

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS24341

This legislation removes a significant barrier to voter involvement by moving the election from its current date of May in odd years, to the November general election in even years. A review of 22 districts in Idaho's 2015 School Board Elections, including districts of varying sizes, shows voter turnout of less than 12 percent in half of the districts, and seven of those districts had turnouts in single digits: 1, 3, 4 percent, etc.

By using the even-year general election date, which includes county, state and national measures, voter participation rates should be at their highest, and will better represent the will of school district patrons.

### FISCAL NOTE

There will be no impact to the general fund. There will be a minimal cost to counties by adding school board candidates to the even-year general election ballot. That cost, however, will be partially or wholly offset by the savings from reducing the May election in odd years.

#### Contact:

Senator Jim Rice  
Senator Mary Souza  
(208) 332-1000