

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



IDAHO PLUS KIDS CREATE WORLD

Boise KAID-TV 4 Coeur d'Alene KCDT-TV 26 Moscow KUID-TV 12 Pocatello KISU-TV 10 Twin Falls KIPT-TV 13

## October 2022

### 2D Barcode



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## Quote



### Monthly "Iconic Idaho" Photo Contest

"Beautiful! I was raised in Idaho and haven't been back in over 20 years. These photos bring back so many feelings of nostalgia." – Amber

## Stay Informed With 'The Idaho Debates'

By lead producer and host Melissa Davlin

I often get asked if debates really matter. Haven't most people decided who they're voting for?

That might be true for many big-ticket races, but there are critical offices further down the ballot where even engaged voters aren't always as familiar with the candidates. Take Attorney General, where Democratic nominee Tom Arkoosh has bipartisan support in his race against Raúl Labrador. Labrador beat longtime incumbent Lawrence Wasden for the Republican nomination during the May primary.

Idaho is a tough state for Democrats, but four years ago, then-Democratic candidate Cindy Williams came awfully close to beating Republican incumbent Sherri Ybarra in the general election for Superintendent of Public Instruction. This year, two new candidates – Republican Debbie Critchfield and Democrat Terry Gilbert – are facing off, with both bringing their unique perspectives on education to the table.

Viewers might not think those debates are as exciting as the gubernatorial or congressional match-ups, but the decisions made in those offices impact Idahoans' daily lives. I'm eager for the policy discussions we'll have with these candidates.

Even if a debate rarely changes voters' minds, it's a great opportunity for candidates to stand side-by-side and present their views to voters who aren't otherwise going to campaign events or town hall meetings.

And this fall, we hope to reach more voters than ever. We're excited to offer The Idaho Debates with Spanish closed captioning. Watch [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org) for information on how to view these programs.

Check [idahoptv.org/debates](http://idahoptv.org/debates) for the latest schedule updates for The Idaho Debates.

## In the Community



### Teachers and Parents Share Their Stories

About a year ago, we started reaching out to Idaho teachers, librarians and parents, inviting them to share with us how they use IdahoPTV and PBS KIDS educational resources with the students in their lives.

We asked them: What do you like? What do you not like? What do you need, and how can we best serve you?

Parents, classroom teachers, librarians and others responded, and we are sharing their stories on the IdahoPTV in Your Neighborhood website: [idahoptv.org/neighborhood](http://idahoptv.org/neighborhood).

IdahoPTV Education supports the entire learning ecosystem. We serve Idaho parents, caregivers, and formal and informal educators – whether in public, private or homeschool settings. We also work with community organizations focused on children's education.

We encourage you to visit [idahoptv.org/neighborhood](http://idahoptv.org/neighborhood) and check out how IdahoPTV's family and community education projects are bringing Idahoans together and changing lives in neighborhoods around our state.

If you'd like to share your story with us, contact Jessica Solberg, associate producer on our IdahoPTV Education team, at (208) 373-7220.



## Our IdahoPTV Productions

### The Idaho DEBATES

The Idaho Debates returns to Idaho Public Television this election season. Qualifying candidates in statewide and congressional primary races are invited to participate in debates, hosted by Idaho Public Television moderators.

#### Scheduled debates:

October 3 at 8pm MT/ 7pm PT – Attorney General

October 4 at 8pm MT/ 8pm PT – U.S. Senate

October 24 at 8pm MT/ 7pm PT – Superintendent of Public Instruction

October 28 at 8pm MT/ 7pm PT – Lieutenant Governor

## “Looking Back & Moving Forward”

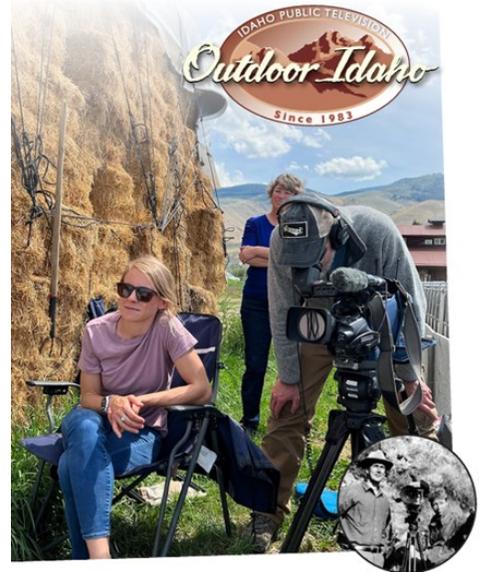
– Airs Thursday, October 13, at 8 p.m.

For 40 years, Outdoor Idaho has provided Idahoans with beauty, awe, science, wonder, and an education in Idaho’s natural landscape. To commemorate four decades of inspiration, we’re Looking Back and Moving Forward to understand where Outdoor Idaho came from and where we’re going.

This special live, in-studio pledge event includes a nod to our longtime host, Bruce Reichert, and recognition of the program’s excellence by outdoor experts and loyal viewers. We’ll hear from children and teachers on why a show like Outdoor Idaho is paramount in today’s world.

“Outdoor Idaho provides us with a glimpse into the lives of others – farmers, outfitters, hunters, hikers, birders. It’s an education in our land, but also in our people,” says producer Lauren Melink. “In this program, we not only recognize Outdoor Idaho but also the state and the landscapes that make our work possible.”

“Outdoor Idaho has done something special by creating a visual time capsule of Idaho, every year, for 40 years, and that’s something to celebrate!” says producer Forrest Burger.



## “Idaho Myths, Monsters and Legends”

– Airs Thursday, October 20, at 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, October 23, at 7:30 p.m.; and Monday, October 31, at 10:30 p.m.



Haunted houses. Creatures in the forest, in the sky, in the water. Why are we drawn to tales of the monstrous and mysterious?

“I think these stories linger because they have to do with the unknown,” historian and author Mark Iverson tells Idaho Experience. “A perpetual interest throughout human history has been what’s in the darkness.”

Just in time for Halloween, Idaho Experience summons the courage to explore Idaho Myths, Monsters and Legends. We visit “haunted” places in Pocatello and Albion, examine Idaho UFO and Bigfoot sightings, and visit the homes of two purported monsters – Payette and Bear lakes.

“For our history series, we’ve been eager to look at Idaho legends,” says executive producer Bill Manny. “And what better time to do that than just before Halloween?”



Bats are flying mammals that can eat half their weight in insects each night. This month's videos from Science Trek explore how bats have adapted for flying at night, how they use echolocation, and why they hang upside down.

Each month, Science Trek explores subjects with short videos available on the Science Trek website ([sciencetrek.org](http://sciencetrek.org)), YouTube, and PBS LearningMedia.

The Science Trek website has facts, games, links, and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards.

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## Links to Recent Local Programs



<https://video.idahoptv.org/video/beyond-labels-ots43q/>



<https://video.idahoptv.org/video/proving-up-idahos-homesteaders-jwlsze/>

## In the News

# Idaho Statesman

## Several of Idaho's leading politicians decline to debate opponents. Here's who's in, out

BY KEVIN FIXLER

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 4:00 AM

Incumbent Republican Gov. Brad Little and Idaho's two sitting U.S. House members have declined to participate in the traditional Idaho Debates, while four other televised discussions for statewide offices scheduled next month will take place ahead of November's general election.

Little's choice follows a similar decision in April, when he refused to publicly engage with GOP opponents in a televised contest while making his case to the state's Republican voters before May's primary election. With almost 53% of the vote, Little, 68, defeated seven other candidates, including his nearest challenger, Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin, by more than 20 percentage points.

Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, in pursuit of his 13th term in Idaho's 2nd Congressional District, has declined to debate his Democratic challenger, Wendy Norman. In April, the 71-year-old incumbent opted for the same strategy against GOP primary rival Bryan Smith, whom Simpson beat by nearly 22 percentage points.

Seeking his third term in the state's 1st Congressional District, Republican U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher, 60, won't appear for a debate against Democratic rival Kaylee Peterson. Fulcher, who represents West and North Idaho, did not face a Republican challenge in the primary.

"Of course we're disappointed," Melissa Davlin, moderator and lead producer of Idaho Debates, which broadcasts on Idaho Public Television, told the Idaho Statesman in a phone interview. "This might be the only chance the vast majority of Idahoans have to see the two candidates side by side and how they would approach the very important issues to the state. That's part of the duty of public television, of getting education out there."

In one of the marquee statewide races, Little faces political dissenter and independent candidate Ammon Bundy, as well as Democrat Stephen Heidt. Libertarian candidate Paul Sand and Constitution Party nominee Chantyroise Davison also qualified for the ballot in the gubernatorial race.

"The most difficult and expensive part of really any campaign — incumbent or not — is reaching people with your message, and all of that is part of the debates," Bundy, 47, told the Statesman by phone. "It almost seems like Gov. Little not accepting the challenge, if you will, to debate is him trying to keep the people of Idaho in the dark. To me, it is a disservice to the people of Idaho."

Little's campaign manager, Hayden Rogers, said the governor's debate participation was unnecessary for voters, citing the one-term incumbent's track record, which he said includes cutting taxes for families and businesses, and redirecting hundreds of millions of dollars in tax surpluses to education and infrastructure.

"We are confident Idahoans know what Gov. Little stands for based on his clear record of delivering results for the people of our great state," Rogers told the Statesman in an emailed statement. "Just two weeks ago, Gov. Little and the Idaho Legislature championed unprecedented tax relief and support for schools while cutting taxes. Under his watch, Idaho cut 90% of red tape and became the least-regulated state in the nation."

Debates will proceed in other statewide races of notable public interest, including for attorney general, lieutenant governor, superintendent of public instruction and U.S. senate. But the choice by several state incumbents to dodge political debate reflects an increasing trend — in Idaho and across the nation — of high-profile candidates declining to involve themselves in the time-honored process.

The growing tactic raises concerns about the state of American democracy for experts and historians in the fields of U.S. government and political science.

“That’s the thing about running for office: It’s a democratic tradition,” David Adler, an Idaho Falls-based political analyst, previously told the Statesman. “It’s an expectation of voters that candidates will stand before the public and answer questions.”

#### CRAPO LONE INCUMBENT TO DEBATE

Four-term incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, 71, is among those who have signed on to debate with his two challengers: Democrat David Roth, 41, of Idaho Falls, and independent Scott Oh Cleveland, 60, of Eagle. The 90-minute taped event will air live online on Oct. 3, and be broadcast on Idaho Public TV on Oct. 4.

“I have agreed to the Idaho Public Television debate to share directly with Idahoans my strong record of fighting to protect Idaho from federal government overreach and supporting pro-growth economic policies,” Crapo told the Statesman by email. “I welcome the opportunity to outline the work I have done and will continue to do on behalf of all Idahoans in Washington.”

In May, Crapo earned 67% of the vote to defeat four GOP rivals in pursuit of a fifth term. In the Democratic primary, Roth won the party’s nomination with nearly 58% of the vote.

“So many times constituents only hear from their leaders in the form of boilerplate letters and rehearsed public statements,” Roth told the Statesman by email. “The debate is an opportunity to get past those and really get a feel for who the nominee is and what they stand for. I am extremely disappointed that the other Republican federal candidates as well as the Republican candidate for governor have opted to deny the Idaho voters of this important piece of the election process.”

Crapo maintains a dramatic fundraising advantage over his challengers. Through June, the Republican reported more than \$5.6 million of cash on hand to spend on his campaign, if he chooses, Federal Election Commission records showed.

“The Idaho Public Television debate is important so that the voters in Idaho can hear directly from each candidate,” Cleveland told the Statesman. “This format helps level the playing field in terms of money and name recognition.”

Meanwhile, in the other two federal races, the Democratic challengers blasted their incumbent Republican congressional rivals for rejecting the chance to debate.

“If we let them get away with this, they’ll continue to put their own interests ahead of the interests of Idaho,” Norman and Peterson said in a joint statement. “We need to remind them of who they work for. We need to hold their feet to the fire.”

Fulcher’s campaign did not respond to a request for comment from the Statesman.

Sarah Nelson, Simpson’s campaign adviser, defended the congressman’s record on public lands, energy and the economy.

"People in Idaho know that Mike Simpson is a strong supporter of Idaho agriculture and has used his seniority in Congress to not only delist the wolf, but to also keep the sage grouse from being listed as an endangered species and to reign in the EPA," Nelson told the Statesman by email. "He is working hard to further the development of nuclear power and is a strong supporter of becoming energy independent again."

An Idaho Democrat has not won a federal race since former Rep. Walt Minnick narrowly earned a single term for the state's 1st Congressional District in November 2008.

#### RIVALS TO FACE OFF IN OTHER RACES

In another of Idaho's most-watched races, Republican Raúl Labrador, 54, a former Idaho congressman, squares off for state attorney general with Democrat Tom Arkoosh, a longtime lawyer and lobbyist. With 51.6% of the vote, Labrador defeated Lawrence Wasden, a five-time incumbent, by nearly 14 percentage points, while Arkoosh entered the race after a prior Democratic nominee withdrew in July. Labrador and Arkoosh will debate for an hour the evening of Oct. 3.

On Oct. 24, two weeks before the election, Republican Debbie Critchfield will debate with Democrat Terry Gilbert in the race for superintendent of public instruction. Critchfield received almost 40% of the vote in the May primary, defeating two-time incumbent Sherri Ybarra and challenger Branden Durst. Gilbert ran unopposed in the Democratic primary.

A Democrat has not won a statewide race in Idaho in two decades. Voters last awarded incumbent Democrat Marilyn Howard a second term as superintendent of public instruction in 2002.

"Of course, Idaho is a tough state for Democrats, but not all races are just the same across-the-board blowouts for Republicans," Davlin said. "And those are the kinds of debates, like superintendent of public instruction ... where it really does matter how candidates approach issues that affect Idahoans every single day."

KTVB Channel 7 is scheduled to host a second debate between the two superintendent candidates on Oct. 25, according to Democratic campaign volunteer Jean McNeil.

Finally, on Oct. 28, IPTV will host Republican Scott Bedke, Idaho's longtime speaker of the House, and Democrat Terri Pickens Manweiler for a 60-minute debate in the lieutenant governor race. Pickens Manweiler ran unopposed in the Democratic primary, while Bedke, 64, won the Republican nomination with nearly 52% of the vote.

In the race for state treasurer, Democratic candidate Deborah Silver declined to debate Republican Julie Ellsworth, according to the Idaho Debates committee.

For secretary of state, Democratic candidate Shawn Keenan did not respond to requests to schedule a debate with Ada County clerk and Republican nominee Phil McGrane, the Idaho Debates committee reported. And neither Democratic candidate Dianna David nor Constitution candidate Mistie Gardner responded to requests to debate Republican nominee Brandon Woolf in the race for state controller.

The four scheduled Idaho Public Television's debates will re-air with Spanish closed captioning, and also be available online. Viewers can check IPTV's schedule at [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org).

# Idaho Statesman

## **Pandemic forced Idaho government agencies to livestream meetings. No reason to stop now**

BY SCOTT MCINTOSH

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 4:00 AM

One good thing that came out of the pandemic was government agencies livestreaming their public meetings, giving taxpayers an opportunity to attend remotely.

The problem is that agencies seem to be dropping the practice now that we're coming out of the pandemic.

These agencies, for the most part, have finally — finally — figured out how to livestream their meetings efficiently and even take testimony virtually.

They shouldn't stop now. ...

Idaho Public Television has been livestreaming the Idaho Legislature for years, but another beneficial byproduct of the pandemic was the Idaho Legislature taking remote testimony at committee hearings.

Now, anyone from Rathdrum, Ririe or Rexburg can testify before a committee from their living room without having to make the drive to Boise, hoping the hearing doesn't get moved or rescheduled.

I hope they keep that up. It's a tremendous public service — regardless of the pandemic. ...

### STATE EFFORTS

The Idaho State Controller's Office lists every state agency's public meeting on the state's new Townhall Idaho portal. Townhall Idaho is a pretty cool idea launched in February by Controller Brandon Woolf, who's been an advocate for government transparency. Townhall was created to allow the public to search and find information pertaining to public meetings for all state agencies and state-affiliated commissions.

Townhall Idaho provides a link to join live meetings virtually for those agencies that provide a livestream option — when there is a livestream.

Unfortunately, not enough state agencies are streaming their meetings, and some are moving away from livestreaming.

The Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole, for example, will stop livestreaming its meetings as of November.

There's no excuse for not streaming meetings anymore.

The Legislature this year allocated \$2 million toward providing agencies the ability to upgrade their in-house equipment to be able to accommodate virtual meetings.

Little recommended the appropriation to improve statewide information technology and get all agency board meetings available for online streaming, according to Madison Hardy, the governor's press secretary.

State officials are still developing a plan on how to spend the money, prioritizing agency conference rooms but also looking at mobile technology for state boards to use on the road, according to Hardy.

If streaming public meetings was good for the public before the pandemic, it's good for the public now. If there's a state agency that isn't livestreaming or recording its public meetings, contact the director or the board chairperson and let them know to use some of that \$2 million allocated by the Legislature and start streaming its meetings.

"I really would like for agencies to continue to push to have the virtual meeting offerings," Woolf said in an emailed statement to me. "We have the equipment, it doesn't take much to add the information on the agenda, or to set up equipment, (and) it makes for a better, open government."