed the responsibility to judiciously manage the endowment assets granted at statehood and constitutionally assigned to the State Board of Land Commissioners.
- ▶ The third panel was comprised of various trust beneficiaries who provided the committee with information relating to the needs of the various beneficiaries, including public schools.
- ▶ Another panel provided background information relating to Idaho's endowment reform, which resulted in numerous changes that were enacted to modernize the trust, including making the trusts self-funded and self-sustaining.
- ▶ A panel also presented the committee with information relating to the land assets owned in trust. This panel provided the committee with a detailed review of endowment land assets, their contribution to overall portfolio performance and the risks and opportunities associated with each asset type.
- ▶ Management of the financial assets in trust was the subject of the sixth panel, focusing on the activities of the Endowment Fund Investment Board.
- ▶ The final panel provided the committee with a "customer" perspective. The panel was representative of the many industries and businesses that directly and indirectly benefit from the management of endowment trust lands.

There was also an update by Division Chief Clive Strong, Natural Resources Division, Office of the Attorney General, relating to pending litigation involving cottage site leases on Priest and Payette Lakes.

Public testimony was invited and heard during the two-day meeting. The committee also reviewed and discussed HB 188, which was proposed legislation from the 2011 legislative session relating to state endowment lands. A future interim committee meeting may be held in October or November, notice of which will be published on our website – www.legislature.idaho.gov.

Membership of committees, minutes and a calendar of scheduled meetings are available on the Legislature's website at: www.legislature.idaho.gov, or directly through these links: [Interim Committees and Minutes](#) [Legislative Calendar](#)

Staff Contact Katharine Gerrity

Health Care Task Force

The Health Care Task Force met in Boise on August 22. Governor Butch Otter, Director Richard Armstrong, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and Director Bill Deal, Idaho Department of Insurance, all spoke on Idaho health insurance exchanges. Chief Financial Officer Jack Myers, Blue Cross of Idaho, and President Scott Kreiling, Regence Blue Shield of Idaho, spoke about the impact of federal health care reform on their companies.

Other items on the agenda included updates on the High Risk Insurance Pool, the Idaho Immunization Program and Medicaid reforms. The Health Care Task Force will meet again in Boise on October 4. The meeting agenda will be posted on the Legislature's website when it becomes available.

Staff Contact: Ryan Bush

Energy, Environment and Technology Interim Committee

The Legislature's interim committee on Energy, Environment and Technology will hold its next meeting on September 28 and 29, 2011, in Room EW42 of the Statehouse. The meeting on the 28th will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will probably last all day. The meeting on the 29th will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will last until about 11:30. The tentative agenda for this meeting includes hearing from representatives of the Strategic Energy Alliance and other stakeholders about rewriting the 2007 Energy Plan, hearing from the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council about energy issues in the Northwest, and perhaps hearing from public utilities about their latest integrated resource plans.

Staff Contact: Mike Nugent

ATV Task Force

The ATV Task Force held its first interim meeting on August 9 in the Statehouse. Co-chairs Senator Steve Bair and Representative Judy Boyle and the other six members of the task force heard testimony and presentations from representatives of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the USDA Forest Service, ATV user groups and representatives from other stakeholders and members of the public.

The primary focus of the meeting was on issues related to Fish and Game's motorized hunting rule and the extent to which that rule has impacted ATV users. The task force also heard testimony regarding a memorandum of understanding between Fish and Game and the National Forest Service related to land management issues and road and trail closures.

The ATV Task Force met again on September 27; a report of that meeting will be in the next newsletter.

Staff Contact: Eric Millstead

Legislative Audit Update

Since last reported in the June/July 2011 issue of Legislative Perspectives, the Legislative Audit Division has issued management reports for the following agencies: Idaho State Board of Nursing, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, Idaho Real Estate Commission, and the Idaho Division of Veterans Services.

The **Real Estate Commission** report has one finding and recommendation:

- ▶ Meals provided at conferences were reimbursed to travelers in violation of state travel policies.

The **Division of Veterans Services** report includes two findings and recommendations:

- ▶ Cost for contract pharmacy services at the Boise facility are excessive when compared with other facilities.
- ▶ Cash balances continue to grow, and no formal plan is in place to address this issue.

The Audit Division also issued 90-day follow-up reports for the fiscal year 2010 statewide annual reports required by the federal government. All reports are available on at www.legislature.idaho.gov/audit.

Audit Staff Update

Andrew Montz joined the audit staff in August. Andrew recently received his bachelor's degree from Boise State University, with emphasis on accounting, including governmental accounting statements and practices, and financial statement auditing. Andrew previously worked for a private electronic firm as a memory semiconductor pricing analyst.

Staff Contact: Don Berg

Office of Performance Evaluations To Release Two Reports

OPE will release two reports and a follow up report at a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee meeting tentatively planned for the first week of December.

Higher Education Funding Equity

Questions about whether Idaho's four-year higher education institutions receive equitable levels of state-appropriated funds surfaced in the 1990s, in 2001, and again during the 2011 legislative session. In response, OPE will release a report that explores equity in Idaho's approach to higher education funding.

Renal Disease Program

Idaho's end stage renal disease program was created to assist those suffering from chronic kidney failure with the cost of medical services. Three years after the implementation of Idaho's program, Medicare began covering treatment for kidney failure. OPE will release a report that describes the program's eligibility determination process and process safeguards, identifies any duplicate medical expenses covered by other assistance programs, and discusses future program options for the Legislature to consider.

Distribution and Sale of Liquor

In January 2011, OPE released a report on the distribution and sale of liquor in Idaho and will report the division's progress on four recommendations:

- ▶ Implement annual training for all division employees.
- ▶ Establish formal criteria for new store placement.
- ▶ Track customer purchases by Zip Code.
- ▶ Identify which stores, if any, could further benefit the state by relocating, expanding, closing or converting to a contract store.

OPE Receives Awards

OPE received three awards at the NCSL Legislative Summit in San Antonio last month:

- ▶ 2011 Impact Award, National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, for the report [Increasing Efficiencies in Idaho's Parole Process](#), which documented programmatic improvements and public policy impact.
- ▶ 2011 Notable Documents Award, National Conference of State Legislatures, Legislative Research Librarians, for two reports [Distribution and Sale of Liquor in Idaho](#) and [Governance of EMS Agencies in Idaho](#). Both reports were recognized for "providing substantive information on contemporary issues of interest to legislators."

Staff Contact: Rakesh Mohan

The Office of Performance Evaluations is located at 954 W. Jefferson St., 10th St. entrance, 2nd floor. The office number is 332-1470. Reports published by OPE are available online at www.idaho.gov/ope.

Proposed Administrative Rules

All administrative rules submitted to the Legislature for review during the interim are available online, along with analysis by staff of the Research and Legislation Division. For a complete listing, please see <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2010/interim/adminrules/rules.htm>.

Staff Contact: Charmi Arregui

Shop Idaho!

Be sure to check out the new pewter Idaho Capitol Christmas ornament available now at the Capitol Gift Shop. The ornament is approximately two and a half inches in size.



Front



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Legislative Perspective

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