



ADA COUNTY

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Ada County Commissioner Rick Visser Proposes Limiting County Spending in the Next Budget to Help Lower Ada County Residents' Property Taxes

BOISE – Ada County Commissioner Rick Visser is proposing limiting the FY2021 budget in an effort to give relief to Ada County property taxpayers. “People are struggling to actually stay in their homes,” said Visser. “That’s untenable, and I will continue to work on behalf of all Ada County residents to reign in these increases.” Visser noted that over the last ten years the rate of inflation was 19.2% while Ada County’s budget has increased 49.3%. “It is important to understand the county’s spending on services increases as the population increases.”

During a recent budget work session, Commissioner Visser proposed limiting county departments’ base budgets to a 2% increase over their 2020 budget, freezing supplemental budget requests to zero increases, freezing all county expenditures to the FY2020 levels, and not using any foregone taxes. “Many Ada County residents have called and emailed me rightfully concerned about the 20 – 30% increases in their property taxes over last year.” Visser also noted that the City of Boise budget has increased from \$487 million in 2015 to \$765 million in 2020 – **a 60% increase** over five years. An average Boise resident’s property tax bill reveals that 45% of their taxes go to the City of Boise.

Visser believes that for real property tax relief to occur both the state legislature and local governments must act. The way to do that is for the Idaho legislature to address the inequality of residential property taxpayers shouldering 74% of property taxes while commercial property taxpayers carry only 26% of the property tax burden. The second step to reduce our property taxes would be by limiting local government spending and keeping it in line with inflation. “I challenge our cities with high property tax rates, Boise in particular, to reign in their spending.” It is important to note that 80% of a county’s services are mandated by Idaho law; however, a city’s services are not mandated by law but are discretionary.

DISCLAIMER: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE BELONG SOLELY TO COMMISSIONER VISSER, AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE BOARD

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