

We invite you to come to our office hours and public forums! Come and help us to better represent you and our community.

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In This Issue:

- Exciting News
- Personal Prop. Tax Update
- Food Stamps
- Taxes and Revenue

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Team 17

Sen. [Elliot Werk](#)

Rep. [Sue Chew](#)

Rep. [John Gannon](#)

Office Hours!

Starting This Week!

Every Tuesday (starting 1/22) from 7-8:30 PM in the Borah High Career Counseling Center

Note that office hours are not held on forum nights or March 26th (Spring break)

Public Forums

Next forum on Tuesday, February 12th, 7-9 PM in the Horizon Elementary School Library

From the Desk of
Senator Werk
Personal Property Tax

Dear Central:

Things are ramping up at the Capitol these days! Ideas are flying about the tax on business property, the health insurance exchange, what to do with the money left in the public schools now that the Luna Laws are repealed, how can we best protect our children in schools and our communities from gun violence, do the rules limiting access to the State Capitol (required by last year's anti-Occupy Boise bill) chill free speech, and much more.

Today we have some exciting issues to cover for you. Senator Werk will continue to discuss the tax on business property. The chaos caused by first-of-the-month Food Stamp distribution is the subject of Representative Chew's article. And finally, Representative Gannon takes on the issue of taxes and revenue that form the basis for the decisions that will be made in the legislature this year.

Just a reminder - **Team 17 Legislative Office Hours** start **Today** (Tuesday, January 22nd) from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the Borah High Career Center. Feel free to stop in and let us know what's on your mind. Or just come by to learn what's on the minds of your neighbors.

In the mean time, if you have any suggestions for newsletter topics or ways for us to make this newsletter more interesting please drop us a line at team17@mindspring.com.

From the Desk of
Rep. Chew

From the Desk of
Rep. John Gannon

Update

I hope you remember my article last time about the [business personal property tax](#). If repealed without the \$141 million in replacement funding then our property taxes will increase to give business another big tax break (just like in 2006).

In his state of the state address the governor reiterated his support for PPT repeal and surprisingly proposed making up the cost with local option taxes (on income, sales, etc.). Local option allows local communities to vote on whether to tax themselves (and visitors) to cover the cost of whatever priority the community desires.

The legislature has steadfastly refused to give local communities this power.

To read the entire article please go [here](#).

Idaho's Food Stamp Program

Idaho's Food Stamp Program garnered nationwide accolades two years in a row. With this came more than 1.2 million dollars in federal bonuses for the program's payment accuracy and timely distribution of benefits. This came amidst complaints the department has received from Idaho grocers and shoppers concerning a program design that worked when the number of families needing assistance was lower but not now when the need is so much greater.

To read about issues with Idaho's current single day Food Stamp distribution please go [here](#).

Does A Tax Cut Really Make Sense Right Now?

Although revenues for our state budget will likely increase by 5 per cent, deficit reduction decisions in Washington D.C may seriously impact the federal dollars we receive and our state budget.

As we experience the fourth year of trillion dollar deficits, the Federal Government is under pressure to act. Idaho's new legislators were told by legislative services that a 5% cut in present current federal law (the so called "fiscal cliff") would significantly impact revenues to our State. The big questions are whether the across-the-board 5% cut will be implemented and, if not, where federal cuts will be made?

To read more go [here](#).

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Paid for by Werk for Senate, Susan Eastlake, Treasurer
Paid for by Sue Chew for Idaho, Mike Li, Treasurer
Paid for by Gannon for Rep. 17A, Dawn King, Treasurer

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As a resident of Boise's District 17 you're on this list so that Team 17 can effectively communicate with you about issues that are important to you and to your family. We're always open to suggestions for future newsletter topics. Thank you for joining us.

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