

Winter Magazine 2021

Idaho Insider by Suzanne Budge

2022 Legislative Preview

OVERVIEW – *What to Look For in the 2022 Legislative Session*

It's a Perfect Storm – A Collision of Political Forces: 2022 Election Cycle, Once-a-Decade Redistricting, \$1.45 Billion Revenue Windfall and an Epic Pandemic Hangover ... and that's just the big stuff!

Welcome to 2022 ... and just when we thought it couldn't get any crazier around here. The upcoming legislative session will convene on January 10 when lawmakers will grapple with a host of challenging circumstances, likely to confound even the most seasoned of our elected officials.

First – the 2022 Election Cycle: where all 105 legislative seats will be in play. The 2022 ballot will also include all Constitutional offices from the Governor on down, and most of these will be contested. Both of Idaho's Congressional seats are up, as is the U.S. Senate Seat occupied by Mike Crapo. All eyes will be on the March filing deadline and the upcoming May 17 Primary Election -- arguably the most important for most races. By the time we get to the November 8 General Election, many, if not most, of these races will already be settled.

Second – Redistricting: Redrawing the political map for new legislative and congressional districts. This once-a-decade process requires a six-member Citizen's Commission to redraw the legislative map to account for the 2020 census and changing population of the state to arrive at one-man-one-vote legislative districts with equal population voting bases. The Commission has 90 days to complete their work and produce a map, due November 30, which will rearrange the chess board by motivating many sitting lawmakers to retire or run for different offices and challenge their colleagues, as urban legislative districts shrink and rural legislative districts expand.

Third – Idaho has a Record-Breaking \$1.45 Billion Surplus. Yes, that's Billion with a "B," more than a third of the state's general fund revenues, and by Idaho standards, that's a lot of extra cash. Political wisdom suggests that it's easier to govern when money is tight than when the state is flush, and boy do we have a lot of extra money. Whether our new-found revenues are from federal pandemic funds to the state and to individuals, or from Idaho's extraordinary population growth, all those extra funds sloshing around the state budget will make the management of it even more difficult under prevailing political wisdom.

And Fourth – the Pandemic Political Hangover Lingers On ... and on. With continued and ongoing battles over mask mandates, vaccine mandates, emergency declarations (yes Idaho is still in one) creating internecine warfare, Idaho's political divisions seem wider than ever. We thought the 2021 legislative session was a challenge, where tempers were frayed and emotions running hot, but we can expect 2022 to be just as chaotic and possibly more unpredictable.

INDUSTRY Issues for 2022

Our priority issues for 2022: Hold the line on Consumer Protection, Save Powerball, State Pre-emption for Tobacco/Vaping Regulations. And maybe add in a few timely retail issues like eliminating interchange fees on sales tax, reducing the age for workers to sell alcohol, and beefing up enforcement on organized retail theft.

As we roll into a new election cycle, IPM&CSA is well positioned to protect and defend our industry in the 2022 legislative session. As always, we will be on guard for new taxes and regulations. And we are always on the watch for transportation and fuel-related legislation. Proposals that provide tax and market incentives to enhance the use of E-Vehicles, renewable fuels and alternative energy are gaining ground across the country, and we can expect them

to appear in Idaho. Our deep red state isn't immune to the climate change debate, and we should be prepared to explain and defend the value of liquid petroleum fuels in the energy marketplace.

SUCCESSFUL PAC Events Help IPM&CSA Support Like-Minded Candidates

IPM&CSA PAC Supports Our Allies at the Statehouse: IPM&CSA commits time and resources to legislative and statewide races and supports elected officials who share our philosophy of government policy and regulations. In the past 20 years, the Idaho PAC has contributed \$178,500 to candidates! Most importantly - Idaho marketers continue to build relationships with key legislators and government officials to ensure that our industry is represented in the development of Idaho laws and regulations. The 2021 legislative session proved the value of personal relationships with lawmakers as we were able to pass legislation to update and clarify the Idaho Consumer Protection Act.

2021 Golf Outings Meet Annual Goals: IPM&CSA is back on track for our regional PAC Golf outings with highly successful events in the Treasure Valley, Magic Valley and Teton Valley in 2021, making up for zero events in 2020 due to the pandemic. We asked for your help to refill the state PAC piggy bank, and our members and supporters came through with flying colors, as we nearly tripled our annual goal. IPM&CSA is well on our way to build up our funds to support candidates in the 2022 election cycle. And we are going to need our resources going into what looks to be a tumultuous political season.

As always, thanks to our members, vendors and friends who supported four IPM&CSA PAC golf tournaments that make these contributions possible! Also, a huge "Thank You" to our event coordinators (noted below) who donate countless hours to making these events a success!

2021 IPM&CSA PAC Golf Events: Ridgecrest Golf Club, April 20 (Tony Stone – Jackson Energy)

Canyon Springs Golf Course, June 29 (Brett Adams – Adams Petroleum)

Teton Reserve Golf Course, Sept. 2 (Team Berry – Berry Oil)

UPCOMING EVENTS – *Mark your Calendar*

Idaho Member Meeting in Las Vegas: Tuesday February 22, 2022 Come get an update on the 2022 legislative session and weigh in on issues impacting our industry. Stand by for further details on time and place.

Get Your Room Reserved Early: August 3-5, 2022, IPM&CSA Convention and Trade Show, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Hold the date for a family vacation on the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene for the 2022 IPM&CSA Convention and Trade Show, August 3-5, 2022. Bring friends and family and stay awhile. Get your reservations early, because summer is the high season and our room block sells out quickly. Watch for more information about the convention at www.wpma.com/idaho/convention.

CHECK THIS OUT – Idaho Website *Has Photos, Registration, and News!*

Check out the Idaho section of the WPMA Website. Register for events, find critical industry information and see your favorite photos from IPM&CSA events. Visit the updated Idaho page and let us know what you think and how we can improve the information we provide. <http://www.wpma.com/idaho>

BY THE NUMBERS: The Latest on C-Store Stats in Idaho

NACS 2020 State Report for Idaho Offers C-Store Industry Snapshot:

NACS provides accurate and interesting statistics for Idaho C-Stores which illustrate just how important we are to the Idaho economy! Here's how the numbers lay out based on the NACS State of the Industry Report of 2020 Data; Nielsen TDLinx Store Count (December 31, 2020)

