

## Representative Steven Miller Newsletter Week 2

We have completed week 2 of the 67<sup>th</sup> Idaho Legislature.

### Economic Outlook

I was honored to serve as House Co-Chair of the Economic Outlook Revenue and Assessment Committee (EORAC). This is a joint committee comprised of 10 House members and 10 Senate members. The purpose of the committee is to make an overall assessment of Idaho's economic outlook and General Fund revenues. After 2 days of meeting, the committee adopted a fiscal year (FY) 2023 revenue of \$5,867.9 billion and FY 2024 revenue of \$5,547.1 billion. That is down 5.3% and 5.5% respectively from the previous fiscal year.

This assessment was sent to the legislature and it will be up to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) to act on this recommendation and forward a number to the legislature. JFAC may or may not use the same assessment as EORAC recommended.

### Inauguration

The state constitutional officers were sworn in on Friday January 6. It was a cool but sun shiny day on the capitol steps as the Supreme Court Justice administered the oath of officeto the Superintendent of Schools Debbie Critchfield, Attorney General Raul Labrador, State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth, State Controller Brandon Woolf, Secretary of State Phil McGrane, Lt Governor Scott Bedke, and Governor Brad Little.



Cheryl and I participated in the Grand March and the Governor's Ball at the Capitol Saturday evening. It is a time-honored tradition of Pomp and Circumstance and an opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones.

### State of the State

The session began at noon on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> presided over by the new Speaker of the House, Mike Moyle. The Governor presented the State of the State in the House Chambers at 1:00pm. This is a joint session of the Legislature which requires a Joint Resolution of the House and Senate. So, the first order of business is an agreement to meet together in the House chambers.

The next step is the appointment of two House representatives to formally and personally invite the Senate. They return with two Senators who formally accept the invitation. Then the Senate is escorted to the House and seated in the House chamber.

A similar process is extended to the Supreme Court, the Constitutional officers and lastly the Governor. The whole process, required by law, has become another time honored tradition that I have come to appreciate very much. Nothing happens by accident. Everything is done with consideration and forethought.

A few highlights of the Governor's presentation whose theme was "to make Idaho a place where we thrive and our children can stay...". This summer the legislature approved \$410 million for education coming out of sales tax. \$80 million of that is tagged for scholarships of \$8,500 per student available for CTE, community college, professional training, universities etc.

The Governor's budget is supportive of education, road and bridge infrastructure, building maintenance, water quality and quantity infrastructure building and maintenance, state and education employee salaries, and law enforcement. There are, of course, many other areas addressed, but those are the highlights.

### **The Session**

After 2 weeks, the committees are organized and meeting. JFAC has been meeting at 8:00am learning about the budget process and hearing agency presentations since day 2! We heard Health & Welfare last week and will hear Education this coming week.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your Representative in the Idaho Legislature.

Esto Perpetua  
Representative Steven Miller  
Legislative District 24  
Camas, Gooding and rural Twin Falls Counties

