

AGENDA
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Organizational Meeting	

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt
Vice Chairman Cornilles
Rep Erickson
Rep Skaug
Rep Weber
Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum
Rep Hawkins
Rep Price
Rep Cayler
Rep Rasor
Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 20, 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:** Representative Rasor

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 1:30 PM.

Chairman Ehardt welcomed the committee and stated what is expected of committee members. She reassigned **Reps. Church** and **Rasor** as the proofreaders.

Chairman Ehardt introduced the Committee Page for the first half of the session, **Paisley Hall**.

Paisley Hall introduced herself to the committee. She stated she's excited to be here and see how state government works.

Chairman Ehardt informed the committee there will be a meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Thursday, January 22, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Land Use Regulations and Housing Affordability in Idaho	Emily Hamilton, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University Chris Cargill, President, Mountain States Policy Center

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt
Vice Chairman Cornilles
Rep Erickson
Rep Skaug
Rep Weber
Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum
Rep Hawkins
Rep Price
Rep Cayler
Rep Rasor
Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
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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 **Madilyne 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.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Monday, January 26, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 32949	Agricultural Pests	Rep. Skaug
RS 32963C1	Open Meetings, Public Comment	Rep. Bruce
	Introduction to JFAC Budget Process	Rep. Tanner (14)

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt
Vice Chairman Cornilles
Rep Erickson
Rep Skaug
Rep Weber
Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum
Rep Hawkins
Rep Price
Rep Cayler
Rep Rasor
Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 26, 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:** Rep. Weber

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.

MOTION: **Rep. Church** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32949: **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 32949**, which would include rats on the list of pests for which county commissioners may take appropriate actions to control.

MOTION: **Rep. Price** made a motion to introduce **RS 32949**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32963C1: **Rep. Bruce** presented **RS 32963C1**, which would allow more public comment time in public meetings for all governing bodies, not including the Idaho Legislature. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to address situations in which individuals were limited on when they could provide comments during public meetings by governing bodies.

Rep. Rasor clarified **RS 32963C1** would not apply to political party central committees, as Idaho election law stipulates they are private organizations.

Reps. Price and Berch stated they were not opposed to introducing **RS 32963C1**, but were concerned with the broad language in the proposed legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 32963C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. Tanner (14), chairman of the Idaho House Appropriations, gave a presentation on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee budget process. He discussed the importance of the fiscal note being accurate in proposed legislation, as well as the factors the Idaho Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) need to be aware of when considering budgets. Most budgets JFAC reviews are required by Idaho statute, with the largest statutory budgets being education, corrections, and health and welfare.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Wednesday, January 28, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 33076	Abatement Districts	Rep. Beiswenger
RS 33014	Solid Waste Facilities	Rep. Weber
RS 32909C2	County Jail Per Diem	Rep. Skaug
RS 32985	Antidiscrimination, Local Gov	Rep. Skaug

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt
Vice Chairman Cornilles
Rep Erickson
Rep Skaug
Rep Weber
Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum
Rep Hawkins
Rep Price
Rep Cayler
Rep Rasor
Rep Wheeler

Rep Hostetler
Rep Marmon
Rep Berch
Rep Church

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 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:** None

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.

Vice Chairman Cornilles called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

MOTION: **Rep. Church** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33076: **Rep. Beiswenger** introduced **RS 33076**, which requires mosquito abatement districts to obtain permission before spraying chemicals on a private property. This provides property owners the option to not have their property sprayed through a request to the county commissioners, and establishes penalties against the county if it does not abide by the proposed legislation.

When answering questions, **Rep. Beiswenger** clarified **RS 33076** will allow property owners within a mosquito abatement district will need to make the request with the county in order not to have their property sprayed. He said county commissioners will need to declare a state of emergency in order to conduct aerial spraying. He stated abatement levies will not be affected, and stated the chemicals mosquito abatement districts spray are often toxic.

MOTION: **Rep. Cayler** made a motion to introduce **RS 33076**. Speaking to the motion, he stated the public is more aware of how chemicals used to control mosquito populations affect the surrounding environment, and the importance of consent.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Vice Chairman Cornilles** called for the vote on the motion to introduce **RS 33076**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Cornilles turned the gavel over to **Chairman Ehardt**.

RS 33014: **Rep. Weber** presented **RS 33014**, which consolidates Idaho statute regarding solid waste. He stated he serves with the East Idaho Waste District. Current Idaho statute has dual regulations of solid waste with health districts and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The proposed legislation condenses Idaho code regarding solid waste by placing regulatory responsibility of managing solid waste with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to introduce **RS 33014**.

Rep. Cayler spoke in support of the motion. He stated he had concerns regarding federal regulation and some of the language in **RS 33014**.

When answering questions, **Rep. Weber** clarified on the language in **RS 33014** regarding duties and powers of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality director. The proposed legislation will affect land fills and not solid waste haulers, which are under a separate section of Idaho statute.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Ehardt** called for the vote on the motion to introduce **RS 33014. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32909C2: **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 32909C2**, which addresses the reimbursement rate the Idaho Board of Corrections pays counties for housing state-committed inmates and parole violators in county jails prior to transferring to state correctional facilities. The rate has not been readdressed in four years, and is currently \$55 for the first seven days, and \$75 a day thereafter. The proposed legislation would increase the reimbursement rate to \$85 a day.

MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to introduce **RS 32909C2. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32985: **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 32985**, which prevents local government entities from enacting antidiscrimination ordinances which impose antidiscrimination requirements beyond those already in Idaho statute. The proposed legislation brings these antidiscrimination ordinances into alignment with state law, protects religious freedom, and removes unnecessary red tape for businesses and employers. Idaho code currently prohibits forms of discrimination in employment, housing, education, and public accommodations under the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

MOTION: **Rep. Erickson** made a motion to introduce **RS 32985.**

Rep. Berch spoke in opposition to the motion. He stated each community is different, and he believes **RS 32985** is an overreach of state legislative power over cities and communities.

When answering questions, **Rep. Skaug** clarified **RS 32985** does not conflict with federal court due to what discrimination Idaho statute prohibits, and Idaho government is able to restrict or increase the powers of local government entities. He stated this would address more than LGBTQ issues, such as source of income and familial status for housing.

Rep. Alfieri requested a roll call vote on the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Chairman Ehardt** called for a roll call vote on the motion to introduce **RS 32985. Motion carried by a vote of 14 AYE and 2 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Ehardt, Cornilles, Erickson, Skaug, Weber, Alfieri, Cheatum, Hawkins, Price, Cayler, Rasor, Wheeler, Hostetler, and Marmon. Voting in opposition** of the motion: **Reps. Berch and Church.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #1
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Monday, February 02, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 557	Antidiscrimination, local gov	Rep. Skaug

Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:
[Register to Testify](#)

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt
Vice Chairman Cornilles
Rep Erickson
Rep Skaug
Rep Weber
Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum
Rep Hawkins
Rep Price
Rep Cayler
Rep Razor
Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 02, 2026

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 1:31 PM.

MOTION: **Rep. Church** made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 557: **Rep. Skaug** presented **H 557**, which prevents local government entities from imposing antidiscrimination ordinances which go beyond what is in Idaho statute. He stated this would preempt burdensome local ordinances and bring local regulations into alignment with the state. These antidiscrimination ordinances are often weaponized, with business owners having to take part or host events or activities which go against their religious beliefs. Rep. Skaug yielded his time to **Joel Fischer**, Director of Public Policy at the Idaho Family Policy Center.

Joel Fischer stated **H 557** is in alignment with Idaho statute, which allows the Idaho Legislature to restrict ordinances local government entities when they infringe on individual rights. He stated the patchwork of antidiscrimination ordinances throughout the state hinders market entry and economic growth for businesses. The legislation would prevent local governments from promulgating or enforcing antidiscrimination ordinances related to employment, housing, education institutions, and public accommodations when these ordinances go beyond what is recognized in Idaho statute, while also ensuring local governments have the ability to follow all the relevant provisions of state and federal law which impose antidiscrimination requirements.

If adopted, preexisting local antidiscrimination ordinances which fall under **H 557** are preempted, will allow the Idaho Attorney General to seek adjunctive relief, and allow businesses or property owners who may be harmed by noncompliant ordinances to bring lawsuits seeking relief. **Joel Fischer** stated the legislation does not allow businesses to discriminate in ways prohibited by state law, does not target anyone based on the bases of their gender or sexual orientation, and does not interfere with legitimate local control. The legislation stops local governments from targeting small business owners of faith, and prevents local regulations which make it difficult for small businesses to operate.

When answering questions, **Rep. Skaug** and **Joel Fischer** clarified **H 557** would help provide uniformity across the state regarding antidiscrimination, especially for small businesses. Mr. Fischer stated a symbolic resolution made by a local government could be preempted by the legislation if it extended beyond antidiscrimination already stated in Idaho statute. Rep. Skaug stated he was not aware of other states which have implemented similar legislation.

Gregory Baylor, representing Alliance Defending Freedom; **Donald Knapp**, representing self; Mayor of the City of Sandpoint **Jeremy Grimm**, representing self; **Jennifer Hook**, representing self; **David Callen**, representing self; **Craig Campbell**, representing Precinct 2009; **Ashley Mujagic**, representing self; **Mary Ellen Nourse**, representing self; **Michael Hon**, representing self; **Ryan Spoon**, representing self; and **Clare Lintereur**, representing self; testified **in support of H 557**. They stated local antidiscrimination ordinances can be highly restrictive on individuals' freedoms of religion and speech, require business owners to decide between their religious beliefs or harsh legal consequences, and create more divisions in communities. The legislation would protect individual freedoms and small businesses, and prevent ambiguous and restrictive antidiscrimination ordinances across the state. Mr. Knapp, former owner of the Hitching Post Wedding Chapel, and Ms. Hook, discussed their experiences on how local antidiscrimination ordinances were used against them due to their refusal to cater to events or accept situations which went against their religious and personal beliefs. Mayor Grimm stated City of Sandpoint revoked its original antidiscrimination ordinance due to the pragmatic position of legal risks it created, how it obligated the city beyond its means, and how it created division and conflicting expectations.

Jonathan Wheatley, representing Association of Idaho Cities; **Sue Muncaster**, representing the City of Victor; **Mistie DelliCarpini-Tolman**, representing Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates; **Kathy Griesmyer**, representing the City of Boise; **William Mitchell**, representing Legal Voice; **Tom Wheeler**, representing HomeFound Real Estate Group; **April Hoy**, representing self; **Rev. Sara LaWall**, representing Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; **Linnae Grabner**, representing self; Mayor of the City of Moscow **Hailey Lewis**, representing the City of Moscow; **Nikson Mathews**, representing self; **Rev. Josh Lee**, representing Boise First United Church of Christ; **Paul Rolig**, representing self; and **Dr. Jean Henscheid**; representing League of Women Voters of Idaho; testified **in opposition of H 557**. They stated the legislation would threaten housing, employment, services, and safety of individuals who do not fall under traditional christian values, especially those in the LGBTQ community, and will undermine Idaho's ability to attract and retain businesses and skilled labor. They also stated the legislation is government overreach by the state. Mr. Wheatley, Ms. Muncaster, Ms. Griesmyer, and Mayor Lewis stated local antidiscrimination ordinances help prevent discrimination in legal situations which Idaho statute does not address, allows cities to attract and maintain new talent and businesses, and do not create division or restrict religious freedoms.

Chairman Ehardt put the committee at ease at 3:38 PM.

Chairman Ehardt resumed the meeting at 3:56 PM.

When providing closing statements, **Joel Fischer** clarified **H 557** would not negate housing protections under federal law, and the antidiscrimination ordinances do more harm than good for individuals they are meant to protect by making those individuals appear more of a liability for businesses. He stated the legislation is not unconstitutional because it does not restrict individuals in the LGBTQ community from bringing legislation reform, and does not affect employee antidiscrimination policies of businesses or local governments. The legislation addresses situations in which individuals have to choose between their conscious and legal punishment due to local antidiscrimination ordinances.

MOTION:

Rep. Alfieri made a motion to send **H 557** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Cayler requested a roll call vote on the motion.

Reps. Cheatum and Berch spoke in opposition to the motion. Rep. Cheatum stated the City of Pocatello put in place an antidiscrimination ordinance in order to address discrimination in housing, and there are no signs this ordinance has negatively affect the city. Rep. Berch stated the state should not be negating ordinances which prevent one person in a community to decide how others can live their lives.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:**

Chairman Ehardt called a roll call vote on the motion to send **H 557** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by a vote of 13 AYE and 3 NAY.**
Voting in favor of the motion: **Reps. Ehardt, Cornilles, Erickson, Skaug, Weber, Alfieri, Hawkins, Price, Cayler, Razor , Wheeler, Hostetler, and Marmon.**
Voting in opposition of the motion: **Reps. Cheatum, Berch, and Church.** Rep. **Skaug** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #1
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Wednesday, February 04, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 33199	Public Records, Filing Complaints	Rep. Ehardt
RS 33179	Annexation by Cities, Costs	Rep. Ehardt
H 554	Abatement districts	Rep. Beiswenger
H 555	Solid waste facilities	Rep. Weber

Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:
[Register to Testify](#)

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt
Vice Chairman Cornilles
Rep Erickson
Rep Skaug
Rep Weber
Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum
Rep Hawkins
Rep Price
Rep Cayler
Rep Razor
Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 04, 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:** None

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.

Vice Chairman Cornilles called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM

RS 33199: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 33199**, which address public records requests. In situations where public agencies disagree as to what to provide in a public records request, the current way to resolve the issue is for the requester to file a lawsuit. She stated the proposed legislation will provide clarifying language and the option of a small-claims type mandamus proceeding.

MOTION: **Rep. Erickson** made a motion to introduce **RS 33199** with the following changes: Page 2, Lines 1 to replace "the issuance of a judicial decision in an initial public records complaint" with "or the issuance of a judicial decision in an initial public records complaint that was filed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section." **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33179: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 33179**, which addresses annexation and property rights. When there's forced annexation, the property owner may be required to pay the cost of connecting with the city septic services, which can result in great financial burden. If a property is forcibly annexed, the proposed legislation would prevent cities from requiring the property owner to pay to connect to city utility services.

MOTION: **Rep. Price** made a motion to introduce **RS 33179** with the following changes: Page 3, Line 13 to add "or replace" between the words "maintain" and "existing." **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Cornilles turned the gavel over to **Chairman Ehardt**.

H 554: **Rep. Beiswenger** presented **H 554**, which would require mosquito abatement districts to annually receive permission from property owners in order to spray on private property. Idaho statute allows property owners within a mosquito abatement district to request not to have their property sprayed by submitting a plan to the county commissioners on how the property owner will abate their property. He stated these plans are not often approved, which has resulted in property owners having their property sprayed against their will. Rep. Beiswenger yielded his time to **Wendy Roxas**, representing self.

Wendy Roxas discussed her experience trying to not have her property sprayed by the Gem County Mosquito Abatement District. She stated the chemicals used by the district were indiscriminate in what they affect, and the only properties allowed to not be aerial sprayed were certified organic farms. She stated mosquito abatement districts operate with little oversight, and the district refused to exclude her property from being sprayed despite implementing her own mosquito abatement efforts. She stated since combating the spread of West Nile Disease is the main reason for the chemical sprays used by mosquito abatement districts, property owners should have informed consent.

When answering questions, **Rep. Beiswenger** clarified **H 554** would require counties to maintain records of property owners who requested not to be sprayed, and would be required to not request to spray the property unless there is a new owner. He stated he understood the concern for effectively combating West Nile Disease, and the legislation seeks to protect the rights of property owners who are being sprayed against their will, as well as address the means in which counties try to abate mosquitoes.

Sara Westbrook, representing Idaho Association of Counties; **Scott Robinson**, representing the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District; **Jim Lunders**, representing the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District; **Douglas Shinn**, representing self; **Adam Schroeder**, representing Ada County Board of Commissioners; **Jeff Hough**, representing Bannock County Commission; and **Jared Arnold**, representing Madison County Public Works; testified **in opposition** to **H 554**. They stated mosquitoes are a health issue, effective abatement helps combat the spread of diseases such as West Nile Virus, and mosquito abatement districts use affective means to management mosquitoes at all life stages with minimum harm towards the surrounding environment. The legislation's language would greatly limit the abilities of mosquito abatement districts to effectively abate on both public property and private property of owners who opt in. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Lunders discussed how the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District worked with property owners who request to not be sprayed, how information is shared with the public, and how abatement is administered. Mr. Schroeder discussed how much of the mosquito abatement used is naturally based.

Jeni Keating, representing self; **Jane Honett**, representing self; **Sara Allstot**, representing self; **Ty Tomlin**, representing self; **Ronda Tomlin**, representing self; **Dana Clemeaux**, representing self; **Reace Madariaga**, representing self; **Raine Saunders**, representing self; and **John Sharkey**, representing self; testified **in support** of **H 554**. They stated mosquito abatement districts use chemicals which harm the environment and property owners, violate property rights of those who do not want their properties sprayed, and violates privacy with the use of drones and aerial devices for moderating and abating mosquitoes. They stated how difficult it can be to receive approval to not have their properties sprayed, and how the use of chemicals prevent them from safely growing their own food. Ms. Keating and Ms. Allstot, discussed how mosquito abatement leaves chemicals on the environment which negatively affects their health and how there are other options to abate mosquitoes without the use of chemicals.

When giving closing statements, **Rep. Beiswenger** stated counties operate mosquito abatement districts differently from each other in how they allow property owners to choose not to be sprayed. He stated people have the right not to have their property sprayed against their will, and the testimony given showed the legislation requires more input and collaboration with stakeholders. In order to better address the concerns of property owners and mosquito abatement districts, he requested the committee consider holding **H 554**.

Rep. Cheatum stated a large concern for **H 554** is how it would affect combating West Nile Virus, as well as other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to **HOLD H 554** in committee.

Reps. Hostetler, Cayler, Price, Wheeler, Berch, and Marmon spoke in support of the motion. Reps. Hostetler, Cayler, Price, and Wheeler agreed with what the legislation is trying to address, and stated more work needs to be done for **H 554** to better address the concerns of stakeholders. Reps. Berch and Marmon spoke on the need to be cautious of undermining the ability of mosquito abatement districts to combat diseases spread by mosquitoes, such as the West Nile Virus.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Ehardt** called a vote on the motion to **HOLD H 554** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Ehardt put the committee at ease at 3:45 PM

Chairman Ehardt turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Cornilles**. Vice Chairman Cornilles resumed the meeting at 3:50 PM.

H 555: **Rep. Weber** presented **H 555**, which consolidates Idaho statute regarding solid waste management. He stated he serves with the Eastern Idaho Waste District. He stated this makes the statute more concise by giving full regulatory authority of solid waste with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. This will bring improved efficiency and enforcement, and will improve the permitting process. The legislation will also implement a self-funded fee structure with the solid waste districts and facilities. Rep. Weber yielded his time to **Nate Frasco**, representing the Idaho Solid Waste Association and Southern Idaho Solid Waste.

Nate Frasco discussed the creation of **H 555**, which reduces a layer of government and ensures Idaho maintains its primacy over federal regulations. He stated the legislation will provide proper regulatory oversight which solid waste professionals need and want.

MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 555** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Weber** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:56 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #1
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 33264C1	Public Records, Complaints, Denials	Rep. Ehardt
RS 33155	Development Impact Fees	Rep. Alfieri
RS 33280	Public Meetings, Recordings	Rep. McCann

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt

Vice Chairman Cornilles

Rep Erickson

Rep Skaug

Rep Weber

Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum

Rep Hawkins

Rep Price

Rep Cayler

Rep Rasor

Rep Wheeler

Rep Hostetler

Rep Marmon

Rep Berch

Rep Church

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps

Room: EW16

Phone: 332-1147

Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 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:** Vice Chairman Cornilles, Representatives Skaug, Marmon

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.

Rep. Weber called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

RS 33264C1: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 33264C1**, which address public records requests, and provides an alternative to lawsuits for public record disputes. This replaces **H 600**, and better addresses concerns brought to her by stakeholders.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to introduce **RS 33264C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33155: **Rep. Alfieri** presented **RS 33155**, which addresses development impact fees imposed by counties, and requires cities to collect impact fees imposed by the county for the construction of a county courthouse and county facilities. He stated this is to address situations in which cities have decided not to collect impact fees imposed by the county.

MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to introduce **RS 33155**.

When answering questions, **Rep. Alfieri** clarified **RS 33155** would require all cities within a county to collect the impact fees, would not be retroactive for past development impact fees in which cities have not collected, and only address county courthouses and county facilities due to these benefiting the entire county.

Rep. Berch spoke in support of the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Rep. Weber** called a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 33155**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33280: **Rep. McCann** presented **RS 33280**, which address transparency in open meeting laws. There have been instances in which people have been removed from an open meeting due to video or audio recording the meeting. This legislation will not allow individuals to be prohibited from recording or photographing an open meeting so long as they are not disruptive.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to introduce **RS 33280**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

Representative Weber
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Thursday, February 12, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 33342	Cemetary Maintenance Brd, Vacancies	Rep. Berch
RS 32821C3	Immigration, Memo of Agreement	Rep. Hawkins
RS 32822C1	Immigration Status, Arrested	Rep. Hawkins
RS 33311	Solid Waste Disposal Site Contracts	Rep. Cornilles

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt Rep Cheatum
Vice Chairman Cornilles Rep Hawkins
Rep Erickson Rep Price
Rep Skaug Rep Cayler
Rep Weber Rep Rasor
Rep Alfieri Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 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:** Representative Skaug, Alfieri, Marmon

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 1:33 PM

MOTION: **Rep. Church** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33342: **Rep. Berch** presented **RS 33342**, which provides a process for a county to fill vacancies on a cemetery maintenance district board of directors if there is an insufficient amount to reach a quorum. In a situation where all positions are vacant on a board of directors, there is no clear process for filling the vacancies outside appointments made by the Governor of Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Rasor** made a motion to introduce **RS 33342**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32821C3: **Rep. Hawkins** presented **RS 32821C3**, which creates a memorandum of understanding between local law enforcement and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

MOTION: **Rep. Price** made a motion to introduce **RS 32821C3**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32822C1: **Rep. Hawkins** presented **RS 32822C1**, which will require state and local law enforcement agencies to verify and record the immigration status and nationality of arrested individuals in Idaho. This will allow taxpayers to know how much is spent on immigrants who are arrested and housed in county and city jails.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to introduce **RS 32822C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33311: **Rep. Cornilles** presented **RS 33311**, which addresses solid waste collection for counties. This will allow contractors to work with solid waste collection companies rather than be required to go through a specific company.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to introduce **RS 33311**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Monday, February 16, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS 33327	Library Boards, Directors	Rep. Cornilles
H 620	County boards, federal coordination	Rep. Boyle
H 627	Public meetings, recordings	Rep. McCann

Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:
[Register to Testify](#)

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt
Vice Chairman Cornilles
Rep Erickson
Rep Skaug
Rep Weber
Rep Alfieri

Rep Cheatum
Rep Hawkins
Rep Price
Rep Cayler
Rep Rasor
Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 16, 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:** None

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 1:30 PM.

RS 33327: **Rep. Cornilles** presented **RS 33327**, which provides power to city councils and the library board of trustees to fire and hire a library director, and would only affect libraries operated by cities. Currently in Idaho statute, only the library board of trustees can hire or fire a library director, while a city council has no authority in this process. The proposed legislation would give city councils and library board of trustees shared authority in this area.

When answering questions, **Rep. Cornilles** clarified **RS 33327** would require a city council and library board of trustees to work in tandem when hiring or firing a library director.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to introduce **RS 33327**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 620: **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 620**, which recognizes boards of county commissioners as experts in all subject matters they are statutorily responsible for when cooperating with the federal government in federal land planning. This will allow county commissioners to be considered a cooperating agency and will allow them to better coordinate their adopted comprehensive plans with federal agencies.

MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 620** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Will Naillon, representing Custer County; **Clay Boeckel**, representing the Idaho Association of Counties; and **Russ Hendricks**, representing the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation; spoke **in support** of **H 620**.

Rep. Hawkins spoke **in support** of the motion, and stated **H 620** will allow counties to better coordinate in advance with federal agencies regarding land management.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Ehardt** called a vote on the motion to send **H 620** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

H 627: **Rep. McCann** presented **H 627**, which ensures audience members are able to record video and audio during an open meeting. She stated there have been instances in which people have been asked to leave an open meeting due to recording the meeting. She stated the legislation would not affect executive sessions, which is addressed in current Idaho statute. She stated the legislation could conflict with the Idaho Department of Correction restricting video and audio recording when holding an open meeting at a prison facility.

When answering questions, **Rep. McCann** clarified **H 627** would not apply to non-public agencies, and the language regarding public agency is from current Idaho statute. Although current Idaho statute allows a public meeting to be recorded, she stated this legislation will provide clarity and help ensure press and audience members are not prevented from recording public meetings. She stated she understood the language could limit the scope of what means of recording would be protected, but the intent of the legislation was to protect recording an open meeting by any means.

Rep. Alfieri spoke in support of **H 627**, but he stated he was concerned the language was too limiting. If the legislation went to General Orders, he recommended a change on Page 2, Line 5, to remove the word "or," add a comma after "electronic," and add "or other" after "digital," so as to read "by electronic, digital or other means."

ORIGINAL MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to **HOLD H 627** in committee until time certain of February 24th, 2026. He stated this will give efficient time for **Rep. McCann** to bring a new RS to better address the committee's concerns.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Weber** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 627** in committee.

Chairman Ehardt put the committee at ease at 1:58 PM.

Chairman Ehardt returned the committee at 2:02 PM.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made an amended substitute motion to send **H 627** to **General Orders**.

Rep. McCann stated she was not against sending **H 627** to General Orders, but preferred to make a new RS to address this issue.

Ken Burgess, representing the Idaho Press Club, testified in support of **H 627**. He clarified the legislation would apply only to entities which fall under open meeting laws, and gave an example in which the press and public were restricted from recording a contentious school board meeting.

Reps. Rasor and Berch spoke in support of the amended substitute motion.

VOTED ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Chairman Ehardt** called a roll call vote on the amended substitute motion to send **H 627** to **General Orders**. **Motion carried by a vote of 15 AYE and 1 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Ehardt, Cornilles, Erickson, Skaug, Weber, Alfieri, Cheatum, Price, Cayler, Rasor, Wheeler, Hostetler, Marmon, Berch, and Church. Voting in opposition** of the motion: **Rep. Hawkins. Rep. McCann** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.

Representative Ehardt

Chair

Elijah Phipps

Secretary

AGENDA
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW05
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 625	Public records, complaints, denials	Rep. Ehardt

Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:
[Register to Testify](#)

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Ehardt Rep Cheatum
Vice Chairman Cornilles Rep Hawkins
Rep Erickson Rep Price
Rep Skaug Rep Cayler
Rep Weber Rep Rasor
Rep Alfieri Rep Wheeler

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Elijah Phipps
Room: EW16
Phone: 332-1147
Email: hloc@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Skaug, Hostetler, Marmon, Berch, Church

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 1:30 PM.

H 625: **Chairman Ehardt** stated the sponsor of **H 625** requested the committee not hear this legislation today due to possible changes.

Chairman Ehardt acknowledged the House page, **Paisley Hall**, and this being her last meeting with the committee. Ms. Hall thanked the committee, shared her experience at the legislature, and her plans for the future. Chairman Ehardt thanked Ms. Hall and presented her a gift from the committee.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary