Idaho Legislature 101
Webinar Logistics

- All webinar attendees are muted to ensure sound quality
- Ask a question at any time by typing in the text box of the Gotowebinar control panel
- Handouts will be visible on your control panel

Please submit questions throughout the webinar using the “questions” box
Presentation Outline

1. Introduction: Idaho Voices for Children
2. Idaho Legislature: Understanding the Territory
3. How a Bill Becomes a Law
4. Engaging with Elected Officials
5. Next Steps: Taking Action
• We champion policies that help kids and families thrive in the areas of:
  • Health and access to care
  • Child safety and well-being
  • Education
  • Family economic security
Improving the Health & Well-Being of Kids

- Research & Partner Input
- Identify Solutions
- Evaluate & Monitor
- Advocate for Change
- Educate Lawmakers & Public

[Images of people in various settings]
Policy Advocacy Definitions

- Public Policy
- Advocacy
- Lobbying
- Grassroots Organizing
- Collective Impact
- Social Change
Why Policy Advocacy is Important

- Improve laws, policies, structures and beliefs
- Remove systemic barriers
- Ensure our priorities are heard
- Engage communities and lift up individual voices

Advocacy Works!
Advocacy Goal: Remove Systemic Barriers

- They are being treated equally
- They are being treated equitably
- The systemic barrier was removed
IDAHO LEGISLATURE: Understanding The Territory
Understanding the Territory

- Governor
  - Serves 4 year terms
  - No term limits
- Lieutenant Governor
  - Serves 4 year terms
  - Presides over the Senate

- Idaho Legislature
  - 105 Members from 35 Districts
  - 35 Senators
  - 70 Representatives
  - All serve 2 years terms
  - No term limits
  - Legislature meets annually from January until about mid-March

- Congress
  - 535 Members
  - Senators serve 6 year terms (2 per state)
  - Representatives serve 2 year terms (1 per district apportioned by population)
Understanding the Territory

- Idaho’s Citizen Legislature
  - 105 Members
  - Part-Time
  - Two Chambers: Senate and House

- Each Legislative District Has:
  - 1 State Senator
  - 2 State Representatives

- Annual Sessions
  - Convenes Each January
  - Adjourns once budget set & business complete (typically about 3 months)
Understanding the Territory

Interesting Facts About the Idaho Legislature:

- The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate and the Speaker of the House presides over the House of Representatives.
- Currently there are 14 standing House committees and 10 standing Senate committees.
- All committee meetings are open to the public.
- Tax bills must start in the House.
- Idaho is one of 16 states that has a “citizen legislature:” part-time, low salaries, few staff, and lawmakers have other jobs.
- In 1890, legislators were paid $5/day; now they are paid $17,358/year plus a per diem for living expenses.
- In 2018, the Legislature passed 359 new laws (out of 561 bills).
- The longest session lasted 118 days in 2009; 2018’s lasted 80 days.
- The Legislature is constitutionally required to pass a balanced budget.
Understanding the Territory

• The policy process varies for different legislative bodies
  • Idaho’s legislative process is traditionally slow
  • Campaigns can take 3-5 years before gaining traction
  • Idaho Legislators have limited staff assistance

• Know when your voice will be heard
  • Public Hearings on the issue
  • Lobbying individual legislators
  • Rallies and town hall meetings

“Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself.”
- Jane Adams
IDAHO LEGISLATURE:
How A Bill Becomes A Law
Governor

Option to Sign, Not Sign, or Veto

House & Senate Can Override Veto

Introduction

Sponsor Drafts ‘Routing Slip’
Committee Prints RS

House Referral to Committee

House 1st Reading

Senate Referral to Committee

Senate 1st Reading

House Committee Hearing

Public Testimony Accepted
Committee Vote

Senate Committee Hearing

Public Testimony Accepted
Committee Vote

House Vote

House 2nd & 3rd Reading
House Floor Vote

Senate Vote

Senate 2nd & 3rd Reading
Senate Floor Vote

Idaho Legislature: How a Bill Becomes a Law

Governor

Option to Sign, Not Sign, or Veto
House & Senate Can Override Veto

LAW
## House Bills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Bill Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H0001</td>
<td>Admin procedure, rule review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0002</td>
<td>Pharmacists, reciprocal licensing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0003</td>
<td>Pharma/tuberculin protein products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0004</td>
<td>Pharmacists, tobacco cessation prod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0005</td>
<td>Controlled substances, opioids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0006</td>
<td>Controlled substances</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0007</td>
<td>Massage therapists, bd authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0008</td>
<td>Massage therapists, crim back check</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0009</td>
<td>Massage therapy, board compens</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0010</td>
<td>Chiropractic practice/licensur revd</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0011</td>
<td>Optometrists, license provs revised</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0012a</td>
<td>Elections, registered elector</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0013</td>
<td>Elected officials, party change</td>
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<td>H0014</td>
<td>Liquor by drink, license actual use</td>
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<td>H0015</td>
<td>Urban renewal, stat ref correction</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0016</td>
<td>Appro, pest deficiency transfer</td>
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<td>H0017</td>
<td>Military div, contracting authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0018</td>
<td>Military, nat guard/recruit/retain</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0019</td>
<td>Armory, definition revised</td>
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<tr>
<td>H0020</td>
<td>Vehicles, plug-in hybrid, fees revd</td>
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</tbody>
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## Legislative Services Office

### Who's My Legislator?

700 W. Jefferson, 83420), and click Find. You may also click on the map to determine who the State for official legislative district information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Welfare</td>
<td>Lee Heider</td>
<td>Mary Souza</td>
<td>Jeanne Jackson-Heim</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shel@senate.idaho.gov">shel@senate.idaho.gov</a></td>
<td>332-1319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary and Rules</td>
<td>Patti Anne Lodge</td>
<td>Abby Lee</td>
<td>Carol Cornwall</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjud@senate.idaho.gov">sjud@senate.idaho.gov</a></td>
<td>332-1317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEGISLATORS
Contacting Your Elected Officials

- Request a meeting
  - Meetings can be in person or over the phone
  - For committee chairs, contact their secretaries
- Visit their office at the Capitol
  - Ask the front desk and/or security for assistance
- Send an email
- Give them a call
- Find on social media
- Don’t be afraid to introduce yourself if you meet in the hall or in the community!

legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/
Contacting Your Elected Officials

We Can Help!
Tips for Talking with Elected Officials

1. YOU can make a difference and be an agent of change
2. Elected officials want to hear from you
3. There are a variety of opportunities to communicate with your officials
4. “What” you want to communicate is as important as “how” you communicate
5. Establish short-term and long-term goals
Tips for Talking with Elected Officials

6. You are unlikely to agree on every issue
7. You aren’t expected to know everything
8. Always say “thank you”
9. If you visited in person, don’t forget to send a follow-up note
10. Become as involved and informed as possible!
The Power of Relationship Building

• **We are in this work for the long haul!**
  - It is best to do a “get acquainted” meeting with the elected official prior to having an “ask”
  - Set the stage for a relationship by inviting the official to your site to get to know you

• Remember that each encounter with an elected official is part of an ongoing conversation

*IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS*
ADVOCATES IN ACTION: NEXT STEPS