



*Working together to plan for the future*

**News Release**

January 28, 2016

Media Contact: Amy Luft, 208/475-2229

***COMPASS Education Series Presents:***  
**Local Option Sales Tax...**  
**Creating Cities Where People Want to Live**

*Meridian, ID* – What is local option sales tax? How does it work? Can it be successful in spurring economic growth?

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is proud to host the Honorable Mick Cornett, Mayor of Oklahoma City, to speak on Oklahoma City's experiences using local option sales tax.

Oklahoma City has used local option sales tax – a tool that provides citizens the choice to tax themselves to fund projects to improve their communities – since 1993. Projects have ranged from a new library, to convention and sports venues, to public transportation improvements, sidewalks, and trails. However, outside of a few small resort communities, this tool is not available in Idaho. Join COMPASS to learn about this potential funding tool as Mayor Cornett discusses how his city's local option sales tax program works and shares successes and challenges in its implementation.

Mayor Cornett will provide two presentations. Both are free and open to the public.

- Thursday, February 4, 2016
  - Holland and Hart Conference Room, Zion's Bank Building, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boise
  - 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm reception
  - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm presentation and discussion
- Friday, February 5, 2016
  - COMPASS; 700 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Meridian (first floor Board room)
  - 9:00 am – 11:00 am presentation and discussion

**Space is limited.** For both presentations, **please RSVP** to [ctorkelson@compassidaho.org](mailto:ctorkelson@compassidaho.org) or 208/475-2232.

Mayor Mick Cornett is the first four-term mayor in Oklahoma City history. *Newsweek* magazine called him one of the "five most innovative Mayors in the United States." *Politico* placed him on the publication's Politico 50 list of "thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics in 2015." During his time in office, Oklahoma City has invested nearly \$2 billion in schools and quality-of-life infrastructure through its MAPS ("Metropolitan Area Projects") program, funded by a 1-cent local option sales tax.

This presentation is being offered by COMPASS as part of its annual education series. For more information, visit [www.compassidaho.org/comm/publicevents\\_2016\\_ed\\_series.htm](http://www.compassidaho.org/comm/publicevents_2016_ed_series.htm). COMPASS would like to express its thanks to Holland and Hart for the use of its conference room for the Thursday evening event.