

MINUTES  
**HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 22, 2026

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW05

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Ehardt, Vice Chairman Cornilles, Representatives Erickson, Skaug, Weber, Alfieri, Cheatum, Hawkins, Price, Cayler, Rasor, Wheeler, Hostetler, Marmon, Berch, Church

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representatives Skaug and Wheeler

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Ehardt** called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

**Emily Hamilton**, Senior Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University; **Chris Cargill**, president of Mountain States Policy Center; and **Madilynne Clark**, Senior Policy Analyst at Mountain State Policy Center, gave a presentation on land use regulations and housing affordability in Idaho. Ms. Hamilton presented research on how deregulation of land use and building code reform can make housing more affordable for renters, home buyers, and housing construction. Mr. Cargill discussed polls given to Idaho registered voters regarding housing affordability, the role of state legislatures to address housing affordability, and the possible solutions. Ms. Clark discussed underlying issues as to why housing prices are high, such as construction workforce being too low to meet construction demands needed to build more housing, and discussed proposed policies to address these issues.

**Jonathan Wheatley**, representing Association of Idaho Cities, discussed how Idaho has per capita has more building permits approved than any other state in the country.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 PM.

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Representative Ehardt  
Chair

Elijah Phipps  
Secretary