The 2024 Idaho Legislative Session commenced on January 8 and concluded on April 10, with a total of 94 legislative days. The City entered this year’s session with an intent to focus on several key issue areas, including expanding access to housing, enhancing property tax relief to Boise residents, identifying additional opportunities for infrastructure investment, as well as fighting ongoing attempts at library censorship.

This year over 700 pieces of legislation were introduced during the 14-week session, making it one of the most active sessions in recent years. Throughout the course of the session, the City’s legislative team reviewed and analyzed over 60 distinct pieces of legislation, with a focus on engaging on bills that aimed to restrict key city services for our residents. As we’ve seen in previous years, there remains a strong focus on restricting municipal authority on a number of topics ranging from housing, energy policy, public health & safety authority, library services, and transportation access.

Below is a list of the all the key bills the City of Boise engaged on during the 2024 session. The bills are organized by their impact on the city’s key strategic priorities and includes a synopsis of the bill’s context, what position the city took on the bill, and the final action taken by the Legislature and/or Governor. To review our work throughout the session, be sure to follow our Government Affairs legislative page for updates: cityofboise.org/legislative-updates
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS – How a Bill Becomes Law

1. **IDEA** – A legislator decides, or a group of legislators decide, to sponsor a bill. Ideas may come from legislators, constituents, special interest groups, or government agencies.

2. **BILL DRAFTED** – The idea is drafted into a bill by the Legislative Services Research & Legislation Division. It will be assigned a routing slip, or “RS” number.

3. **BILL INTRODUCED** – A bill may be introduced in either the House or Senate by a member, a group of members, or a standing committee. When the RS is approved after a short committee hearing, it is assigned a bill number and referred to committee.

4. **COMMITTEE HEARING** – The committee conducts a study of information about the proposed law. This may include research, public hearings, expert testimony, and statements of interested parties. A bill may be reported out of committee with the following recommendations:
   - Do pass.
   - Without recommendation.
   - To be placed on General Orders for amendment.
   - Do not pass.
   - Withdrawn with the privilege of introducing another bill (Senate only).
   - Referred to the Clerk’s office for referral by the Speaker to another standing committee.

Many bills are not reported out and “die in committee” at the discretion of the committee chair.

5. **SECOND READING** – When a bill is reported out of committee, it is placed on the Second Reading Calendar and read again. The following legislative day, the bill is automatically placed on the Third Reading Calendar unless other action is taken.

6. **THIRD READING** – It is at the Third Reading that the bill is ready for debate and the final vote on the passage of the bill is taken. If a bill passes one house it is transmitted to the other house where it will follow a similar path, starting with a committee hearing and relevant floor vote.

7. **GOVERNOR** – If a bill passes both houses, it advances to the Governor. The Governor may take one of three actions:
   - Approve the bill by signing it (within 5 days after receipt or within 10 days of the close of session).
   - Allow the bill to become law without his approval by not signing it within the five days allowed.
   - Veto the bill within 5 days of receipt and return it to the house of origin.

If a bill is vetoed by the Governor, the bill returns to the floor where it can be overridden (become law) with the support of 2/3 of House members and 2/3 of Senate members.

**NOTE** – As a bill is amended throughout the legislative process, the bill number will be updated to reflect where it was amended.

As Amended

As Amended in the Senate (for bills that originated in the House)

As Amended in the House (for bills that originated in the Senate)
## A SAFE AND HEALTHY CITY FOR EVERYONE

### HB 415  
**GUNS IN CLASSROOMS**  
**OPPOSE**

HB 415 would have authorized teachers in Idaho’s public schools to carry weapons on their person without requiring additional training or notifying law enforcement that school personnel had firearms in the classroom. HB 415 would have undermined the relationship local police departments create with their local school districts to assess safety risks and create emergency response plans. Additionally, HB 415 would have inserted untrained school personnel in the middle of an emergency response instead of local law enforcement which would create chaos in the event of a school emergency. Law enforcement needs to be able to provide a streamlined emergency response to ensure the safety and well-being of students and school employees, not determining who the actual suspect with a gun may be.

**BILL STATUS:** Passed the House; Held in Senate State Affairs Committee

### HB 493  
**RESTRICTIONS ON MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY**  
**OPPOSE**

HB 493 is a bill aimed at restricting how local governments could appropriately respond to future public health emergencies by barring them from enacting face masking requirements. HB 493 conflicts with the constitutional authority municipal governments have to enact local public health measures that aren’t addressed at the state level. These safety measures ensure that city facilities and services can remain open and accessible to the community amid an emergency situation while keeping resident safety at the forefront. Additionally, HB 493 conflicts with current city practice which ensures ongoing review of all public health measures to address community needs. As current and future safety measures are being reassessed, the City opposes restricting access to community spread mitigation efforts, such as mask requirements, which runs counter to enacting health measures that are in alignment with medical and scientific best practices.

**BILL STATUS:** Passed the House; Held in Senate State Affairs Committee

### SB 1227  
**RESTRICTIONS ON MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY**  
**OPPOSE**

SB 1227 would have prevented municipalities from enacting laws that fill-in the gaps left in State law, specifically around public masking requirements, vaccine requirements and/or vaccine education to respond to a future public health emergency. These safety measures ensure that City facilities and services remain open and accessible to the community, while keeping resident safety at the forefront and working to keep our local economy open.

**BILL STATUS:** Held in Senate State Affairs Committee
### HB 506
**Restrictions on Short-Term Rental Ordinances**

HB 506 attempted to preempt municipal authority to regulate short-term rentals. The legislation would have prohibited cities from regulating short-term rentals under a number of circumstances, including requiring insurance, charging a licensing fee, collecting local contact information, and requiring certain fire safety protections, among other prohibitions. In doing so, HB 506 would have nullified any meaningful protections local governments could enact to ensure health and safety requirements are met within the short-term rental market, as well as protecting the integrity of residential neighborhood. Additionally, HB 506 would have restricted how local governments could license and enforce compliance with short-term rentals by limiting revocation of a business license only upon three or more convictions on three or more separate occasions which occurred in a 12-month period.

**Bill Status:** Sent to House Amending Order (killed)

### HB 545
**Restrictions on Municipal Tenant Protections**

HB 545 aims to restrict local governments from enacting reasonable tenant protection ordinances by prohibiting cities from enacting policies regarding rent, fees, deposits, and housing voucher access. HB 545 specifically targeted several of the City’s recently enacted tenant protection ordinances, including caps on exorbitant rental application fees, ensuring the full return of security deposits when renters are being permanently displaced by demolition or substantial remodel, and prohibiting discrimination based on source-of-income (housing voucher access). Under HB 545, local governments will no longer be allowed to create a localized response to community housing needs based upon input from impacted residents and housing stakeholders. In absence of the Idaho Legislature addressing Idaho’s critical housing needs, local governments should remain empowered to respond to their resident’s housing concerns.

**Bill Status:** Passed the House & Senate; Signed into law by Governor Little on April 1, 2024

### SB 1327
**Eviction Shielding**

SB 1327 provides a second chance for renters with previous evictions seeking housing by shielding evictions from public viewing in cases where the entire case has been dismissed, no appeal is pending for the case, or when at least three years have elapsed since the filing date of the eviction. With eviction rates rising in Boise, and across the state, this legislation strikes the appropriate balance in providing necessary information to landlords, while also recognizing the barrier to housing that eviction records create.

**Bill Status:** Passed the House & Senate; Signed into law by Governor Little on April 3, 2024
### A CLEAN CITY FOR EVERYONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HB 704</th>
<th>LOCAL ELECTRICAL CODE PREEMPTION</th>
<th>OPPOSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 704 places into Idaho Code precise electrical code rule language which should instead be addressed comprehensively via the negotiated rule making process. This legislation also further erodes local electrical code implementation and administration by barring local governments from requiring the installation of an electric vehicle circuit as a part of any new home construction. This proposed preemption language would roll back a City of Boise electrical code amendment requiring an available higher voltage circuit and receptacle capable of charging an electric vehicle in garages of new homes and townhouses.</td>
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<td>BILL STATUS:</td>
<td>Passed the House; Held in Senate Commerce &amp; Human Resources Committee</td>
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### ENGAGING EVERYONE

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<th>HB 384</th>
<th>LIBRARY MATERIAL CENSORSHIP</th>
<th>OPPOSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>HB 384 would have created a subjective civil cause of action against public libraries for dissemination of material harmful to a minor. The bill would have allowed a cause of action to be brought by a minor simply for a library having a book in their collection without a plaintiff demonstrating direct harm or that they even checked out the material in question. If found to be in violation, the library would have to pay its own costs to defend the suit, the attorney fees for the other party, and $250 per incident from public taxpayer funds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BILL STATUS:</td>
<td>Returned to the House State Affairs Committee (killed)</td>
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<th>HB 710AAS</th>
<th>LIBRARY MATERIAL CENSORSHIP</th>
<th>OPPOSE</th>
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<td>HB 710aAaS was a revised version of HB 384, aimed at restricting access to library materials. Despite adding amendments to the bill to allow for libraries to enact policies regarding material review and extending the timeframe for library staff to conduct said reviews, HB 710aAaS still mandates that a book be moved to an adult-only section without a formal review if the material in question does indeed violate the statutory definition for “material harmful to minor.” If the book is not moved, then a private right of action could be brought against the library. If found to be in violation, the library would have to pay its own costs to defend the suit, the attorney fees for the other party, and $250 per incident at taxpayer expense.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BILL STATUS:</td>
<td>Passed the House &amp; Senate; Signed into law by Governor Little on April 10, 2024</td>
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**ENGAGING EVERYONE**

**SB 1289** | LIBRARY MATERIAL REVIEW POLICY | WATCH
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SB 1289 was an attempt to codify a uniform state policy for how libraries navigate the process for reviewing materials that are alleged to be “harmful to minors.” Many of the provisions of the bill provided a more legally-sound process for libraries to follow, including a more constitutional definition for “material harmful to minors,” ensuring that the required Material Review Committee and its corresponding policies remain with local leaders, and requiring a finding that the material is harmful to minors before the material is removed or relocated. However, the bill also included limited timelines for libraries to thoroughly review the materials in question and had conflicting language regarding how minors may access library materials, therefore permitting them to bring a possible private right of action against the library.

BILL STATUS: Failed to pass the Senate

**MOVEMENT FOR EVERYONE**

**HB 637** | RESTRUCTURING THE ADA COUNTY HIGHWAY DISTRICT COMMISSION | OPPOSE
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HB 637 aimed to upend the composition of the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to make local highway district commission elections partisan. In doing so, the bill tried to increase the number of ACHD commissioners from five to seven, to adjust the commissioner election boundaries to dilute the voting representation of Boise residents, and to require the commissioners to declare a political party in order to run for office. In doing so, HB 637 would have threatened the one-person-one-vote protections of Boise voters, potentially disenfranchising urban voters. Additionally, the attempt to make ACHD elections partisan would have complicated the day-to-day conversations regarding how roads are designed and how best to protect the safety and movement needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

BILL STATUS: Passed House Transportation Committee; Sent to House Amending Order (killed)
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