

MONTHLY UPDATE



IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE, NOVEMBER 2019

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

November was a great month for the Idaho Policy Institute, and you can read all about it in the rest of this update. But in my note this month, I want to highlight IPI's commitment to public service and giving back to our communities. Aside from our participation on a host of community boards, we like to roll our sleeves up as well. A couple of examples: Vanessa Fry recently helped develop a program in partnership with Wood River Ability Program to work specifically with youth and young adults with spinal cord injuries. Vanessa Fry and Tasha Smagula donate blood every 8 weeks, Tasha and I participated in Rake Up Boise, and IPI is organizing a toy drive for the Salvation Army. We are also going to organize a food drive for the food pantries in the Boise School District to help hungry kiddos. One of the great pleasures of working at the Idaho Policy Institute is the opportunity to interact with so many communities across the state, not just with policy research, but doing our little part to make the communities better!

- DR. GREG HILL

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Oregon Nonprofit Compensation Survey (sponsor, The Nonprofit Association of Oregon)
- Affordable Housing Policy Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Annual City of Boise Resident Survey (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Peer Cities Selection Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)

ONGOING SPONSORED PROJECTS

- Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)
- New Path Community Housing Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure Funding (multiple supporters)
- OSBE 2020 Evaluations (sponsor, State Board of Education)

ONGOING UNSPONSORED PROJECTS

- Advancing Informal STEM Learning Pre-Pilot Survey
- Foster Care in Idaho
- Downtown Mobility Collaborative
- US Census Complete Count Committee
- Statewide Survey
- MPA Employer Needs Assessment
- Idaho Policy Institute Client Feedback Survey

PROJECTS CLOSING

- Property Tax Burden in Boise (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Treasure Valley Survey

PROJECT UPDATE

PROPERTY TAX BURDEN IN BOISE

The property tax analysis for the City of Boise is due on Friday, December 13th. The research team received feedback from the City on the initial data analysis sent early November. The team is currently working on incorporating the feedback into the report. It is also conducting case studies based on additional data provided by the City and the County Assessor's Office. The initial data analysis and the case studies will be integrated into the final report.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The State Board of Education evaluations for Early Literacy, Advanced Opportunities and College and Career Advising and Mentoring programs are underway. IPI has received all of the quantitative data and has completed collecting the qualitative data (via a survey instrument and elite interviews). Data analysis and report drafting will be completed this month. The evaluations will be presented to the State Legislature in January 2020.

TREASURE VALLEY SURVEY

The Fourth Annual Treasure Valley Survey was conducted September 14th - 22nd, 2019, and surveyed 1,000 adults over the age of 18 who currently live in Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem, and Owyhee counties. Key findings include that the two growth related issues that people are the most concerned with are traffic congestion and affordable housing, which are the same top-two that were reported in 2018. Greg presented the Treasure Valley Survey to the Treasure Valley Partnership, a group of all the mayors and county commissioners in the Treasure Valley. The report and survey data was released on November 25, 2019 and can be found at: <https://www.boisestate.edu/sps/surveys/treasure-valley-survey/>

IDAHO'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

IPI has met with and informally interviewed all 12 supporters of the Transportation Infrastructure Project. Preliminary results from those discussions and an overall project progress update was presented to the supporters on November 14th. The team also created a video for Association of Idaho Cities to utilize to update their members at upcoming newly elected official luncheons across the state. Extensive progress has been made toward developing a funding flowchart for transportation infrastructure revenue and expenditures at the state and local level.

MONTH IN REVIEW

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

On November 8, 2019, Dr. Vanessa Fry, Research Director at the Idaho Policy Institute, and Guido Giuntini, a lecturer in the College of Business and Economics, presented to The Governor's Task Force on Children At Risk (CARTF). They presented results from a study examining the long term outcomes of children in Idaho's foster care system. They specifically asked the question, "Do children who have aged out of Idaho's Fourth Judicial District's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program engage with the Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC) at the same rate as the general population?"

The study found:

- Former foster children and youth in the study are 2.2 times more likely to have interacted with IDOC than the general population.
- The ratio for males is 2.2 times that of the general population and for females it is 2.6 times.
- As former foster youths age, incidents increase.



PROJECTS IN PROPOSAL STAGE

- Boise School District Pre-K Program Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise or Boise School District)
- BCA of Southwestern Idaho Membership Survey (sponsor, Building Contractors Association of Southwestern Idaho)
- Systems for Action (sponsor, RWJF)
- AISL partnership with the Peregrine Fund (sponsor, NSF)
- Statewide Eviction Study in Collaboration with Idaho Press (un-sponsored)

PUBLIC SERVICE

On November 9, 2019, the School of Public Service's team support spent a morning raking up a yard at the annual Rake Up Boise event. Inspired by this public service, the Idaho Policy Institute, in partnership with the School of Public Service, is hosting a toy drive for the Salvation Army. There are two drop off locations and the toy drive is running through December 12, 2019. The Idaho Policy Institute is looking forward to continuing public service through the year and already has plans to host a food drive to support Boise School District's Community Schools in the spring.

