2026
GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES & BALLOT INITIATIVES

Prepared by
Office of Public Affairs

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026!

For more information, visit: https://sos.idaho.gov/elections-division/

EARLY VOTING: AVAILABLE

- ✓ Bannock: Oct 13 - Oct 30 @141 N. 6th Ave Pocatello 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (M-F)
- ✓ Bingham: Oct 19 - Oct 30 @501 N. Maple Blackfoot 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (M-F)
- ✓ Power: Oct 14 - Oct 30 @543 Bannock Ave American Falls 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (M-F)

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

- ✓ Request by Oct 25th
- ✓ Must be received by County Clerk's Office (In-Person, or by Mail) by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

VOTING LOCATIONS (8:00 A.M. – TO 8 P.M.)

- ✓ Determine your polling place (both on/off Fort Hall) by visiting: https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/ViewPollingLocation.aspx

PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED FOR REGISTERED VOTERS

- ✓ Tribal Identification Card; or
- ✓ Idaho Driver's License or State Identification Card; or
- ✓ U.S. Passport or Federal Photo Identification Card; or
- ✓ Idaho Concealed Weapons License

PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS ON OCTOBER 23

- ✓ Register online at https://voteidaho.gov/voter-registration/
- ✓ Register in-person at your county clerk's office during business hours

SAME DAY VOTING REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE

- ✓ To register to vote the same day, bring photo ID and proof of residency.
- ✓ Individuals with a felony conviction CAN vote after completing their full sentence, including probation or parole.

Accepted Proof of Residence Documents for Registration*:

- ✓ Above Photo ID with your correct address
- ✓ Proof of car insurance with correct address
- ✓ Mortgage, lease, or rental agreement
- ✓ Property tax assessment, bill
- ✓ Utility bill
- ✓ Bank/credit card statement with your correct address
- ✓ Letter from a social service agency
- ✓ University/High School Enrollment letter
- ✓ Intake document to a care facility
- ✓ Paystub

*If registering on election day, bring proof of residency with you to the voting location. Addresses must be correct.

2026 FEDERAL CANDIDATES



Incumbent: *Sen Jim Risch (R)* - U.S. Senator since 2009 and is a candidate for a fourth term; serves on five committees. Supported Tribal needs during COVID, but only briefly meets with tribal leaders when available. States that he supports public lands, but privately is a main proponent for the Simplot land exchange which would transfer ceded lands to Simplot.

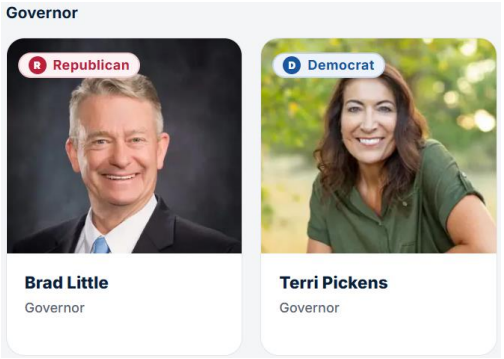
Challengers: *Todd Achilles (Independent (I))* – Former Army officer/tank commander and technology executive. Served in Idaho's house as a democrat. Running as independent because "…the two-party system is fundamentally broken." Supports public lands and environmental issues, has met with the FHBC twice. Pledged to serve only two terms if elected, proactive meeting with FHBC to hear their concerns. Other: *Natalie Flemming (I), Matt Loesby (Libertarian (Lib))*



Incumbent: *Rep Mike Simpson (R)* – Served in congress since 1999. Key for securing funding for the Fort Hall Fire Station, the Justice Center, and Eagle Road improvements. An advocate for tribal issues as Chairman of the House Interior Appropriations sub-committee. Regularly meets with the FHBC.

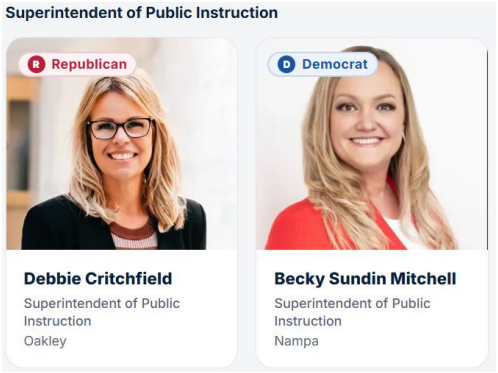
Challengers: *Ellie Gilbreath (D)* – New to politics, owns a personal coaching business. Considered a political "centrist," supports protecting and restoring health care benefits, public lands, and desires the wealthy pay their fair share in taxes. Recently met with FHBC.

KEY STATE-WIDE CANDIDATES



Incumbent: *Gov Brad Little (R)* – Idaho's governor since 2019, professionally worked in ranching, banking, and manufacturing. Supports loosening regulations to accelerate mining, timber, and energy development, INL expansion, tax cuts, and has supported controversial stances taking money away from public schools.

Challengers: *Terri Pickens (D)* – New to politics. Originally from Pocatello, and owns a law practice in Boise. Has previous experience with Planned Parenthood, supports higher taxes for the rich, very vocal against Idaho's possible Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus. Other: *Emre Houser (I), Tripp Hutchinson (I), Will Johanson (Lib)*



Incumbent: *Spt. Debbie Critchfield (R)* – Candidate for a second term. Previously served as a member of the State board of Education. Keen on teaching financial literacy in the classroom, enabling parental rights in education, supporting high-need students.

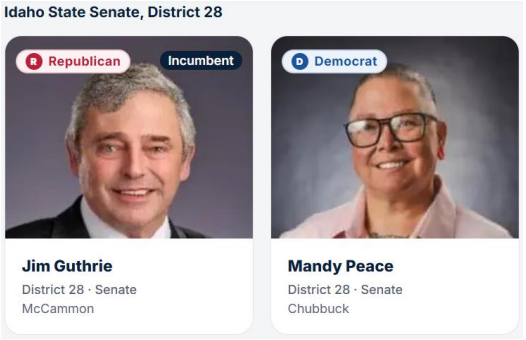
Challengers: *Becky Mitchell (D)* - Current science teacher and 2018 "Teacher of the Year." Supports making teacher compensation more competitive and keeping state money in public schools. Other: *Teresa Roundy (Con)*

Other State-Wide Positions:

Lt. Governor: Incumbent: *Scott Bedke (R)*, **Challenger:** *Eric Myricks (D)*
Sec. of State: Incumbent: *Phil McGrane (R),* **Challenger:** *Shawn Keenan (D)*
State Controller: Incumbent: *Brandon Woolf (R)*, **Challenger:** *Rakesh Mohan (D)*
Attorney General: Incumbent: *Raul Labrador (R)*, **Challenger:** *Lori Hickman (D)*
State Treasurer: Incumbent: *Julie Ellsworth (R)*, **Challenger:** *Kevin Jones (D)*

STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES WITH DISTRICTS ON/NEAR FORT HALL

District 28: Bannock/Power Counties



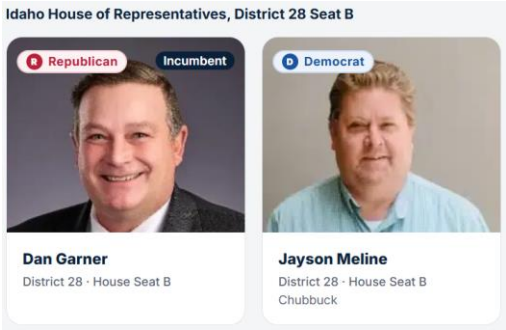
Incumbent: *Sen Jim Guthrie (R)* – Has served in legislature since 2010. Is a rancher and business owner. Prioritizes agriculture, local control, schools, and water rights. Blocked legislation supporting mandatory ICE cooperation.

Challenger: *Mandy Peace (D)* – Works in management and finance at ISU. Previous experience as an EMT and with search and rescue. Volunteers with animal rescue, foster-care support, supporting the homeless. Offers that she will be consistent/equitable with healthcare, education, and natural resources issues.



Incumbent: *Rep Rick Cheatum (R)* – Former Pocatello City Councilman and elected to house in 2022. "…works "to reduce regulations on local governments, ensuring they have the autonomy to provide essential services like public safety and infrastructure without excessive state overreach."

Challenger: *Kim Jackman (D)* – School community resource/school coordinator. Focused on using her professional experience to help children and families. Committed to children, parent and school partnerships, supporting educators and restoring trust.



Incumbent: Rep *Dan Garner (R)* – Entered office in 2022. A rancher and business owner. Named funding for education as his top priority. Serves on the house Agricultural Affairs, Education, Judiciary, and Rules committees.

Challenger: *Jayson Meline (D)* – Works in multinational production and manufacturing. Concerned about "extremism" in Idaho and the current election process that has resulted into a republican "supermajority." Supports vulnerable adults and education and small business.

District 29: Most of Pocatello



Incumbent: *Sen James Ruchti (D)* – Served in the house before winning a senate seat in 2022. An attorney and US Military Academy graduate. Notably has fought against pesticide companies. Prioritizes funding public education, preserving public lands, supporting working families and small businesses, preserving the judicial system, and addressing consumer protection, property-tax relief and veterans' affairs.

Challenger: *John Crowder (R)* – Former Bannock County commissioner and worked in maritime shipping and corporate procurement. Known for his conservative media outlet.



Incumbent: Rep Dustin Manwaring *(R)* - Serving in his third term, serves on the Idaho Council on Indian Affairs and key committees, including the House Appropriations and the Rural Healthcare Transformation Committee.

Challenger: *Mary Shea (D)* - Also an attorney, Shea won against Manwaring in 2022, only to narrowly be defeated by him in 2024. Experienced in civil litigation, child welfare law; supports preserving Medicaid and public school funding.



Incumbent: Defeated in Primaries

Candidate: *Nate Roberts (D)* – Previously served in the House from 2022-2024, including on the Idaho Council on Indian Affairs. An electrician, his campaign centers on workers' rights, workplace safety, workers' compensation reform, supporting public schools, apprenticeships in schools, higher education, affordable housing, and fair taxation.

Candidate: *Jennifer Miles (R)* **–** A clinical Social worker with extensive experience in substance abuse, mental illness, etc. Education and workforce development highlight her focus. "My platform is dedicated to advancing public education and workforce development, empowering children to become independent contributors to Idaho's economy..."

District 30: Bingham/Butte Counties



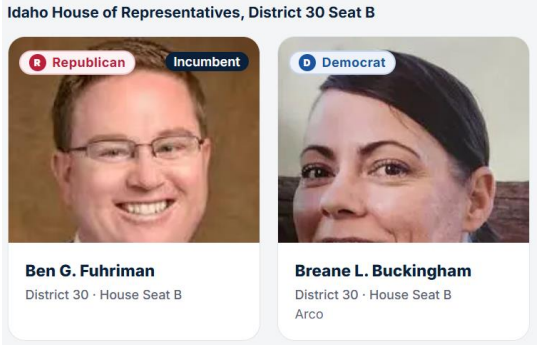
Incumbent: *Sen Julie VanOrden (R)* – Has more than a decade in the legislature having served in both the House and Senate. Current Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee and Co-Chair of the Rural Health Transformation Committee. Priorities include addressing high taxes, workforce shortages, and parental involvement in education. Key proponent for health care related issues. Supported exempting tribal members from new Medicaid eligibility requirements. Helped restore Medicaid funding cuts for behavioral health services.

Challenger: *Joni Sorenson (D)* – No Information available.



Incumbent: *Rep David Cannon (R)* – Professionally, practices law in Bingham county. Describes his fiscal views under "Common Sense Conservatism." Serves on House Revenue and Taxation, Agricultural Affairs and Business Committees.

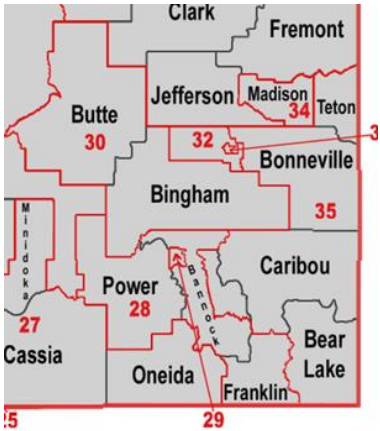
Challenger: None



Incumbent: *Ben Fuhriman (R)* – First won his seat in 2024. Owns a financial-planning firm. Prioritizes special education funding, supported mental health legislation for the Tribes. Helped restore Medicaid funding cuts for behavioral health services.

Challenger: *Breane Buckingham (D)* – U.S. Army veteran – served in medical and logistics specialties. Believes public service is a duty for all Americans. Promises to fight for better education, healthcare, roads, stronger policing, and responsible growth.

Southeastern Idaho Legislative Districts



STATE-WIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

House Joint Resolution 4: Proposes an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Idaho authorizing the state legislature the authority to overturn any ballot measure related to medical and recreational Marijuana and other drugs (e.g. if voters approve medical cannabis in the future, the ballot measure would allow the legislature to override the popular vote)

Yes

A **YES** vote would give the Legislature exclusive authority to legalize marijuana, narcotics, or other psychoactive substances in the State of Idaho.

No

A **NO** vote would make no change to Idaho's Constitution, which currently allows changes to Idaho's controlled substances laws using the initiative process.

House Joint Resolution 6: Proposes an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Idaho making English the official language of Idaho (the legislature made English the official language by law in 2007).

Yes

A **YES** vote would designate English the official state language of Idaho.

No

A **NO** vote would make no change to Idaho's Constitution, which currently does not designate an official state language.

Proposition One: Reproductive Freedom & Privacy Act: Expands access to abortion in Idaho. Per current state law, abortion is legal to prevent the death of the mother, in cases of rape or incest (*must be performed in first trimester*, *and if the mother is a minor, her parent or guardian must be notified*), for ectopic pregnancies, and non-viable pregnancies.

The proposed measure gives a right to make reproductive decisions, including contraception, fertility treatment, and prenatal and postpartum care, expands rights to make personal decisions related to abortion; allows abortions for non-viable pregnancies after the first trimester, and allows for exceptions during a "non-life-threatening" medical emergency after fetal viability (after the baby could survive outside the womb without major intervention).

Summary: Initiative seeks to change Idaho's laws by introducing a right to reproductive freedom and privacy including a right to abortion up to the point of the fetus's ability to survive outside the womb. After fetal viability, there would be no general right to abortion except in cases of "medical emergency," including "serious impairment to a bodily function" or "serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part."

Yes

A **YES** vote would support creating a right to abortion before fetal viability—defined as a fetus' ability to survive without extraordinary medical measures—and after fetal viability in cases of medical emergency; providing protections against professional discipline and civil and criminal liability for healthcare providers; and codifying a statutory reproductive right to freedom and privacy.



A **NO** vote would support making no change to Idaho's current law, which preserves the life of preborn children by prohibiting abortion, except when necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman, and during the first trimester in documented cases of rape or incest reported to law enforcement.

Idaho Medical Cannabis Act: Voter initiative to allow Medical Cannabis did not receive enough signatures to qualify for the ballot

Other: House Bill 932: An advisory question asking Idahoans to designate which gun they would like to have as the official Idaho State Gun.
Sources:

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How do I register to vote?
A: See instructions for pre-registration and same day registration on page 2

Q: Where do I vote?
A: Determine your polling place (both on/off Fort Hall) by visiting:
https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/ViewPollingLocation.aspx

Q: What do I do if I can't find my voter registration online?
A: No registered voters have been removed from the voting rolls. If you have not voted in the last four years, have moved or have changed your name, you must re-register. When searching online, use your name exactly as you registered it. You can always register at your polling location with proof of residency and your ID.

Q: Do I need to cast a vote for every race on my ballot?

A: No – If a voter choses not to cast a vote for every race, their votes in other races still count

Q: Can I write someone in?
A: Yes, BUT, a write-in candidate must have already declared. If you chose to write in someone who has not declared for the election, your vote for that race won't be counted.

Q: Are signatures on absentee ballots verified?
A: Yes, election staff members compare signatures on the ballots with previous signatures from voter registrations, previous ballots, and/or driver's license records to confirm a match

Q: Must I present my identification (ID) to vote?
A: Yes, Idaho passed a voter ID law in 2010

Q: What is an acceptable form of ID to show at the poll?
A: Acceptable forms of ID are: Tribal Identification Card; or Idaho Driver's License; or State Identification Card; or U.S. Passport or Federal Photo Identification Card; or Idaho Concealed Weapons License

Q: I requested an absentee ballot, but I want to vote in person. What should I do?
A: Bring your absentee ballot to early voting or to your voting location on Election Day.
Q: Where can I go to research voting in Idaho?
A: For more information, visit: https://sos.idaho.gov/elections-division/

Q: Where can I go to research candidates in Idaho?
A: A consolidated resource can be found at https://idahovoters.com

Sources:
https://sos.idaho.gov/elections-division/
https://idahovoters.com/
https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/district-map/
https://voteidaho.gov/
https://idahocapitalsun.com/2026/10/13/idahos-top-officials-keep-getting-these-common-election-questions-heres-the-answers-to-your-faqs/