

2024 General Election Recap

The 2024 general election in Idaho has come to a close, bringing few shifts in the state's legislative and congressional landscapes. With all 35 Senate and 70 House seats up for election, both congressional districts, and two high-profile ballot measures, Idaho voters have made their voices heard on a range of critical issues. **Idaho saw record voter turnout** with over 900,000 ballots cast. The result? An even more Conservative Idaho.

Election results are unofficial until the Board of Canvassers meet. Results won't be certified until November 26th though we do not anticipate any changes. Unofficial statewide results can be found [here](#).

Key Legislative Races

The results from some of Idaho's most closely watched legislative races highlight the conservative stronghold within the state. In **District 6**, **Senator Dan Foreman (R)** narrowly defended his seat against Democratic challenger Julia Parker, following a campaign marked by sharp contrasts over social issues including abortion and COVID-19 accountability. Foreman's win cements his place as one of the more conservative voices in Idaho's Senate, likely influencing the direction of leadership races come Organizational Session in December.

In a highly competitive race in **District 15** in West Boise, former **Representative Codi Galloway (R)** defeated incumbent Senator Rick Just (D). Galloway's victory in this urban district suggests that Idaho voters, including those in Boise, are increasingly aligning with positions of the Republican Party. Voters narrowly favored Galloway, indicating that concerns over Idaho's strict abortion laws and healthcare recruitment may not have been enough to secure a democratic stronghold in Boise.

In **District 26**, the high-profile Senate race ended with incumbent **Senator Ron Taylor (D)** securing another term. This race, which included challenges from former Representative Laurie Lickley (R) and independent candidate Kala Tate, was a nail-biter as early results indicated Lickley as the winner. However, the next day, the precinct reported they had not counted all mail in ballots, which once counted, declared incumbent Senator Ron Taylor victorious.

District 26 saw a large upset in the election for House Seat A, resulting in the loss of Representative and House Minority Caucus Chair, Ned Burns (D) to **Mike Pohanka (R)** from Jerome County. This race remained close all evening, with Pohanka ultimately securing a win by a narrow margin of just over 2%.

In **District 29**, a "purple" region in Eastern Idaho, House Republican Caucus Chair, **Representative Dustin Manwaring** narrowly edged out Democrat candidate Mary Shea. This close margin underlines the district's competitive nature and keeps Manwaring's Republican stance relevant within the legislature, as we anticipate he will once again run for a leadership position in the House.

With three more republicans winning seats in the legislature, the republican supermajority is stronger than ever - creating an even stronger veto-proof majority and an environment ripe for party infighting. Hot-button issues including school choice, grocery tax credit, water management, and access to healthcare will be at the forefront of issues considered in 2025.

Idaho's legislative makeup now sits at 61 Republicans and 9 Democrats in the House, and 29 Republicans and 6 Democrats in the Senate.

Organizational Session: Idaho's 68th Legislature

Organizational Session will take place on December 5th and 6th. During this time, both legislative bodies will vote on leadership positions, and committee assignments will be determined. As it sits currently in the Senate, there are three members running for President Pro Tem, two for Majority Leader, two for Assistant Majority Leader and two for Majority Caucus Chair. In the House, there are no anticipated challengers to the highest positions of Speaker and Majority Leader, but there are a whopping five members running for Assistant Majority Leader and two running for Majority Caucus Chair. The sheer number of members running show the inherent divisiveness that currently exists within the party. We are anticipating the slates in both the Senate and House will skew further right. We will send out a report after the organizational session.

Ballot Measures

Idaho voters made strong statements on two major ballot measures. **Proposition One**, a proposal to establish a top-four primary system and introduce ranked-choice voting, faced stiff opposition and was ultimately rejected. Opponents argued that the measure would create confusion and unnecessary election costs, a sentiment that appeared to resonate with voters. Idaho will therefore maintain its traditional partisan primary structure.

On the other hand, **House Joint Resolution 5 (HJR 5)**, which enshrines the U.S. citizenship requirement for voting in the Idaho Constitution, passed with strong support. This aligns Idaho with several states reinforcing citizenship requirements in response to national discussions around non-citizen voting. By embedding this requirement in the state constitution, Idaho joins a broader movement prioritizing voting eligibility restrictions.

Congressional Races: Reinforcing Idaho's Republican Stronghold

Idaho's congressional delegation remains solidly Republican. In the **1st Congressional District**, **Congressman Russ Fulcher (R)** retained his seat with a significant lead over Democrat Kaylee Peterson, reflecting voters' strong preference for conservative policies. Similarly, incumbent **Congressman Mike Simpson (R)** won Idaho's **2nd Congressional District**, fending off a field of challengers, including Democrat David Roth. These outcomes reaffirm Idaho's commitment to conservative representation in D.C.

Presidential Election Results

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump won Idaho's four electoral votes, continuing the state's longstanding alignment with the GOP in presidential elections. With a sizable lead over Democratic candidate Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump's victory in Idaho underscores the state's conservative leanings in national politics, as well as a conservative shift across the nation.