

HOUSE JOURNAL

OF THE

IDAHO LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

House of Representatives

The House convened at 12 noon, January 12, 2026, the time established for the convening of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Legislature, the members of the House of Representatives convened in the House Chamber of the Capitol Building in the City of Boise, with Mike Moyle, Speaker, presiding.

Roll call showed 69 members present.
Absent and excused - Ehardt. Total - 1.
Total - 70.

At this time the Speaker put the House at ease for the Flag Ceremony.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Tom Dougherty.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gabrielle Hill, Page.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the Fourth Order of Business.

4TH ORDER
Consideration of Messages from the
Governor and the Senate

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

KNOW ALL MEN, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 59-904A, Idaho Code, the District 16 Legislative Committee of the Democratic Party has submitted a list of three names for consideration in filling a vacancy in the Idaho State House of Representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me do hereby appoint ANNE HENDERSON HAWS of Boise, Idaho, to the office of State Representative, District 16, Seat B, for a term commencing July 22, 2025, and continuing until the next general election when the term of office expires.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 22nd day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth year,

and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred and thirty-fifth year.

/s/ BRAD LITTLE
Governor
/s/ PHIL MCGRANE
Secretary of State

The Certificate of Appointment was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

The Speaker announced the oath of office had previously been administered to Ms. Haws.

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

KNOW ALL MEN, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 59-904A, Idaho Code, the District 35 Legislative Committee of the Republican Party has submitted a list of three names for consideration in filling a vacancy in the Idaho State House of Representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me do hereby appoint MICHAEL VEILE of Soda Springs, Idaho, to the office of State Representative, District 35, Seat A, for a term commencing September 24, 2025, and continuing until the next general election when the term of office expires.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 24th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth year, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred and thirty-fifth year.

/s/ BRAD LITTLE
Governor
/s/ PHIL MCGRANE
Secretary of State

The Certificate of Appointment was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

The Speaker announced the oath of office had previously been administered to Mr. Veile.

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

KNOW ALL MEN, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 59-904A, Idaho Code, the District 25 Legislative Committee of the Republican Party has submitted a list of three names for consideration in filling a vacancy in the Idaho State House of Representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me do hereby appoint DONALD HALL of Twin Falls, Idaho, to the office of State Representative, District 25, Seat A, for a term commencing December 2, 2025, and continuing until the next general election when the term of office expires.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 2nd day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred

and forty-ninth year, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred and thirty-fifth year.

/s/ BRAD LITTLE
Governor
/s/ PHIL MCGRANE
Secretary of State

The Certificate of Appointment was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

The Speaker announced the oath of office had previously been administered to Mr. Hall.

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

KNOW ALL MEN, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 59-904A, Idaho Code, the District 32 Legislative Committee of the Republican Party has submitted a list of three names for consideration in filling a vacancy in the Idaho State House of Representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me do hereby appoint ERIN BINGHAM of Idaho Falls, Idaho, to the office of State Representative, District 32, Seat B, for a term commencing January 9, 2026, and continuing until the next general election when the term of office expires.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 9th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth year, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred and thirty-fifth year.

/s/ BRAD LITTLE
Governor
/s/ PHIL MCGRANE
Secretary of State

The Certificate of Appointment was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

The Speaker announced the oath of office had previously been administered to Ms. Bingham.

The Chief Clerk read the official proclamation as follows:

I, PHIL MCGRANE, Secretary of State of the State of Idaho and legal custodian of the records of elections held in the State of Idaho, do hereby certify that the following is a full, true and complete list of those elected to serve as members of the House of Representatives of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Legislature, as shown by official records on file in my office:

DISTRICT	NAME
1	Mark Sauter (R), Cornel S. Rasor (R)
2	Heather Scott (R), Dale R. Hawkins (R)
3	Vito Barbieri (R), Jordan Redman (R)
4	Joe Alfieri (R), Elaine Price (R)
5	Ron Mendive (R), Tony Wisniewski (R)
6	Lori Ann McCann (R), Brandon Mitchell (R)
7	Kyle Harris (R), Charlie Shepherd (R)
8	Robert "Rob" Beiswenger (R), Faye Thompson (R)
9	John Shirts (R), Judy Boyle (R)
10	Mike Moyle (R), Bruce D. Skaug (R)

11	Kent A. Marmon (R), Lucas B. Cayler (R)
12	Jeff J. Cornilles (R), Jaron Crane (R)
13	Brent Crane (R), Steve C. Tanner (R)
14	Ted Hill (R), Josh Tanner (R)
15	Steve Berch (D), Dori Healey (R)
16	Soñia R. Galaviz (D), Anne Henderson Haws (D)
17	John Gannon (D), Megan Egbert (D)
18	Ilana Rubel (D), Brooke Green (D)
19	Monica C. Church (D), Chris Mathias (D)
20	Joe A. Palmer (R), James Holtzclaw (R)
21	James Petzke (R), Jeff Ehlers (R)
22	John Vander Woude (R), Jason A. Monks (R)
23	Chris Bruce (R), Shawn Dygert (R)
24	Clint Hostetler (R), Steve Miller (R)
25	Don Hall (R), David J. Leavitt (R)
26	Mike J. Pohanka (R), Jack Nelsen (R)
27	Douglas T. Pickett (R), Clay Handy (R)
28	Richard W. "Rick" Cheatum (R), Dan Garner (R)
29	Dustin Manwaring (R), Tanya Burgoyne (R)
30	David M. Cannon (R), Ben G. Fuhriman (R)
31	Jerald Raymond (R), Rod Furniss (R)
32	Stephanie Jo Mickelsen (R), Erin Bingham (R)
33	Barbara Ehardt (R), Marco Adam Erickson (R)
34	Jon O. Weber (R), Britt Raybould (R)
35	Michael Leman Veile (R), Josh Wheeler (R)

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho. Done at Boise, the Capital of Idaho, this 12th day of January, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.

/s/ PHIL MCGRANE
Secretary of State

The Certificate of Election was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the Seventh Order of Business.

7TH ORDER
Motions, Memorials, and Resolutions

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20
BY MONKS AND RUBEL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH IDAHO LEGISLATURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the Governor has informed the House of Representatives and the Senate that he desires to deliver a message to a Joint Session of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at 1 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the House of Representatives and the Senate meet in Joint

Session on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 1 p.m. for the purpose of hearing the message from the Governor.

[HCR 20](#) was introduced, read the first time by title, and referred to the Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee for printing.

Mr. Monks asked unanimous consent that two committees be appointed by the Speaker; one to notify the Governor, and one to notify the Senate that the House is organized and ready to do business. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Speaker appointed the following committees to notify the Governor and the Senate.

Representatives Boyle, Sauter, and Galaviz were appointed as the committee to notify the Governor and Representatives Barbieri, McCann, and Green were appointed as the committee to notify the Senate. The committees were excused.

There being no objection, the House returned to the Fifth Order of Business.

**5TH ORDER
Report of Standing Committees**

January 12, 2026

Mr. Speaker:

We, your COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, RULES AND ADMINISTRATION, report that we have printed [HCR 20](#).
SKAUG, Chairman

[HCR 20](#) was ordered held at the Desk.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the Seventh Order of Business.

**7TH ORDER
Motions, Memorials, and Resolutions**

The committee appointed to notify the Governor that the House was in session returned to the House and reported they had conveyed the message to the Governor and that the Governor sent his greetings and best wishes for a productive session. The committee was thanked and discharged by the Speaker.

The committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House was in session returned to the House and reported that they had conveyed the message to the Senate, and the Senate returned its best wishes for a productive session. The committee was thanked and discharged by the Speaker.

At this time, Senators acting as a committee from the Senate, were escorted into the House Chamber to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate was organized and ready for business. The Speaker thanked the committee.

[HCR 20](#) - GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Mr. Monks moved that all rules of the House interfering with the immediate consideration of [HCR 20](#) be suspended; that the portions of Section 15, Article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho, requiring all bills to be read on three several days be dispensed with, this being a case of urgency; and that [HCR 20](#) be read the second time by title and third time at length, and placed before the House for final consideration. Seconded by Ms. Rubel.

The question being, "Shall the rules be suspended?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Alfieri, Barbieri, Beiswenger, Berch, Bingham, Boyle, Bruce, Burgoyne, Cannon, Cayler, Cheatum, Church, Cornilles, Crane(12), Crane(13), Dygert, Egbert, Ehlers, Erickson, Fuhriman, Furniss, Galaviz, Gannon, Garner, Green, Hall, Handy, Harris, Hawkins, Haws, Healey, Hill, Holtzclaw, Hostetler, Leavitt, Manwaring, Marmon, Mathias, McCann, Mendive, Mickelsen, Miller, Mitchell, Monks, Nelsen, Palmer, Petzke, Pickett, Pohanka, Price, Rasor, Raybould, Raymond, Redman, Rubel, Sauter, Scott, Shepherd, Shirts, Skaug, Tanner(13), Tanner(14), Thompson, Vander Woude, Veile, Weber, Wheeler, Wisniewski, Mr. Speaker. Total - 69.

NAYS—None.

Absent—Ehardt. Total - 1.

Total - 70.

Whereupon the Speaker declared that more than two-thirds of the membership having voted in the affirmative, the motion carried, the rules were suspended, and [HCR 20](#) was read the second time by title and third time at length, and placed before the House for final consideration.

At this time, the Speaker recognized Mr. Monks to open debate.

The question being, "Shall [HCR 20](#) be adopted?"

Whereupon the Speaker declared [HCR 20](#) adopted by voice vote and ordered the resolution transmitted to the Senate.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the Thirteenth Order of Business.

**13TH ORDER
Miscellaneous and Unfinished Business**

The following committee assignments were announced by the Speaker:

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE
SIXTY-EIGHTH IDAHO LEGISLATURE**

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS (17)

Raymond, Chairman
Shirts, Vice Chairman

Cannon
McCann
Garner
Nelsen
Pickett
Sauter
Miller
Beiswenger
Dygert
Leavitt
Mendive
Hall
Healey

Mathias
Haws

APPROPRIATIONS (10)

Tanner(14), Chairman
Miller, Vice Chairman

Furniss
Petzke
Manwaring
Mitchell
Price
Bruce
Harris

Green

Mendive
Ehardt
Wisniewski
Garner
Nelsen
Sauter
Marmon
Pickett
Hostetler
Veile

Mathias
Galaviz

BUSINESS (18)

Redman, Chairman
Harris, Vice Chairman

Crane(13)
Palmer
Barbieri
Cornilles
Crane(12)
Ehlers
Monks
Cannon
Marmon
Rasor
Thompson
Wheeler
Cheatum
Veile

Berch
Green

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY (16)

Barbieri, Chairman
Furniss, Vice Chairman

Vander Woude
Scott
Wisniewski
Raybould
Redman
Bruce
Burgoyne
Fuhriman
Tanner(13)
Thompson
Bingham

Rubel
Egbert
Galaviz

COMMERCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES (14)

Holtzclaw, Chairman
Wisniewski, Vice Chairman

Weber
McCann
Beiswenger
Bruce
Burgoyne
Cayler
Fuhriman
Leavitt
Tanner(13)
Bingham

Egbert
Haws

HEALTH AND WELFARE (16)

Vander Woude, Chairman
Erickson, Vice Chairman

Healey
Redman
Wheeler
Beiswenger
Burgoyne
Cayler
Fuhriman
Leavitt
McCann
Thompson
Hall
Tanner(13)

Rubel
Egbert

JUDICIARY, RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (16)

Skaug, Chairman
Alfieri, Vice Chairman

Scott
Ehardt
Erickson
Garner
Handy
Hawkins
Hill
Hostetler
Pohanka
Shirts
Hall

Gannon
Mathias
Rubel

Shepherd
Cheatum
Cornilles
Ehlers
Monks
Raymond
Hill
Raybould
Shirts
Barbieri
Rasor

Gannon
Berch

REVENUE AND TAXATION (15)

Cannon, Chairman
Weber, Vice Chairman

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (16)

Ehardt, Chairman
Cornilles, Vice Chairman

Erickson
Skaug
Weber
Alfieri
Cheatum
Hawkins
Price
Cayler
Rasor
Wheeler
Hostetler
Marmon

Berch
Church

Palmer
Holtzclaw
Skaug
Alfieri
Crane(12)
Boyle
Dygart
Mickelsen
Pohanka
Bingham

Church
Haws

STATE AFFAIRS (14)

Crane(13), Chairman
Scott, Vice Chairman

RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION (18)

Mendive, Chairman
Shepherd, Vice Chairman

Boyle
Vander Woude
Manwaring
Raybould
Mickelsen
Nelsen
Pickett
Raymond
Tanner(14)
Miller
Dygart
Petzke
Sauter
Healey

Galaviz
Church

Holtzclaw
Monks
Shepherd
Crane(12)
Handy
Hill
Petzke
Boyle
Harris
Mickelsen
Pohanka
Veile

Gannon
Green

TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE (16)

Palmer, Chairman
Mitchell, Vice Chairman

WAYS AND MEANS (7)

Ehlers, Chairman

Monks
Pickett
Crane(12)

Rubel
Berch
Church

The following Special Committee assignments were made:

Idaho Day Committee

Representative Mitchell, Chairman
Representative Ehlers
Representative Mathias

Memorial Committee

Representative Shirts, Chairman
Representative Petzke
Representative Galaviz

House of Representatives
State of Idaho

January 12, 2026

Cyrus Vore
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Vore,

I hereby appoint you to serve as Acting Chief Clerk of the Idaho House of Representatives, effective January 12, 2026, and continuing until the Chief Clerk is able to resume her duties.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the House in this capacity.

/s/ Sincerely,
Mike Moyle
Speaker of the House

The letter was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

House of Representatives
State of Idaho

June 29, 2025

The Honorable Mike Moyle
Speaker of the House
700 W. Jefferson St.
Boise, ID 83702

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor of Idaho
Office of the Governor
700 W. Jefferson St.
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Speaker Moyle and Governor Little,

I write to inform you of my decision to resign from the Idaho House of Representatives, effective 11:59 p.m. on June 29, 2025. After deep reflection, I have concluded that I can best serve the people of Idaho through other avenues.

It has been an honor to represent the citizens of District 16 and to work in a bipartisan manner with my legislative colleagues in pursuit of Idaho's prosperity and freedom.

I am grateful for the confidence my constituents placed in me, for the guidance of House leadership, and for the professionalism of Legislative staff who make our work possible. I leave my service in the House of Representatives with deep

respect for the institution and those who commit to serve the people of Idaho.

Please accept this letter as formal notice under Idaho Code Section 59-904A. I stand ready to assist as needed.

Thank you for your leadership and for this opportunity to serve our great state.

/s/ Respectfully,
Representative Theodore "Todd"
Achilles
Seat 16B, Ada County

The letter was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

House of Representatives
State of Idaho

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor, State of Idaho
P.O.Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0080

Dear Governor Little,

I am writing to formally submit my resignation from the Idaho House of Representatives, effective September 12, 2025.

My new position as State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency in Idaho requires relocation outside of Legislative District 35, making it necessary for me to step down.

It has been an honor to serve the people of District 35, as well as my former constituents in District 28. I have been grateful for the opportunity to uphold the Constitution and work to keep Idaho a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

/s/ Respectfully,
Kevin Andrus
State Representative, District 35A

The letter was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

House of Representatives
State of Idaho

November 12, 2025

Grant Loeb, Republican Chairman of Legislative District 25 and the Citizens of Twin Falls District 25,

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my resignation from Seat A, District 25 in the Idaho House of Representatives, effective at the close of business on November 30, 2025.

After thoughtful consideration - and having privately decided not to seek reelection in 2026, I believe this is the appropriate time to conclude my service as an elected official. Since 1993, I have appeared on the ballot 19 times and had the honor of serving as a City Council Member, Mayor of Twin Falls, and as your Representative in the Idaho Legislature. That journey spans more than 32 years of elected public service.

Some may reasonably ask why I've chosen to step down early rather than complete my term through November 30, 2026. First, I will turn 78 this December and have begun to experience

some health limitations that affect my ability to serve at the level I expect of myself - and that the citizens of District 25 deserve. Second, the majority of the Legislature's work occurs during the first three months of the year, even though the compensation covers the entire calendar year. I do not wish to serve in a diminished or "lame duck" capacity, particularly when I know I can no longer give my full focus and energy. Finally, there are personal goals and family commitments I would like to pursue while time and health still allow.

My early departure will allow the Legislative District 25 Committee to nominate three candidates for Governor Brad Little's consideration, enabling the appointment of someone ready and willing to complete the remainder of my term and potentially stand for election in 2026.

This decision comes with the full support of my family and deep appreciation for the citizens of Twin Falls. You have honored me with your trust and encouragement throughout my career. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I hope I have lived up to your expectations - and perhaps even exceeded them - until this early resignation.

/s/ With sincere gratitude,
Lance W. Clow
Representative, Idaho House of
Representatives - District 25

The letter was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

House of Representatives
State of Idaho

December 31, 2025

Dear Governor Little,

Please accept my resignation from the Idaho House of Representatives, effective January 5, 2026, to accept the position of Director of the Office of Child Care in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I am grateful and honored by this opportunity to again serve with Dr. Alex Adams to help make this nation a better place for children.

Like you, education has been my foremost priority. I first ran for office because I want every child to have the opportunity for an excellent education, no matter where they are learning. During my 11 years on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, funding for public schools has more than doubled, despite only about an 8% increase in students. We successfully championed massive investments in teacher compensation, health insurance, classified staff salaries, literacy, and technology funding.

I am proud of our work to expand educational freedom and parental choice, giving Idaho families more options to pursue the best educational path for their children. Creating the Office of School Safety and Security was another highlight of my time in the Legislature.

As Founder and Co-Chair of the Idaho Energy Caucus, I have had the privilege of bringing together legislators from across the state to learn about energy policy. This role has allowed me to champion one of Idaho's crown jewels: Idaho National Laboratory. INL's groundbreaking work in nuclear energy research, national security, and energy innovation makes Idaho a global leader in energy technology. I have been honored to support INL's critical mission and, most importantly, the brilliant scientists, engineers, and professionals who work there. Their dedication to advancing nuclear energy and ensuring our

nation's energy security is unparalleled, and Idaho is fortunate to host such world-class talent and facilities.

Finally, I am proud of the work Senator Grow and I accomplished in modernizing the budget process. You and your DFM team have been terrific partners in prioritizing transparency and accountability. This work is critical to limiting the size of government and appropriating the people's money in efficient and effective ways, with a focus on return on investment for Idaho taxpayers.

Serving in the Idaho Legislature has been the privilege of a lifetime. As I transition to this new role in the Trump administration, I will carry with me the values and lessons learned from serving the people of Idaho with you.

/s/ Warm regards,
Representative Wendy Horman

The letter was ordered filed in the office of the Chief Clerk.

There being no objection, the House returned to the Seventh Order of Business.

7TH ORDER Motions, Memorials, and Resolutions

Mr. Monks asked unanimous consent that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Senate and escort the Senators to the House Chamber for the purpose of attending the Joint Session. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Speaker appointed Representatives Tanner(14), Raybould, and Church as the committee to wait upon the Senate. The committee was excused.

The committee appointed to wait upon the Senate returned and reported that the Senate was waiting to enter the House Chambers. The Speaker thanked and discharged the committee.

JOINT SESSION

Pursuant to **HCR 20**, the hour of 1 p.m. having arrived, the members of the Senate entered the House Chamber and met in Joint Session with Speaker Mike Moyle presiding.

Roll call showed 69 members present.
Absent and excused - Ehardt. Total - 1.
Total - 70.

Roll call of the Senate showed all 35 members present.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Tom Dougherty.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chaplain Tom Dougherty.

Mr. Monks asked unanimous consent that one committee be appointed to wait upon the Supreme Court Justices and Appellate Court Judges and one to wait upon the Elected Officials and escort them to the House Chamber. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Speaker appointed Representatives Skaug and Gannon and Senators Lakey and Ward-Engelking as the committee to wait upon the Supreme Court Justices and Appellate Court Judges and Representatives Manwaring and Mathias and Senators Harris and Ruchti as the committee to wait upon the Elected Officials and escort them to the House Chamber. The committees were excused.

Mr. Monks asked unanimous consent that the Speaker appoint a committee to wait upon the Governor and escort him to the House Chamber. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Speaker appointed Representatives Monks and Rubel and Senators Den Hartog and Wintrow as the committee to wait upon the Governor and escort him to the House Chamber. The committee was excused.

The committee appointed by the Speaker escorted the Supreme Court Justices and the Appellate Court Judges to the House Chamber where they were presented to the Joint Session.

The committee appointed by the Speaker escorted the Elected Officials to the House Chamber where they were presented to the Joint Session.

The committee appointed by the Speaker escorted the Governor to the House Chamber.

His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Idaho, Brad Little, was introduced by the Speaker and the following **State of the State Message and Budget Address** was delivered by Governor Little.

* * * * *

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pro Tem, Mr. President, honored legislators, my fellow constitutional officers, Mr. Chief Justice and members of the judiciary, my wife and your First Lady, Teresa, our family, friends, and my fellow Idahoans.

As Teresa and I begin the final year of my second term as Idaho's 33rd Governor, we are deeply humbled to serve the people of our great state.

These past seven years have only reinforced what we have long known - Idaho and her people are grounded in enduring values.

We are independent and innovative. We act with integrity. And we approach our lives and our work with unwavering grit.

Idaho is evolving. However, through the change we must commit ourselves to preserving our state as the place where opportunity thrives. We must dedicate ourselves to carrying forward the values that define us, making sure they endure for generations to come.

We have some very special guests with us today - Idaho's past three Governors and First Ladies: Idaho's 32nd Governor, Governor Butch Otter and First Lady Lori; Idaho's 31st Governor, U.S. Senator Jim Risch and First Lady Vicki; and Idaho's 30th Governor, Governor Dirk Kempthorne and First Lady Patricia.

These great Governors established the foundation for the success Idaho enjoys today. They brought a passionate, principled, and purposeful approach to leadership. Their decisions prioritized the long-term well-being of our state, which remains central to Idaho's prosperity.

This year, America turns 250 years old, a milestone that invites celebration, reflection, and hope. We also mark the 25th anniversary of 9/11. We remember the patriotism, unity, and sense of community that emerged from that tragedy. In the year ahead, we will build on that spirit by creating new opportunities for communities across Idaho to serve God and one another, and to show our love for our neighbors.

For two and a half centuries, the United States of America has been defined by the idea that freedom and opportunity belong to all. As we look to the future of our great country, this same

idea will unite us as it always has. On this 250th commemoration of our country's birth, let's recognize and thank the generations who built this nation and those who defend it today - our active military members and veterans.

As we kick off 2026, we reflect on all that has occurred over the past year - and it was an action-packed year! The American people put Donald Trump back in the White House to send shock waves through a system that needed shaking up.

Over the past year, President Trump has reshaped the federal government with a renewed focus on strength and accountability. America's border is finally secure, and President Trump has put forward a pro-America agenda.

Last year, in the Oval Office, I spoke with President Trump about how Idaho exemplifies his vision of America. We're tough on crime. We protect the unborn. We eliminated CRT and DEI, and we led the nation in preventing men from competing in women's sports.

We also talked about how Idaho advances his Talent Strategy for America through Idaho LAUNCH. Together, we are putting the American worker first. Innovative workforce training programs power a modern economy, reinforce America's competitive dominance over China, and help Idaho workers earn more and afford more.

LAUNCH remains one of my top priorities for one simple reason - it's working.

More Idaho kids are choosing to stay in Idaho after high school than ever before. Post-secondary enrollment is declining across the nation, but not in Idaho. Idaho is bucking the trend. Now in year two, LAUNCH is preparing young Idahoans to step directly into the most in-demand jobs in our state, including skilled mechanics, healthcare workers, teachers and others.

I am grateful for the Trump team's support of LAUNCH. I was honored to host Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer last year to celebrate it. The Idaho Legislature and I will continue to partner together to help President Trump deliver on his promise to fight for the Idaho worker.

For Idaho, the change from the last administration to having a Republican in the White House now is night and day. Under Biden, Idaho was kept in the dark. Now, we have a real partner at the federal level.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in safety. Ask any law enforcement officer on the ground and they'll tell you - under the last administration, immigration enforcement wasn't just slowed down. It was put on ice.

That changed one year ago.

The American people delivered a mandate - enforce the law and keep our people safe.

And Idaho was ready to step up.

Through Operation No Return, the Idaho State Police are removing dangerous illegal alien criminals from our neighborhoods. We're talking about child rapists, stalkers, violent offenders, kidnappers, and drug traffickers. Idaho is among the safest states in the nation because of our Idaho State Police, and we sincerely thank them.

Our partnership with the Trump administration is delivering real results in other areas as well.

Last year, I was proud to host U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary RFK, Jr. We are showcasing Idaho's leadership in the Make America Healthy Again movement, from restricting cell phone use in schools to eliminating candy and soda in the food stamp program.

We're also partnering with the Trump team to deliver results in energy dominance. The Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls has been at the forefront of nuclear energy research and innovation for decades. Today, under President Trump, America is experiencing a nuclear energy resurgence. We recently hosted Energy Secretary Chris Wright to celebrate the INL's role in strengthening America's competitiveness, boosting energy security, and protecting critical systems from cyber threats. In addition, the INL plays a critical role in supporting the U.S. Navy's mission to safeguard global commerce, reinforce our national defense, and maintain America's dominance over China.

We're also delivering results for rural communities through expanded federal partnerships such as Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority. These flagship agreements better protect Idaho communities from wildfire, revitalize rural Idaho, and improve forest health through increased logging and active management.

We're also delivering a better quality of life for our people through joint efforts to expand access to outdoor recreation because Idahoans cherish and protect our public lands.

And we're creating jobs through faster and more efficient permitting for a variety of projects, from mining to energy production.

We're also partnering with President Trump to deliver results for Idahoans by championing common-sense values, including education freedom and standing up for women's sports. In fact, tomorrow Idaho goes before the U.S. Supreme Court to defend our first-in-the-nation law to protect women's sports. Idaho will continue to lead, and the rest of the country will continue to follow us, because common sense still matters.

Of course, no look back at the past year would be complete without acknowledging a new addition to the American vocabulary - DOGE.

The term may be new but the principle behind it is something Idaho has long embraced - that elected leaders should always seek to reduce the government's regulatory footprint in the lives of citizens and maximize government efficiency.

During my time as Governor, together we made Idaho the least regulated state in the nation. We cut or streamlined 95 percent of rules and regulations.

Last year, this body took the next step by passing the Code Cleanup Act, turning our attention - and our scissors - to state statutes. The agencies in my administration got to work, dedicating countless hours to scrub Idaho Code and deliver our Red Tape Rollback report to the Idaho Legislature last fall. The report follows through on a key component of my executive order, The Idaho Act. Our report recommends repealing 145,000 words from state law. The report provides a roadmap to remove outdated, duplicative, and unnecessary laws.

I value the strong collaboration between our two branches as we streamline operations and pursue cost-saving reforms across state agencies. Through my executive order, The Idaho Act, and our work with the Legislature, we're driving changes that improve performance because that's what Idahoans expect.

I want to thank the members of the Idaho Legislature for sharing my zeal for cutting red tape. You codified a practice I established through executive order in 2020 - Zero-Based Regulation - forcing a routine review of rule chapters annually.

What was the outcome?

Savings of more than one million dollars and state government that is more transparent, easier to navigate, and less burdensome for citizens and businesses. Looking ahead, we will remain laser-focused on cutting red tape and driving even bolder reforms that fuel economic growth and smarter government. We will do it with the same sharp, disciplined approach that has proven to work in the past.

That spirit of limited, efficient government is woven into our ethos here in Idaho, and it is one of the enduring values that will help us navigate the budget pressures before us.

A balanced budget isn't just required by the Idaho Constitution - it is the right thing to do. Today, I am delivering my recommendations for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027. It is called the ENDURING IDAHO plan.

The plan is named with purpose. "Enduring" captures a vision of Idaho that is resilient, strong, and built for the long term. Thanks to years of smart governing, our success is not temporary. It will stand the test of time if we continue to make smart decisions.

A combination of factors has shifted us from years of record budget surpluses - driven by rapid population growth, business expansion, and one-time federal funds - to a period ahead that demands restraint.

Thankfully, the way we have governed in recent years has positioned Idaho to weather the revenue challenges ahead. Together, we used one-time federal funds responsibly - one one-time needs, not ongoing programs that would expand long-term obligations. We invested in critical infrastructure - roads, water, sewer systems, broadband, and state parks, while eliminating years of deferred maintenance in state buildings. We paid down debt, and Idaho now boasts the lowest per-capita debt in the nation. We strengthened our reserves to record levels, earning the coveted AAA credit rating only a handful of states achieve.

Taken together, these actions position us to achieve a balanced budget in the coming years and maintain confidence in Idaho's economic future.

Our ENDURING IDAHO plan makes way for Idaho to conform to the Trump tax cuts achieved through the "One Big Beautiful Bill."

Idaho already ranks third in the nation for our tax friendliness, but the cost of living remains high. At a time when everything costs more, the Trump tax cuts will provide real relief. They will put more money back in the pockets of Idaho's seniors and working families so they can afford the basics and breathe a little easier. The Trump tax cuts will help Idaho compete for jobs and investment, and they will preserve the core principles I have long advocated for in Idaho's tax system - simple, fair, predictable, and competitive.

As we strive to make life more affordable for Idahoans, my plan ensures the resources are in place to deliver those tax cuts to Idahoans.

Families and businesses across the country are grappling with rising costs, particularly in health care, and states everywhere are

feeling the same strain. In Idaho, a fast-growing population adds to that pressure.

However, Idaho's approach to balancing the budget stands in stark contrast to our neighbor - the State of Washington. Washington just broke the record for the biggest tax increase in their history! It is no surprise that Washington business owners who love faith, family, freedom, and keeping more of what they earn are ditching the Evergreen State and coming to Idaho.

Unlike Washington, Idaho won't raise taxes to balance the state budget. In Idaho, we will right-size spending to match the people's means.

Last year, our revenue forecast decreased by close to 14 percent in a few months. That change was driven by several factors - a different approach in the Legislature to revenue forecasting, historic tax cuts, softer sales tax collections as consumer spending adjusted, and ongoing uncertainty around interest rates and the national economy.

Responsible leadership means acting early, not waiting for challenges to grow. That's why we took deliberate steps to right-size spending and identify efficiencies across all agencies.

But we were clear on one thing: K-12 public schools were not subject to cuts.

I sincerely thank our state agency directors and their teams for their dedication to helping balance the state's budget. These are truly top-notch professionals and proud Idahoans committed to doing what's best for our state. We deeply appreciate our agency directors and state employees.

Looking ahead, our ENDURING IDAHO plan balances the budget without cutting into public schools, and we are going to do it while preserving the things that matter most to our long-term wellbeing as a state.

Here's how.

Our plan uses a responsible mix of one-time and ongoing spending reductions to keep the budget structurally sound. Across state government, executive agencies will tighten their belts. We're renegotiating contracts to save money. We're reprioritizing initiatives. We're finding operational efficiencies, and we will make disciplined use of cash balances and interest earnings. All of this serves to limit the impact on Idahoans as we right-size government.

Just as importantly, we will protect Idaho's financial foundation. We will keep money in the bank so we can keep our AAA credit rating. We won't deficit spend, and we won't add new debt like Congress does.

Our plan also right-sizes funding for online schools, enhancing accountability and ensuring long-term sustainability for this important school choice option for thousands of Idaho families.

Folks, some of these budget decisions are tough but we will emerge stronger in the long run because of them.

This is what fiscal responsibility looks like - planning ahead and living within our means.

Our ENDURING IDAHO plan was carefully designed with strategy and foresight to protect what matters most - the things that will keep Idaho strong today, tomorrow, and decades to come.

And that starts with our public schools.

Together, we've increased state support for public schools by 70 percent since I first took office. We significantly raised teacher pay and invested seven times more in literacy programs, driving better reading scores. We made historic investments in school facilities that also served as property tax relief, and we added more discretionary funding so schools can stay flexible and responsive to local needs.

I appreciate Superintendent Debbie Critchfield for her strong partnership in supporting education. She also deserves credit for advancing new solutions for special education students in our public schools.

Education will always be my top priority. Our ENDURING IDAHO plan keeps public schools whole and ensures classroom funding is protected. Idaho's public schools are the heart and soul of our communities - and our children are our future - which is why, even in a year of reduced revenues, schools remain our top priority.

A strong economy for Idaho - now and into the future - requires an adaptable workforce, which is more important than ever in a world where jobs seem to be changing at lightning speed. Our ENDURING IDAHO plan preserves Idaho LAUNCH so that we can support President Trump's goal to expand the working class - the people who drive our economy.

The strength of Idaho's future also relies on the vitality of our rural communities and agriculture sector. That's why our plan maintains the water infrastructure investments we fought for last year. The ENDURING IDAHO plan delivers for our farmers and ranchers - the people who feed and fuel Idaho.

Of course, the health and wellbeing of our people is the key to achieve lasting success. That's why our ENDURING IDAHO plan safeguards access to healthcare, particularly in rural communities. We know the affordability and accessibility of healthcare tops the list of concerns for Idahoans right now. Over the next five years, thanks to the leadership and vision of Idaho's congressional delegation and President Trump, Idaho will invest nearly one billion federal dollars to improve the accessibility and affordability of rural health care.

This investment includes more than \$150 million to strengthen the health care workforce pipeline serving our rural communities. Also, through my ENDURING IDAHO plan, we will build on the progress we've already made to address our physician shortage, committing another \$1 million to support graduate medical education.

This plan tackles one of the most important aspects in the lives of the Idahoans we serve because a healthy Idaho is a thriving Idaho.

My friends, the state of our state is strong. We do face challenges, but we have laid a solid foundation for enduring, long-term prosperity.

That foundation was built not by today's leaders alone but through the work of those who came before us.

Governor Otter guided Idaho through the most severe economic downturn in a century, reinforcing the proper role of government and drawing a clear line between what is nice and what is necessary.

Governor Risch delivered record property tax relief when homeowners badly needed it.

Governor Kempthorne made lasting, foundational improvements to Idaho's transportation system.

And the proof is clear - Idaho's fundamentals remain among the strongest in the nation. Your dollar stretches farther here than anywhere else. Our unemployment rate is among the lowest in the nation. We lead in personal income growth, and our economic activity continues to outpace most states, reflecting a diverse and resilient economy. Jobs are growing, and Idaho's healthy business climate remains a magnet for employers, talent, and investment.

I've said it before and I'll say it again - if you're going to bet on any state, bet on Idaho.

As we approach the 250th birthday of our great nation, we honor our past as we look boldly to the future. We will roll up our sleeves and get to work for the people of Idaho, guided by our enduring values - grit, faith, family, and freedom.

Thank you, and may God bless Idaho and the United States of America.

* * * * *

The Speaker thanked Governor Little.

The committee appointed to wait upon the Governor came forward and escorted him from the House Chamber and was, on its return, thanked and discharged by the Speaker.

The committee appointed to wait upon the Supreme Court Justices and the Appellate Court Judges came forward and escorted them from the House Chamber and was, on its return, thanked and discharged by the Speaker.

The committee appointed to wait upon the Elected Officials came forward and escorted them from the House Chamber and was, on its return, thanked and discharged by the Speaker.

Mr. Monks moved that the Governor's State of the State Message and Budget Address be printed in both the House and Senate Journals. Seconded by Ms. Rubel.

The question being, "Shall the motion carry?"

Whereupon the Speaker declared the motion carried by voice vote and ordered the Governor's State of the State Message and Budget Address printed in both the House and Senate Journals.

Mr. Monks moved that the Joint Session be dissolved. Seconded by Ms. Rubel. Motion carried.

The Senate returned to its Chamber.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the Fifteenth Order of Business.

**15TH ORDER
Announcements**

Announcements were made to the body.

**16TH ORDER
Adjournment**

Mr. Monks moved that the House adjourn until 11 a.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Rubel. Motion carried.

Whereupon the Speaker declared the House adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

MIKE MOYLE, Speaker

ATTEST:

CYRUS VORE, Acting Chief Clerk