



## Study property taxes

STATE SENS. Dane Watkins, R-Idaho Falls, left, and Vearyl Crystal, R-Rigby, are two key legislators studying state property tax reform. (Post-Register/Ben J. Plastino).

# Property tax structure subcommittees will meet

By BEN J. PLASTINO

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State Sen. Dane Watkins, R-Idaho Falls, co-chairman of the Interim Legislative Tax Structure Committee, Friday announced meetings for three subcommittees this month, with two others tentatively set late in the month.

All of the meetings will be held at the Statehouse at Boise starting at 9:30 a.m.

The miscellaneous tax and user fee tax subcommittee under the chairmanship of Rep. Rachel Gilbert, R-Boise, will meet Aug. 16; the sales tax issue subcommittee under chairmanship of Rep. Don Loveland, R-Boise, will meet Aug. 17, and the income tax subcommittee chaired by Watkins will meet Aug. 30.

Watkins said the property tax subcommittee chaired by Sen. Vearyl Crystal, R-Rigby, and the intergovernmental relations subcommittee chaired by Watkins and Rep. Steve

Antone, R-Rupert, likely will meet late in the month but no definite date has been scheduled.

Watkins and Antone are co-chairmen of the parent committee delegated to look for extensive reforms in the state's property tax committee.

The Legislature passed legislation authorizing the Legislative Council to name such a committee and submit recommendations to the 1984 Idaho Legislature.

Watkins said he views the committee as perhaps the most important in legislative history to bring about long-sought tax reform. He said it will look at everything ranging from sales tax exemptions to state lottery.

The committee appointed by Senate President Pro Tem Jim Risch, R-Boise, and House Speaker Tom W. Stivers, R-Twin Falls, is made up primarily of members of the Senate Local Government and Taxation

Committee headed by Watkins and the House Revenue and Tax Committee chaired by Antone. It includes Sens. Crystal, Gail Bray, D-Boise; and Vern Lannen, D-Pinehurst, and Reps. Gilbert, Loveland; Dwight Horsch, D-Aberdeen and Harold Reid, D-Craigmont.

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