



**"It's up to all of us who hope to encourage continued sustainable growth to help instill in more Idaho employers the confidence to invest in their own future, and the future of our state. How do we build that kind of enthusiasm for Idaho? We do it by continuing to ensure that Idaho is the best place in the world to live, work and start or grow a business."**

— Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, in a guest commentary, "K-Career Education & Workforce Development are Keys to Strong Economy" that appeared in Idaho Politics Weekly on June 26th

# Idaho

**Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter (R)**

**Idaho Department  
of Commerce**  
700 W. State St.  
Boise, ID 83720

**Megan Ronk  
DIRECTOR**  
208-334-2470

[commerce.idaho.gov](http://commerce.idaho.gov)

## Legislative Update

- The Legislature approved a budget for the next fiscal year that includes a 6.6 percent increase in state general funds over this year's level, for a total amount of \$3.27 billion in general fund spending. Additionally, the Legislature increased the public education budget by 7.4 percent, which amounts to a \$1.58 billion K-12 budget for the next fiscal year. Included in the public education budget are funds to increase teacher salaries as part of the second year of a five-year plan per the Governor's task force recommendations. Legislators also approved \$279.6 million for the higher education budget, while at the same time balancing the state budget per Idaho's constitutional mandate.
- (Excerpted from the Idaho Legislative Update - 2016 End of Session Report, from Jonathan Parker, Holland & Hart LLP, March 28, 2016)*

