

## “Save the Ada County Courthouse” Issue Points:

- The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of places in the United States considered worthy of preservation.
- The courthouse was constructed as a project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). This type of monumental architecture represented optimism for the future during the Great Depression and embodies American democracy.
- The exterior is of Indiana Limestone, a very rare building material to be found in Idaho. Such high quality building materials would be impossible to replicate in a new structure.
- **Rehabilitated historic buildings can be as modern and comfortable as new construction. They can be retrofitted with the latest in advanced technology including new electrical and ventilation systems. The proposal calls for redesigning the currently inefficient historic space into up-to-date, efficient offices for the legislators.**
- Idaho Statute 67-4601 declares in part that the architectural heritage of Idaho is among the most important assets of the state, and that all levels of government should engage in a comprehensive program of historic preservation and “promote the use and conservation of such property for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of the citizens of this State.” We cannot foster respect for our heritage if we continue to tear down the icons of our past.
- The proposed rehabilitation plan meets the State’s declared space needs, with the new hearing room space located in the new addition portion of the building.
- The proposed rehabilitation was recommended over the new build alternative by a legislative task force that reviewed all of the alternatives in minute detail.
- **The proposed rehabilitation would be more than \$1 million less than the proposed new construction, saving the taxpayers of the state a considerable amount of money. The tear-down/build new option would be *fiscally irresponsible*.**
- **The rehabilitation option would provide for completed, usable space much more quickly than the demolition/new build option, which would take at least one or two more years to accomplish. The State has indicated that there is great time pressure to complete this project so that the Capitol restoration project can move forward. The remodeled Courthouse would be used to house those temporarily displaced offices without the State having to lease space. The rehab option makes more sense.**
- Preservation is the right thing to do! It shows respect for our heritage and connects us to our past, giving us a sense of place in our community.

**\*Note:** Some legislators are not particularly sympathetic toward historic preservation in general; if you feel this to be the case with your legislator, the items in **bold** may be stronger points to make with them.