

April 2024

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

*A monthly newsletter from the Ada County Board of Commissioners*

**Welcome to the monthly newsletter from the Ada County Board of Commissioners. We are happy to share information on significant news and events in Ada County.**

Tom Dayley - Commissioner  
Rod Beck - Board Chairman  
Ryan Davidson - Commissioner



### ADA COUNTY MOURNS THE DEATH OF DEPUTY TOBIN BOLTER

The morning of Sunday April 21, 2024 was one of the most difficult times for all Ada County employees. That's when we learned that a 27-year-old Ada County Sheriff's Deputy who had been shot in the line of duty the night before had died. Deputy Tobin Bolter we would all soon learn, was an extraordinary individual who lived a life of service and integrity.



The Board of Commissioners had been planning to attend an out-of-town leadership conference that next week but immediately canceled. The Board wanted to make sure they were close to home and able to provide assistance in multiple ways to Ada Sheriff Matt Clifford and his staff. The Board's Tuesday Open Business Meeting (OBM) began with a moment of silence for Deputy Bolter and comments from both Sheriff Clifford and Ada County Prosecutor Jan Bennetts. You can watch that meeting and those poignant remarks on the Ada County YouTube channel. Flags were already flying at half mast that day and they would continue to do so until after Deputy Bolter's funeral.

So many departments and offices went out of their way to do small but meaningful things to assist Deputy Bolter's colleagues at the Sheriff's Office that week. We all watched in admiration as the Sheriff's Office coordinated the multitude of things that needed to be done in the following days, under the most trying of circumstances.



While Ada County has more than 2100 employees, 837 of whom work for the Sheriff's Office, it often feels like everyone knows everyone – from the Landfill to Expo Idaho, IT, Ada County Parks & Waterways, Juvenile Services, and all the other departments and offices; if you work for Ada County you are connected to something bigger.

Deputy Bolter's legacy will definitely live on. His photo will remain in the Ada County Courthouse lobby indefinitely and we look forward to working together with the Ada County Sheriff's Office to create lasting and meaningful tributes to Deputy Bolter.



**Ada County Commission Statement  
April 21, 2024**

It is with profound sadness that the Board of Ada County Commissioners, Chairman Rod Beck, Commissioner Ryan Davidson, and Commissioner Tom Dayley, share their deep condolences with the entire Ada County community for the loss of one of our Ada County Deputies.

We send our love and support to Deputy Tobin Bolter's family, Ada County Sheriff Matt Clifford and every law enforcement officer who protects our community each day.

Ada County employs approximately 2100 people, more than 837 of whom work for the Ada County Sheriff's Office. We are all part of the same family and this young deputy's needless and tragic death affects each and every one of us.

## ADA COUNTY PROFILES DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES DURING COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH



April was **National County Government Month** and this year we decided to profile as many Ada County offices and departments as possible on our social media platforms. Social media, specifically Facebook, is where the public engages with us the most so that's where we went.

People are busy and we don't expect everyone to be experts on which government entity does what. But we **do** need a basic understanding. The more you know about how county government operates the greater potential for influencing or changing things you don't like and supporting programs and initiatives you **do** like.

We have been sharing a map of Ada County that shows our six sister cities – Star, Eagle, Meridian, Garden City, Boise and Kuna. Check out the populations of each city. We also wanted people to see how large Unincorporated Ada County was. In addition to the map, we put together an easy-to-understand cheat sheet that explains the

difference between counties, cities and those things called taxing districts. You'll see that almost all of what a county does is required by the law. Cities are different. They have a lot more leeway in what services they provide and charge for. For instance, cities can have an art department or a community engagement department – counties do not have the resources to provide those service.

Thank you to all the departments and offices that participated in our National County Government Month profiles.

To see the latest demographics for Ada County including race and ethnicity, age, sex and much more – check out our home page. You'll also find our updated maps.

<https://adacounty.id.gov/blog/news/april-is-county-government-month-2/>

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Cities and schools are considered taxing districts? Check out our pie chart to see where property tax dollars collected by Ada County each year go.

# Local Government Snapshot

## COUNTY

Every Idaho resident lives in a county. Each county has a county seat. Ada County's county seat is Boise. Counties serve as an administrative arm of the state. Counties carry out the laws and regulations put in place by the State Legislature.

**County Officials include:**

- Commissioners (3)
- Clerk
- Assessor
- Treasurer
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Coroner
- Sheriff

Among their many mandated functions, counties are required to have a jail, conduct elections, value all property, collect taxes for other entities, and perform solid waste collection and disposal.

**Some Well Known Ada County Facilities:**

- Expo Idaho – Home of the Western Idaho Fair
- The Ada County Landfill
- Barber Park
- Ada County Victim Services Center
- The Bridge

[www.adacounty.id.gov](http://www.adacounty.id.gov)



## CITIES

Cities are voluntarily organized and may be incorporated under the general laws of the state. Cities are local units which for the most part perform functions that are exclusively local.

**Think of Parks, Public Works, Police, Fire, just to name a few.**

Ada County has six cities: **STAR, EAGLE, MERIDIAN, GARDEN CITY, BOISE AND KUNA**  
Most Idaho cities operate under a Mayor/Council form of government, but all cities have the option to adopt a council/city manager plan.

## TAXING DISTRICTS

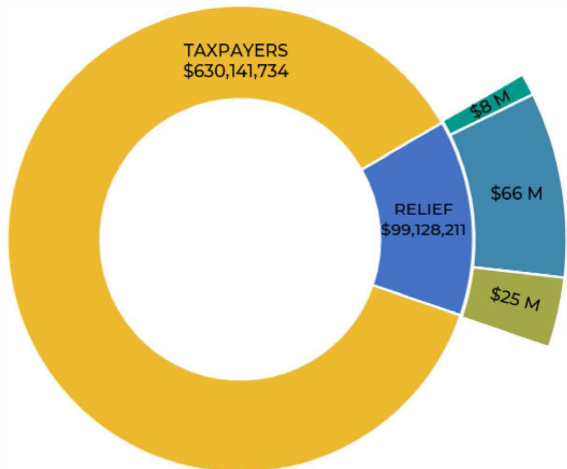
Smaller local units of government that include, but are not limited to, cities, school districts, irrigation districts, fire protection districts, cemetery districts, and community college districts.



# 2023 PROPERTY TAXES AND TAX RELIEF

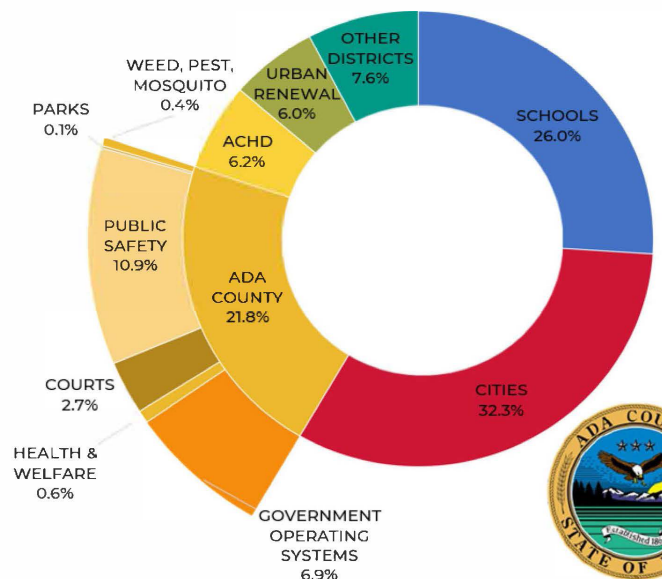
On behalf of local taxing districts, Ada County will collect approximately \$729 million in property taxes for tax year 2023, including approximately \$99 million in property tax relief from the Idaho Legislature.

TAXPAYERS & TAX RELIEF



■ ADDITIONAL TAX RELIEF ■ HOMEOWNER TAX RELIEF ■ SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES FUND

DISTRIBUTION TO TAXING DISTRICTS



## FAREWELL FRIENDS, ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT

*Lynn and Halli Gardner retire after three decades of service*



If you work for a big organization or in a big office, you likely see smiling faces every day that make you feel good about

your workplace. Lynn and Halli Gardner, who retired in April after decades of service to Ada County, are two of those smiling pleasant faces we saw each day at the Ada County Courthouse.

Both Lynn and Halli were part of the IT staff for decades. Lynn and Halli say they will enjoy traveling and spending more time with their families.

Here's what Lynn shared before he left:

"I started my career at Ada County working for Juvenile Court as a Probation Officer. I spent about 5 years working Juvenile Probation and then moved into Ada County Information Technology as a Field Support Technician. I spent the next 14 years supporting Juvenile Court and the Coroner's Office. I was then given the opportunity to join the IT Management Team as the Customer Operations Manager, overseeing the daily operations of Field Support Technicians. Ada County has been very rewarding and an excellent career path for me. More important is the wonderful people I have had the chance to work with over the last 27 years and the great work environment Ada County provided."

Halli provided **a lot** more detail. (Some of the equipment and details are completely unknown to most of us, other items are poignant to remember.)

"I started with Ada County in December, 1990. I was immediately given a pager for "pager duty". There were no cell phones and if you got "paged," you had to find a pay phone or hope you were home. Here are some things that existed 32 years ago that are long gone:

1. An AS400 terminal was on every employees desk in Ada County.
2. The AS400 was 20 to 30 feet long x 8 feet wide taking up most of the Computer Room.

3. There was ONE network server and probably 10 users connected, mostly IT.
4. We were a full-time print shop and printed tax notices and assessment notices
5. We had a printer that used BANDS.
6. I ran Twix cables and I still think I could build & solder them faster any other tech or Doug Barr.
7. We had pager duty and one pager we passed around. We were each on call one week, and we supported all the sights including the Public Safety Building.
8. I've printed W2's for 30 years for the County.
9. I've Printed 1099's for the County for 32 years.



**Stephen O'Meara, Ada County IT Director, Lynn Gardner and Halli Gardner, Chairman Rod Beck, Commissioner Ryan Davidson, and Commissioner Tom Dayley.**

Here are the things that exist now, in 2024.

1. The AS400 or iSeries is a small icon on "some" employees' desktops.
2. The current Iseries (AS400) is a small 3' by 2' box with Terabytes of memory!
3. Every employee has a desktop, or laptop which runs off the Network Servers.
4. IT is no longer a print shop, very much. We print 6-10 employee paychecks every two weeks.
5. We have two printers, a strictly OCR printer for checks, and a big production printer for everything else.
6. Techs are on call via their cell phones.
7. No more W2's
8. Still printing 1099s.

I have loved working for Ada County mostly because of the people and friends I have gotten to know. They are like a second family. I will greatly miss all my friends and the people I said hi to each day. It seems so odd to say but FAREWELL ADA COUNTY!

# STATEWIDE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



The [Ada County Victim Services Center](#) in downtown Boise was the location for an April 2, 2024 statewide proclamation designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Ada County Commissioners were pleased to welcome [Governor Brad Little](#) to the facility on 6th Street where the governor read the proclamation.

The Ada County Victim Services Center is a vital partnership and community resource for anyone experiencing interpersonal violence. It's been in existence since 2006 helping untold numbers of individuals who needed a safe place, and expert advice in one location. You walk through the front door and a specialized multi-disciplinary team provides wrap around services to stabilize and support victims of violence and their families.

This collaboration underscores what Governor Little said during today's event, "Big things don't get done without collaboration." As part of the April event attendees were encouraged to wear teal to raise awareness of the importance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation.



# THANK YOU MELANIE BENNET FOR TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO ADA COUNTY

Melanie started as an intern in the Juvenile Diversion Program in 2003. Melanie was originally hired at the Juvenile Detention facility in April 2004, then transitioned to Juvenile Probation in June 2004. Melanie has worked several different positions as a Juvenile Probation Officer to include Court Investigations, Field, Sex Crimes Unit, Female Unit, Status Offense Caseload, and Diversion.

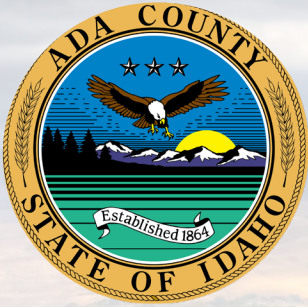
Melanie was promoted to a Probation Officer III in March 2018. She has taken on numerous specialized duties to include supervising college interns, being a trainer in our New Employee Orientation program, as well as a Field Training Officer. Melanie is the project lead of the Law Related Education Program and plays a vital role

in communicating with elementary and middle schools in Boise and West Ada School Districts, allowing us to present the prevention curriculum and Law Related Education to students. During the 2022-2023 school year, Melanie and five other probation facilitators, delivered 65 presentations reaching a total of 1,829 students.



Melanie is a great representative of the good work being done at Ada County Juvenile Services. Thank you, Melanie, and congratulations on 20 years of service!

# ADA COUNTY GOVERNMENT



In addition to elected offices, Ada County government includes thirteen individual departments. Each department provides important services to our residents in Star, Eagle, Meridian, Boise,

Garden City, Kuna, and Unincorporated Ada County.

These services include law enforcement protection, emergency preparedness, election services, parks and waterways, public defense, indigent services, juvenile court, solid waste management, the Western Idaho Fair, Weed, Pest & Mosquito Abatement and more.

Learn more about the services provided to you by Ada County

[www.adacounty.id.gov/](http://www.adacounty.id.gov/)

## Find career opportunities here!

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/adacounty>

**WORK WITH US**  
**ADA COUNTY CAREERS**  
A Great Place To Work  
Competitive Pay & Benefits

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/adacounty>

The banner features a scenic view of a river flowing through a lush, green landscape under a clear blue sky. The Ada County seal is positioned in the lower right corner of the image.

## COMING UP!

You can watch the Ada County Board of Commissioner's weekly Open Business Meeting on YouTube.

**WATCH NOW**

Want to see what's on the Agenda?

**LEARN MORE**

**Make sure you're following us on**

Three circular icons representing social media platforms: Facebook (white 'f' on a blue background), Instagram (white camera icon on a multi-colored background), and X (white 'X' on a black background).

**NEWSLETTER SIGN UP**

Board of Ada County Commissioners  
**Open Business Meeting**  
YouTube

The thumbnail shows a meeting room with a large screen displaying the text "Open Business Meeting". A YouTube logo is overlaid in the bottom left corner.