LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Sixty-eighth Legislature

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First Regular Session - 2025

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 278

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 1-2220, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVI-SIONS REGARDING THE FILING OF DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY BY MAGISTRATES; AMENDING SECTION 31-4306, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARD-ING THE FILING OF DECLARATIONS OF INTENT BY CANDIDATES IN RECREATION DISTRICT ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 33-2705, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING THE DEADLINE TO CANVASS CERTAIN RETURNS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 33-2717A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE FILING OF DECLARATIONS OF INTENT BY CERTAIN CANDIDATES IN LIBRARY DISTRICT TRUSTEE ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-106, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN COUNTY AND RECALL ELECTIONS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-408, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK; AMENDING SEC-TION 34-410, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAIL AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-625, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DEAD-LINE TO FILE DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY IN HIGHWAY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-625A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DEADLINE TO FILE DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY IN CERTAIN SINGLE COUNTYWIDE HIGHWAY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-702A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING DECLARA-TIONS OF INTENT FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES; AMENDING SECTION 34-704, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE FILING OF CERTAIN DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING SECTION 34-705, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE FILING OF CERTAIN DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY IN COUNTY ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-712, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DEADLINE TO PROVIDE COUNTY CLERKS WITH CERTAIN SAMPLE FORM PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOTS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-714, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR FILLING VACANCIES IN SLATE OF POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES OCCURRING PRIOR TO PRIMARY ELECTIONS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMEND-ING SECTION 34-715, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR FILLING OF VACANCIES OCCURRING BEFORE OR AFTER PRIMARY ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-717, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN CANDIDATE WITHDRAWALS; AMENDING SECTION 34-1012, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING AND EARLY VOTING AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING SECTION 34-1205, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING WHEN THE COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS MEETS; AMENDING SECTION 34-1404, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-1405A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING DEADLINES FOR CERTAIN CANDIDATE WITHDRAWALS; AMENDING SECTION 34-1407, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PRO-

VISIONS REGARDING THE FILING OF DECLARATIONS OF INTENT BY WRITE-IN CANDIDATES; AMENDING SECTION 40-1305C, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVI-SIONS REGARDING THE DEADLINES TO FILE CERTAIN NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR HIGHWAY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES; REPEALING SECTION 42-3211a, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO EXPIRATION OF TERM; AMENDING SECTION 50-407, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DEADLINES FOR FILING DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY AND PETITIONS OF CANDIDACY FOR CERTAIN MU-NICIPAL ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 50-410, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE FILING OF DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY FOR CER-TAIN CITY ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 67-4911, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE FILING OF NOMINATIONS FOR AUDITORIUM DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 70-1108, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PRO-VISION REGARDING THE DEADLINE TO CANVASS RETURNS AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING SECTION 19-6203, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

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SECTION 1. That Section 1-2220, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

1-2220. RETENTION OR NONRETENTION OF MAGISTRATE BY VOTE. Any magistrate appointed pursuant to the provisions of section 1-2205, Idaho Code, and section 1-2207(2), Idaho Code, shall stand for office in the first general election next succeeding the expiration of the eighteen (18) month period established pursuant to section 1-2207, Idaho Code. Any magistrate may, not less than ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the general election next preceding the expiration of his term of office, during the time period provided in section 34-1404, Idaho Code, file in the office of the county clerk of the county for which he is a resident magistrate, accompanied by a filing fee of forty dollars (\$40.00), a declaration of candidacy to succeed himself. If a declaration is not so filed by any magistrate, the vacancy resulting from the expiration of his term of office shall be filled by appointment as herein provided, except that any magistrate who does not file shall be ineligible for appointment within the same judicial district until for two (2) years following the expiration of his last term of office have expired. If such a declaration is filed, his name shall be submitted at the next general election to the voters eligible to vote within the county for which he is appointed, on a nonpartisan judicial ballot, without party designation, which shall read:

"Shall Magistrate (Here insert the name of the magistrate) of (Here insert the name of the county) County of the (Here insert the judicial district number) Judicial District be retained in office?" (Here provision is to be made for voting "Yes" or "No.") "No".)

The votes shall be canvassed as provided in chapter 12, title 34, Idaho Code.

If a majority of those voting on the question vote against retaining him in office, upon the expiration of his term of office, a vacancy shall exist which shall be filled by appointment as provided in section 1-2205, Idaho

Code, except that the magistrate not retained in office shall be ineligible for appointment within the same judicial district $\frac{1}{2}$ two (2) years following the expiration of his last term of office $\frac{1}{2}$ two (2) years

If a majority of those voting on the question vote for retaining him in office, the county clerk shall issue him a certificate of election as provided in section 34-1209, Idaho Code, and said magistrate shall, unless removed for cause, remain in office for an additional term of four (4) years, and at the expiration of each such four (4) year term shall be eligible for retention in office by election in the manner herein prescribed.

SECTION 2. That Section 31-4306, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 31-4306. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. (1) An election of directors shall be held in each district on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of November of each odd-numbered year. Such election shall be held in conformity with title 34, Idaho Code. Before the notice of election is given, the board shall divide the district into subdivisions as nearly equal in population as possible to be designated as director's subdistrict 1, 2 and 3, or director's subdistrict 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, depending upon on the number of subdistricts in the district. Each nominating petition shall state the subdistrict for which the nominee is nominated.
- (2) In any election for directors if, after the expiration of the date for filing written nominations for the office of director, it appears that only one (1) qualified candidate has been nominated for each position to be filled and if no declaration of intent has been filed as provided in subsection (3) of this section, it shall not be necessary to hold an election, and the board of directors shall, no later than seven (7) days before the scheduled date of the election, declare such candidate elected as director, and the secretary of the recreation district board shall immediately make and deliver to such person a certificate of election.
- (3) No write-in vote for recreation district director shall be counted unless a declaration of intent has been filed indicating that the person desires the office and is legally qualified to assume the duties of recreation district director if elected. The declaration of intent shall be filed with the recreation district board secretary not later than forty-five (45) days before the day of election during the time period provided in section 34-1407, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 3. That Section 33-2705, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 33-2705. CONDUCT OF ELECTION. Upon the county commissioners having made the order referred to in subsection (5) of section 33-2704, Idaho Code, the clerk of the board of county commissioners shall cause to be published a notice of an election to be held for the purpose of determining whether or not the proposed library district shall be established under the provisions of this chapter. The date of this election shall be the next uniform election date as provided for in section 34-106, Idaho Code. Whenever more than one (1) petition is presented to the county commissioners calling for an election to create library districts, the first presented shall take precedence.

Notice of the election shall be given, the election shall be conducted, and the returns thereof canvassed as provided for in chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code, and under the general election laws of the state of Idaho. The ballot shall contain the words "(Name) Library District--Yes" and "(Name) Library District--No,"No, each followed by a box wherein the voter may express his choice by marking a cross "X." "X". The board or boards of election shall make returns and certify the results to the boards of county commissioners within three (3) days after the election, and the board of county commissioners shall, within seven (7) days after the election, canvass the returns. If a majority of all votes cast be in the affirmative, the board of county commissioners shall, within seven (7) nine (9) days after the returns have been canvassed, enter an order declaring the library district established, designating its name and boundaries including a map prepared in a draftsmanlike manner. The board of county commissioners shall transmit a copy of the order to the county recorder, county assessor, and the state tax commission in a timely manner, but no later than December $15_{\mathcal{T}}$ in the calendar year in which the election was held. A copy of the order shall also be transmitted to the board of library commissioners.

SECTION 4. That Section 33-2717A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-2717A. DECLARATION OF INTENT FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATE. No write-in vote for library district trustee in a library district election shall be counted unless a declaration of intent has been filed indicating that the person desires the office and is legally qualified to assume the duties of library trustee if elected. The declaration of intent shall be filed with the clerk of the library board not later than forty-five (45) days before the day of election during the time period provided in section 34-1407, Idaho Code.

SECTION 5. That Section 34-106, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-106. LIMITATION UPON ON ELECTIONS. On and after January 1, 2011, notwithstanding any other provisions of the law to the contrary, there shall be no more than two (2) elections conducted in any county in any calendar year, except as provided in this section or section 34-220, Idaho Code, and except that elections to fill vacancies in the United States house of representatives shall be held as provided in the governor's proclamation.

- (1) The dates on which elections may be conducted are:
- (a) The third Tuesday in May of each year; and
- (b) The Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each year.
- (c) In addition to the elections specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection and subsection (7) of this section, an emergency election may be called upon motion of the governing board of a political subdivision. An emergency exists when there is a great public calamity, such as an extraordinary fire, flood, storm, epidemic, or other disaster, or when it is necessary to do emergency work to prepare for national or local defense or to safeguard life, health or property.

(2) Candidates for office elected in May shall take office on the date specified in the certificate of election but not more than sixty (60) days following the election.

- (3) Candidates for office elected in November shall take office as provided in the constitution or on January 1 next succeeding the November election.
- (4) The governing board of each political subdivision subject to the provisions of this section that, prior to January 1, 2011, conducted an election for members of that governing board on a date other than a date permitted in subsection (1) of this section shall establish as the election date for that political subdivision the date authorized in subsection (1) of this section that falls nearest the date on which elections were previously conducted, unless another date is established by law.
- (5) The secretary of state is authorized to provide such assistance as necessary and to prescribe any needed rules or interpretations for the conduct of an election authorized under the provisions of this section.
- (6) Water districts governed by chapter 6, title 42, Idaho Code, are exempt from the provisions of this section.
- (7) Community colleges governed by chapter 21, title 33, Idaho Code, and school districts are subject to the limitations specified in subsection (1) of this section.
- (8) A city initiative or referendum election shall be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years. A county initiative or referendum election or a bond, levy and any or other ballot question elections election conducted by any political subdivision shall be held on the nearest date authorized in subsection (1) of this section that falls more than sixty (60) days after the clerk of the political subdivision orders that such election shall be held in May or November of even-numbered years or more than fifty (50) days after the order for all other elections, unless otherwise provided by law. Ballot as long as the ballot language for any question to be placed on the ballot shall be is submitted to the county clerk at least sixty (60) days before an election held in May or November of even-numbered years and at least fifty (50) days before all other elections no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Friday before the election.
- (9) Recall elections may be held on any of the three (3) dates authorized in subsections (1) and (7) subsection (1) of this section that fall more than forty-five (45) days after the clerk of the political subdivision orders that such election shall be held as long as the recall petition is certified no later than the tenth Friday before the next scheduled election.
- (10) Irrigation districts governed by title 43, Idaho Code, are subject to the limitations specified in subsection (1) of this section, except that irrigation districts may also hold an election on the first Tuesday in February of each year and on the first Tuesday in August of each year on questions required to be voted upon on by title 43, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 6. That Section 34-408, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-408. CLOSING OF REGISTER -- TIME LIMIT. (1) No elector may register in the office of the county clerk within twenty-four (24) days preceding after 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh day before any election held through-

out the county in which he resides for the purpose of voting at such election; provided however, a legible, accurate and complete registration application received in the office of the county clerk during the twenty-four (24) eleven (11) day period preceding an election shall be accepted and held by the county clerk until the day following the election when registration reopens, at which time the registration shall become effective. This deadline shall also apply to any registrars the county clerk may have appointed.

- (2) Any elector who will complete his residence requirement or attain the requisite voting age during the period when the register of electors is closed may register prior to the closing of the register.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, an individual who is eligible to vote may also register, upon completing a registration application and showing proof of identity and residence pursuant to section 34-411, Idaho Code, at the absent electors' polling place provided in section 34-1006, Idaho Code, or at an early voting station provided in section 34-1012, Idaho Code.

SECTION 7. That Section 34-410, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 34-410. MAIL REGISTRATION. (1) Any elector may register by mail for any election. Any mail registration application must be received by the county clerk prior to the close of registration as provided in section 34-408, Idaho Code, provided that any mail registration application postmarked not later than twenty-five (25) days prior to an election shall be deemed timely.
- (2) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for the mail registration application.
- (3) The mail application form shall be available for distribution through governmental and private entities, with particular emphasis on making them available for organized voter registration programs.
- (4) Any federal mail registration form adopted pursuant to the provisions of the national voter registration act of 1993, (P.L. 103-31), shall also be accepted as a valid registration, if such form is postmarked not later than twenty-five (25) days prior to an election it is received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh day before the election.
- (5) The county clerk shall prepare and issue by first class nonforwardable mail to each elector registering by mail a verification of registration containing the name and residence of the elector and the name or number of the precinct in which the elector resides. A verification returned undeliverable shall cause the county clerk to remove the elector's card from the register of electors.
- (6) As required by the help America vote act of 2002, (P.L. 107-252), a copy of proper identification will be required prior to issuance of a ballot to anyone who has registered by mail and has not previously voted in an election for federal office in the state. Proper identification shall meet the requirements of section 34-411(3) and (4), Idaho Code.

SECTION 8. That Section 34-625, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-625. ELECTION OF HIGHWAY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS IN SINGLE COUNTY-WIDE DISTRICTS -- QUALIFICATIONS. (1) In each general election, highway district commissioners in single countywide districts shall be elected as provided for in section 40-1404, Idaho Code.

- (2) No person shall be elected to the office of highway district commissioner unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years at the time of his election, is a citizen of the United States, and shall be a resident of the highway district commissioner's subdistrict for which he seeks office.
- (3) Each candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy with the county clerk not less than ninety (90) days prior to the general election during the time period provided in section 34-1404, Idaho Code. Each declaration of candidacy shall also bear the following words: "I am a resident within the boundaries of Highway District Commissioner's Subdistrict Number"
- (4) Each candidate who files a declaration of candidacy shall at the same time pay a filing fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) which shall be deposited in the county current expense fund.
- SECTION 9. That Section 34-625A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-625A. ELECTION OF HIGHWAY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS IN CERTAIN SINGLE COUNTYWIDE DISTRICTS -- QUALIFICATIONS. (1) In each general election, highway district commissioners in single countywide districts shall be elected as provided for in section 40-1404A, Idaho Code.
- (2) No person shall be elected to the office of highway district commissioner unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years at the time of his election, is a citizen of the United States, and shall be a resident of the highway district commissioner's subdistrict for which he seeks office.
- (3) Each candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy with the county clerk not less than ninety (90) days prior to the general election during the time period provided in section 34-1404, Idaho Code. Each declaration of candidacy shall also bear the following words: "I am a resident within the boundaries of Highway District Commissioner's Subdistrict Number"
- (4) Each candidate who files a declaration of candidacy shall at the same time pay a filing fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) which shall be deposited in the county current expense fund.
- SECTION 10. That Section 34-702A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-702A. DECLARATION OF INTENT FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES. (1) No write-in vote for any office in a primary, special, or general election shall be counted unless a completed declaration of intent form has been filed indicating that the person desires the office and is legally qualified to assume the duties of said office if elected. The declaration of intent shall be filed with the secretary of state if for a federal, state, or legislative district office and with the county clerk if for a county or party precinct

committeeman office. Such declaration of intent shall be filed no later than the ninth Friday before the day of election.

- (2) The declaration of intent for write-in candidates for federal, state, or legislative district offices shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh Friday before the primary election.
- (3) The declaration of intent for write-in candidates for county or party precinct committeeman office shall be filed with the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday before the primary election.
- $\underline{(4)}$ For a write-in candidate for president, the declaration shall include a certification of the write-in candidate's vice presidential and presidential electors, all of whom must be qualified to serve in their respective offices. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for said declarations.
- $\frac{(2)}{(5)}$ In those counties that utilize optical scan ballots, an elector shall not place on the ballot a sticker bearing the name of a person or use any other method or device, except writing, to vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot.
- SECTION 11. That Section 34-704, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-704. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY. (1) Any person legally qualified to hold such office is entitled to become a candidate and file his a declaration of candidacy. Each political party candidate for precinct, state, district or county office shall file his declaration of candidacy in the proper office between 8:00 a.m. on the twelfth Monday preceding the primary election and 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Friday preceding the primary election. All political party candidates shall declare their party affiliation in their declaration of candidacy and shall be affiliated with a party at the time of filing. A candidate shall be deemed affiliated with the political party if the candidate submits a party affiliation form along with the declaration of candidacy to the appropriate filing official. The filing official shall reject any declaration of candidacy for partisan office in a primary election from candidates who are not affiliated with a political party. Candidates for nonpartisan office shall file during the period provided for in this section.
- (2) Each political party candidate for federal, state, or legislative district office shall file a declaration of candidacy with the secretary of state's office between 8:00 a.m. on the thirteenth Monday before the primary election and 5:00 p.m. on the twelfth Friday before the primary election.
- (3) Each political party candidate for county or precinct committeeman office shall file a declaration of candidacy with the county clerk's office between 8:00 a.m. on the twelfth Monday before the primary election and 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Friday before the primary election.
- $\underline{\mbox{(4)}}$ Candidates who file a declaration of candidacy under a party name and are not nominated at the primary election shall not be allowed to appear on the general election ballot under any other political party name, or as an independent candidate.
- (3) (5) Independent candidates shall file their declaration of candidacy in the manner provided in section 34-708, Idaho Code.

(4) (6) All information in declarations of candidacy shall be made publicly available upon request, except that the Idaho residential street address and telephone number of a judicial officer may be exempt from disclosure pursuant to sections 19-6202 and 74-106(30), Idaho Code.

SECTION 12. That Section 34-705, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 34-705. WITH WHOM DECLARATIONS FILED. (1) All candidates for county offices, whether political party candidates or independent candidates, and all political party candidates for precinct offices shall file their declarations of candidacy with the county clerk of their respective counties. All candidates for district, state and federal offices shall file their declarations of candidacy with the secretary of state.
- (2) The secretary of state shall certify to the county clerks, within ten (10) days after the filing deadline no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Friday before the primary election, the names of the political party candidates who filed for federal, state, and legislative district offices and are qualified for placement on the ballot.
- (3) The secretary of state shall certify the name of a candidate being appointed by the appropriate central committee pursuant to section 34-714, Idaho Code, by no later than the next business day after the appointment is received in the secretary of state's office, if received after the certification of candidates to the county clerks under subsection (2) of this section.
- SECTION 13. That Section 34-712, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-712. SAMPLE FORM FOR PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOTS. The secretary of state shall provide the sample form of the primary election ballot to each of the county clerks no later than forty (40) days prior to the primary no later than the ninth Friday before the primary election. The sample ballot shall contain the proper political party candidates to be voted upon on within the county whose declarations were filed and certified in the office of the secretary of state with instructions for the placing of political party candidates seeking the political party nomination for county and precinct offices. If a county is within more than one (1) legislative district, the secretary of state shall provide a sample ballot for each legislative district which that includes part of the county.
- SECTION 14. That Section 34-714, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-714. FILLING VACANCIES IN SLATE OF POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES OCCURRING PRIOR TO PRIMARY ELECTION. (1) Vacancies that occur before the primary election in the slate of candidates of any political party because of the death, disqualification for any reason, or withdrawal from the nomination process by the candidate, shall be filled in the following manner if there is only one (1) candidate declared for that particular office:

- (a) By the county central committee if the vacancy occurs for the office of precinct committeeman or for a county office.
- (b) By the legislative district central committee if the vacancy occurs for the office of state representative or state senator.
- (c) By the state central committee if the vacancy occurs for a federal or state office.

The county and legislative district central committee shall fill the vacancy within fifteen (15) days from the date the vacancy occurred. The state central committee shall fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days from the date the vacancy occurred, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the primary election.

Any political party candidate so appointed by the proper central committee must, in order to have his name on the primary ballot, file a declaration of candidacy and pay the required filing fee no later than 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the primary election.

- (2) No central committee shall fill any vacancy which that occurs within ten (10) days prior to after 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the primary election. Vacancies which that occur during this ten (10) day period after this date because of the death, disqualification for any reason, or withdrawal from the nomination process by the candidate shall be filled according to the provisions of section 34-715, Idaho Code.
- (3) Vacancies that occur in a slate of candidates for precinct committeeman within ten (10) days prior to after 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the primary election shall not be filled.

SECTION 15. That Section 34-715, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 34-715. FILLING OF VACANCIES OCCURRING BEFORE OR AFTER PRIMARY ELECTION. (1) Vacancies that occur during the ten (10) day period after 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before a primary election, or after the primary election but at least ten (10) days before 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the general election in the slate of candidates of any political party because of the death or disqualification for any reason of a candidate, except candidates for precinct committeeman, shall be filled in the following manner if there is only one (1) candidate declared from the political party for that particular office:
 - $\frac{(1)}{(a)}$ By the county central committee if it is a vacancy by a candidate for a county office.
 - (2) (b) By the legislative district central committee if it is a vacancy by a candidate for the state legislature.
 - $\overline{\text{(c)}}$ By the state central committee if it is a vacancy by a candidate for a federal or a state office.
 - (d) If the party candidate for a particular office dies or is disqualified after 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the general election, such candidate's name shall remain on the ballot. If the deceased or disqualified candidate wins the general election, the resulting vacancy shall be filled pursuant to chapter 9, title 59, Idaho Code.
- $\underline{(2)}$ The county and legislative district central committee shall fill the vacancy within fifteen (15) days from the date the vacancy occurred. The state central committee shall fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days from

the date the vacancy occurred, but no later than $5:00 \, \mathrm{p.m.}$ on the eighth Friday before the general election.

- $\underline{(3)}$ Any political party candidate so appointed by the proper central committee must, in order to have his name on the general ballot, file a declaration of candidacy and pay the required filing fee no later than 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the general election.
- $\underline{(4)}$ Vacancies that occur in a slate of candidates for precinct committeeman within ten (10) days prior to after 5:00 p.m. on the eighth Friday before the primary election shall not be filled.

SECTION 16. That Section 34-717, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 34-717. WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY. (1) A candidate for nomination or candidate for election to a partisan office may withdraw from the election by filing a notarized statement of withdrawal with the officer with whom his declaration of candidacy was filed. The statement must contain all information necessary to identify the candidate and the office sought and the reason for withdrawal. The filing officer shall immediately notify the proper central committee of the party, if any, of the individual withdrawing. A candidate may not withdraw later than forty-five (45) days before an election, except in the case of a primary election, when the deadline shall be no later than the eighth Friday preceding the primary election, or a general election, when the deadline shall be no later than September 7. Filing fees paid by the candidate shall not be refunded.
- (2) A candidate for federal, state, or legislative district office may not withdraw later than 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh Friday before a primary election or 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday before a general election. Filing fees paid by the candidate shall not be refunded.
- (3) A candidate for county or precinct committeeman office may not withdraw later than 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday before any election. Filing fees paid by the candidate shall not be refunded.
- (2) (4) Any candidate who has filed a statement of withdrawal pursuant to this section shall not be allowed to be appointed to fill a vacancy unless such vacancy occurs because of the death of a previous candidate.

SECTION 17. That Section 34-1012, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 34-1012. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING -- EARLY VOTING. (1) Those counties that utilize absentee voting facilities that have access to the Idaho statewide voter registration system and count ballots at a central location or utilize a polling location—based tabulation system may elect to conduct "early voting" according to the provisions of this section. For those counties that elect to do "early voting," early voting shall begin on or before after the third fourth Monday before the election and end at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. Primary election ballots shall be issued pursuant to section 34-1002(2), Idaho Code.
- (2) A voter who appears at an "early voting" station to vote shall state his or her name and address to the election official and present the voter's identification as required by sections 34-1113 and 34-1114, Idaho Code.

(3) The election official shall examine the records to ascertain whether or not such applicant is registered and lawfully entitled to vote as requested. The provisions of section 34-408A, Idaho Code, authorizing election day registration shall also apply in determining the applicant's qualifications to vote.

- (4) Before receiving a ballot, each elector shall sign his or her name in the election register and poll book provided for early voting.
- (5) The elector shall then be given the appropriate ballots containing the official election ballot identification pursuant to section 34-901, Idaho Code, and shall be given folding instructions for such ballots, if appropriate.
- (6) Upon receipt of the ballots, the elector shall retire to a vacant voting booth and mark the ballots according to the instructions provided.
- (7) After marking the ballot, the elector shall present himself or herself to the election official at the ballot box and state his or her name and address. The elector shall then deposit the ballot in the ballot box or hand it to the election official, who shall deposit it. The election official shall then record that the elector has voted and proclaim the same in an audible voice.
- (8) Voters requiring assistance shall be provided with such assistance in accordance with section 34-1108, Idaho Code.
- (9) Electioneering is prohibited at an early voting polling place as provided in section 18-2318, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 18. That Section 34-1205, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-1205. COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS -- MEETINGS. The county board of commissioners shall be the county board of canvassers and the county clerk shall serve as their its secretary for this purpose. The county board of canvassers shall meet within seven (7) nine (9) days after a primary election and within ten (10) days after a general an election for the purpose of canvassing the election returns of all precincts within the county.
- SECTION 19. That Section 34-1404, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-1404. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY. (1) Candidates for election in any political subdivision shall be nominated by nominating petitions, each of which shall bear the name of the nominee, the office for which the nomination is made, the term for which nomination is made, and the signature of not less than five (5) electors of the candidate's specific zone or district of the political subdivision, and shall be filed with the clerk of the political subdivision.
- (2) The form of the nominating petition shall be as provided by the county clerk and shall be uniform for all political subdivisions.
- (3) For an election to be held on the third Tuesday in May, in even-numbered years, the The nomination petition shall be filed during the period specified in section 34-704, Idaho Code beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the twelfth Monday before the election and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Friday before such election. The clerk of the political subdivision shall

 notify the county clerk within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the filing and verify the qualifications of the nominees and shall, no more than seven (7) days after the close of filing, certify the nominees to be placed on the ballot of the political subdivision. For an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, in even-numbered years, the nomination shall be filed on or before September 1. The clerk of the political subdivision shall verify the qualifications of the nominees and shall, no more than seven (7) days after the close of filing, certify the nominees to be placed on the ballot of the political subdivisions. For all other elections, the nomination shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday preceding the election for which the nomination is made. The clerk of the political subdivision shall verify the qualifications of the nominee and shall, no more than seven (7) days following the filing, certify the nominees to be placed on the ballot of the political subdivision.

- $\frac{(2)}{(4)}$ Nominating petitions shall include campaign contact information for candidates, including phone numbers and email addresses.
- $\frac{(3)}{(5)}$ All information in nominating petitions shall be made publicly available upon request.
- SECTION 20. That Section 34-1405A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-1405A. WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY. A candidate for nomination or candidate for election to an office may withdraw from the election by filing a notarized statement of withdrawal with the officer with whom his declaration of candidacy was filed. The statement must contain all information necessary to identify the candidate and the office sought and the reason for withdrawal. A candidate may not withdraw later than $\frac{\text{forty-six}}{\text{contains}}$ (46) days $\frac{5:00}{\text{p.m.}}$ on the ninth Friday before an election.

SECTION 21. That Section 34-1407, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 34-1407. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES. (1) No write-in candidate for any non-partisan elective office shall be counted unless a declaration of intent has been filed indicating that the person desires the office and is legally qualified to assume the duties of the office. The declaration of intent shall be filed with the clerk of the political subdivision by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the eighth ninth Friday before the date of the election.
- (2) If the statutes governing elections within a specific political subdivision provide that no election shall be held in the event that no more than one (1) candidate has filed for an office, that statute shall be interpreted in such a manner as to allow for filing a declaration of intent for a write-in candidate until the eighth Friday preceding 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday before the election. However, if no candidate has filed within that time, no election shall be held for that political subdivision. The provisions of this section shall not apply to federal, state, or legislative district candidates in the primary or general election covered by the provisions of section 34-702A, Idaho Code.

SECTION 22. That Section 40-1305C, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

40-1305C. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY -- QUALIFICATIONS. (1) Candidates for election as a highway district commissioner shall be nominated by nominating petitions, each of which shall bear the name of the nominee, the subdistrict for which the nomination is made, the term for which nomination is made, bear the signature of not no less than five (5) electors of the candidate's specific subdistrict, and be filed with the election official of the highway district. The form of the nominating petition shall be as provided by the county clerk. The nomination shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth Friday preceding the election for which the nomination is made. The election official shall during the time period provided in section 34-1404, Idaho Code. The clerk of the political subdivision shall notify the county clerk within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the filing and verify the qualifications of the nominee, and shall not, no more than seven (7) days following the filing, shall certify the nominees to be placed on the ballot.

- (2) A nominee shall qualify for the office of highway district commissioner if such nominee:
 - (a) Has attained the age of twenty-one (21) years at the time of his election; and
 - (b) Is a citizen of the United States; and

- (c) Is a resident of the highway district commissioner's subdistrict for which he seeks office.
- SECTION 23. That Section $\underline{42-3211a}$, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.
- SECTION 24. That Section 50-407, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

50-407. FORM OF DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY. Declarations of candidacy and petitions of candidacy shall read substantially as herein set forth. Any number of separate petitions of candidacy may be circulated at the same time for any candidate and all petitions for each candidate shall be considered one (1) petition when filed with the city clerk. Each signer of a petition shall be a registered qualified elector.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

I, the undersigned, affirm that I am a qualified elector of the City of
State of Idaho, and that I have resided in the city for at least
thirty (30) days. I hereby declare myself to be a candidate for the office
of, for a term of years, to be voted for at the election
to be held on the day of, and certify that I possess the
legal qualifications to fill said office, and that my residence address is

(Signed)

4 Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,

1				
2 Notary Public			otary Public	
3	State of Idaho			
4	County of ss.			
5	City of			
6	PETITION OF CANDIDACY			
7	OF			
8	(NAME OF CANDIDATE)			
9	FOR OFFICE OF			
10 11 12 13 14	This petition must be filed in the office of the City Clerk <u>not no</u> earlier than 8:00 a.m. on the <u>eleventh twelfth</u> Monday <u>nor and no</u> later than 5:00 p.m. on the <u>ninth tenth</u> Friday <u>immediately preceding before</u> election day. The submitted petition must have affixed thereto the names of at least five (5) qualified electors who reside within the appropriate city.			
15 16 17 18 19	I, the undersigned, being a qualified elector of the City of, in the State of Idaho, do hereby certify and declare that I reside at the place set opposite my name and that I do hereby join in the petition of, a candidate for the office of to be voted at the election to be held on the day of,			
20	Signature of Petitioner		Residence Address	Date Signed
21				
22				
23				
24	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
25				
26		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
27				
28	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
29		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
30	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
31		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
32	•••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
33	STATE OF IDAHO			
34	County of			

1	I, say: That I am a			
2	resident of the State of Idaho and at least eighteen (18) years of age; that			
3	every person who signed this sheet of the foregoing petition signed his or			
4	her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her			
5	name and residence address correctly; and that each signer is a qualified			
6	elector of the State of Idaho, and the City of			
7	Signed			
8	Address			
9	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,			
10	Signed Notary Public			
11	Residing at			
12	Commission expires			

13 (Notary Seal)

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SECTION 25. That Section 50-410, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 50-410. TIME AND MANNER OF FILING DECLARATIONS. (1) All declarations of candidacy for elective city offices shall be filed with the clerk of the respective city wherein the elections are to be held not earlier than 8:00 a.m. on the eleventh Monday nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday, immediately preceding election day during the time period provided in section 34-1404, Idaho Code. Before a candidate files a petition of candidacy with the city clerk, the petition signatures shall be verified by the county clerk in the manner described in section 34-1807, Idaho Code, except that the city clerk shall stand in place of the secretary of state. Before any declaration of candidacy and filing fee or petition of candidacy mentioned in section 50-407, Idaho Code, can be filed, the city clerk shall ascertain that it conforms to the provisions of chapter 4, title 50, Idaho Code. The city clerk shall not accept any declarations of candidacy after 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday immediately preceding election day. Write-in candidates shall be governed by section 34-702A 34-1407, Idaho Code, but shall file the declarations required in that section with the city clerk.
- (2) A person shall not be permitted to file a declaration of candidacy for more than one (1) office in any city election.

SECTION 26. That Section 67-4911, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 67-4911. ELECTIONS -- TERMS OF OFFICE. (1) On an election date as provided for in section 34-106(1), Idaho Code, in May of the first odd-numbered year after the organization of any district, and every second year thereafter, an election shall be held, which shall be known as the biennial election of the district.
- (2) At the first biennial election in any district hereafter organized, and each sixth year thereafter, there shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district, one (1) member of the board to serve for a term of six (6) years; at the second biennial election and each sixth year thereafter,

there shall be elected two (2) members of the board to serve for terms of six (6) years, and at the third biennial election, and each sixth year thereafter, there shall be elected two (2) members of the board to serve for terms of six (6) years. Provided, a member of the board once in office shall serve until his successor is elected, qualified and takes office.

- (3) Not later than 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Friday before any such election, nominations may be filed with the secretary of the board. Nominations may be filed during the time period provided in section 34-1404, Idaho Code. The county clerk shall provide for holding such election and shall appoint judges to conduct it. The county clerk shall give notice of election by publication, and shall arrange such other details in connection therewith. Adequate polling places shall be provided throughout the district boundaries for all elections.
- $\underline{(4)}$ The returns of the election shall be certified to and shall be canvassed and declared by the board of county commissioners which shall report the results to the district. The candidate or candidates, according to the number of directors to be elected, receiving the most votes, shall be elected. Any new member of the board shall qualify in the same manner as members of the first board qualify.
- $\underline{(5)}$ In any election for director, if after the deadline for filing a declaration of intent as a write-in candidate, it appears that the number of qualified candidates who have been nominated is equal to the number of directors to be elected, it shall not be necessary for the candidates to stand for election, and the board shall declare such candidates elected as directors, and the secretary of the board shall immediately make and deliver to such persons certificates of election signed by him and bearing the seal of the district.

SECTION 27. That Section 70-1108, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

70-1108. DISTRICT FORMATION. Within five (5) nine (9) days after such election the board of county commissioners shall canvass the returns; and, if at such election a majority of the voters voting upon on such proposition shall vote in favor of the formation of such district, the board of county commissioners shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of such election, and such port district shall thereupon be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Idaho and the name of each port district shall be "Port of" (inserting the name appearing on the ballot).

SECTION 28. That Section 19-6203, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

19-6203. ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY -- ELIGIBILITY. (1) Judicial officers desiring that their Idaho residential street address and telephone number and the Idaho residential street address and telephone number of their residing household members be exempt from disclosure pursuant to this chapter and sections 34-704(4) 34-704(6) and 74-106(30), Idaho Code, may submit an application and a fee, if any, to the custodian of the public record that contains such information. Upon receipt of such application and fee, the public agency shall comply with the provisions of this chapter for a period

of four (4) years. Thereafter, judicial officers may renew the exemption by submitting a new application and fee, if any. The public agency may establish a fee schedule not to exceed the actual cost to the agency of complying with the provisions of this chapter.

- (2) Judicial officers may submit an application to a public agency requesting that the public agency use an alternative Idaho mailing address rather than the Idaho residential street address of any such officer and of any such officer's residing household members on all applications and on all identification cards, licenses, certificates, permits, tags, and other similar documents that are issued to the officer or to such officer's residing household members by the public agency. A public agency receiving such application shall comply with the request.
- (3) A person shall cease to be eligible for an exemption under this chapter if such person ceases to be a judicial officer or a residing household member. Within thirty (30) days of such cessation, the person shall notify, in writing, every public agency to which the person has made an application stating that he is no longer eligible for such exemption. If a judicial officer changes employment but is still eligible for an exemption under this chapter, such judicial officer shall, within thirty (30) days of changing employment, submit a new application to every public agency to which such officer has made an application.
- (4) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a public agency from obtaining the Idaho residential street address and telephone number of a judicial officer and of any residing household member. A judicial officer who has submitted an application pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall provide his current Idaho residential street address to his employing entity. The judicial officer's employing entity, or any public agency that has obtained the Idaho residential street address of a judicial officer, shall upon request identify the county in which the judicial officer's Idaho residential street address is situated.

SECTION 29. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after July 1, 2025.