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Election Night Comment Available

Idaho's small businesses have a lot at stake

BOISE, Idaho, Oct. 29, 2020— *Attention news planning editors, capitol correspondents, business writers.*

Suzanne Budge, Idaho state director for the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, will be available for comment on Election Night, November 3. She can be reached on her cell phone at 208-850-3065 or by email at sbs@sbsidaho.com

Small businesses have a lot at stake in this election.

Legislative Contests—The NFIB ID PAC [has endorsed 81 candidates](#) for the Idaho Legislature, which, when it convenes in January, will have to grapple with issues that include:

- **Liability Protection from COVID Lawsuits**—When they last met, legislators gave small-business owners liability protection from unfair COVID lawsuits claiming, without proof, that the virus was contracted at a place of business. But that protection ends July 1, 2021. Will it be renewed?
- **Sales Tax on Services**—Unlike many states, Idaho is seeing rapid growth in construction and revenues and is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, due in part to the coronavirus pandemic. Is it finally time to extend the state's sales tax, which is placed on goods, to services, to capture new growth and invest in infrastructure and education, two areas identified as needing more funding?
- **PPP Tax**—Should Idaho align its state tax system with the federal government's to prevent the taxation of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans?
- **Workers' Compensation**—Should any employee who tests positive for COVID-19 be presumptively compensated by workers' compensation?
- **Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund**—Gov. Brad Little used some CARES Act money to shore up the fund, but will it be enough? If not, will UI taxes on employers have to be raised?
- **Local Option Tax**—This perennial issue keeps getting closer and closer to passage. Will cities and counties finally be able to levy sales taxes to fund their own projects?
- **Reapportionment**—Every 10 years legislatures across the country re-draw political boundaries to reflect changes in population. Will it be a messy, politically charged process?

Congressional Races—Right now, Idaho’s congressional incumbents appear safe for reelection. But what will they be returning to? As of this writing, three issues of vital importance to small business remain up in the air:

- Another round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan money, streamlined PPP loan forgiveness, and deductibility of PPP loan forgiven expenses
- Liability protection for small-business owners against unfair COVID-19 lawsuits
- The Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which may end up including an amendment treating small-business owners as criminals by threatening them with jail time and oppressive fines for paperwork violations, and, worse, puts the personal information of small-business owners at serious risk.

Keep up with the latest on Idaho small business at www.nfib.com/idaho or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB_ID

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For more than 77 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. Since its founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com.

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