



Idaho Association of  
Commerce & Industry  
The Voice of Business in Idaho®



## Legislative Report — March 19, 2010 • Week 10

Friday, March 19, 2010

### NEWS TO USE — Idaho Prosperity Project: Participate in Election 2010



An essential cornerstone of our government is a system created by the people for the people. Exercising your right to vote for your representation in government is a fundamental right given to every American. Increased voter participation can and will improve how that system performs for each of us.



Many Americans fail to take advantage of their right to vote. Don't become a statistic! Exercise your right to vote in the upcoming primary and general elections.

On May 25, 2010 voters will have the opportunity to elect candidates for dozens of state, local and congressional seats. Each and every one of these elected officials has the ability to positively or negatively shape legislation affecting each of us, our employees, our communities, and our families.

As the Legislative Session winds down and we focus attention on the upcoming primary election, please visit our [Idaho Prosperity Project](#) website for general information to help you become an informed participant. This website is designed to encourage employees, regardless of political affiliation, to exercise their civic duties to learn about political issues, and to vote their conscience on Election Day. This website does not endorse any specific political candidates, parties, or causes. Help policy makers understand how their decisions impact the health of Idaho's economy. Please contact IACI staff for more information.

Today at 5:00 p.m. is the filing deadline for candidates who wish to run for the legislature and statewide offices. You can check the list of candidates on the [Secretary of State's web-site](#).

This is an important time to participate in IACI's PAC, the *Idaho Prosperity Fund*. The goal of this organization is to help elect citizens who share IACI's philosophy of providing prosperity for the people of Idaho. [Click here](#) or call IACI staff to learn more about how you can be involved.

#### BILL TRACKING:

[Click here](#) for an updated list of legislation on which IACI has taken a position.

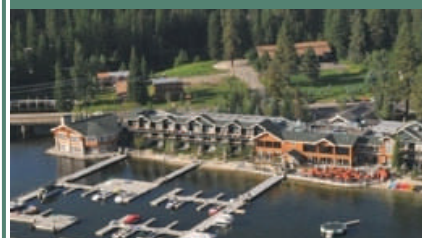
#### Health Care Overhaul Vote

The ongoing health care debate in Washington, DC appears to be headed for a conclusion with a final vote this Sunday in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is still unclear at this time if there are enough votes to pass this \$940 billion health care overhaul legislation.

Idaho made national news this week on this very subject when Governor Otter signed House Bill 391, the *Idaho Health Freedom Act*. This bill would require the Attorney General to sue the federal government on behalf of Idaho citizens if the current congressional bill passes, which forces all citizens to purchase insurance. Idaho is the first state to adopt this type of legislation, with 37 other states currently debating similar bills. Governor Otter has appeared on both CNN and Fox News describing many of his concerns with the current federal legislation coming to a vote.

Email your representative, [Congressman Mike Simpson](#) or [Congressman Walt Minnick](#), before Sunday's vote to let them know your opinion on the bill.

#### Reserve Rooms for Annual Conference!



The annual IACI Conference is just around the corner! The conference at **Shore Lodge** in **McCall** begins the evening of June 13 and concludes mid-morning on June 15, with the golf tournament immediately following at the Whitetail Club.

The **Shore Lodge** has now opened the IACI room block. Please call **800-657-6464** now to reserve your room in the IACI block for the **June 13-15**

#### Upcoming Meetings

► **Tue, Mar. 23 — 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee**

#### Idaho Education Network—Funding Unresolved

The funding question for the Idaho Education Network (IEN) still remains unresolved. The Idaho Education Network is the legislatively mandated education

about the Idaho Education Network is the legislatively mandated education network technology pipeline exclusively for schools. The mission of this important program is to provide an equitable and reliable high-speed level of connectivity for all Idaho public schools to support 21st century collaborative learning environments and increase educational outcomes. The development of this infrastructure gives our students all the educational advantages possible, and will ultimately benefit business and society in general over the long-term.

This week there was an attempt to mediate the concerns from the interested parties. Those talks were reported to be unsuccessful. Nevertheless, IACI continues to remain committed to the larger objective of creating the network for employers' future workforce. IACI will press for approval of the spending authorization for the private funds being used to support the network development.

IACI believes that the Idaho Education Network is a crucial component in providing our children the best education opportunities possible, and their actual physical location should not be a hindrance. This program ensures that kids in St. Maries or Rigby are allowed the same opportunities as kids in Meridian or Boise. Other states utilizing this technology have seen a tremendous return on their investment, with kids graduating from high school with associate degrees, as well as being better prepared overall for the full college experience or workforce.

conference. [Click here](#) for a list of lodging options in McCall during those dates—rates are very reasonable this year!

All members will be notified when the online conference registration is available, which is anticipated by month-end.

### Three IACI-Supported Resolutions Adopted

All three of the constitutional amendments that were supported by IACI passed the Idaho Senate this week. HJR4 dealing with public hospitals, HJR5 dealing with airports, and HJR7 dealing with municipal power systems, passed the Legislature with overwhelming support—far above the 2/3 support that is required. All three of these items will now be on the ballot for a public vote.

Questions? Email us at [iaci@iaci.org](mailto:iaci@iaci.org).

### Job Growth Opportunity



IACI continues to work with the Idaho Dept. of Commerce on economic development opportunities, and encourages your support of the state's efforts to secure the F-35 training and operations programs. Sign up at [IdahoF35.com](http://IdahoF35.com) now!

