

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33193 / H0638

This legislation seeks to return the March primary for presidential elections. Bringing back the primary is the best way to ensure that Idaho voters have the best opportunity to practice their right to vote on the national level. In 2023, the state GOP passed resolution 2023-28 calling for the return of the presidential primary.

FISCAL NOTE

In fiscal years 2016 and 2020, the presidential primary election cost the State of Idaho \$1,945,500 and \$2,067,300, respectively. In 2024, the State did not conduct a presidential primary. Based on FY2020 actual costs, plus increases due to population growth and inflated costs for election-related supplies, the State's estimated cost to conduct a presidential primary in 2028 is \$2,500,000. This legislation increases the filing fee for presidential primary candidates to \$50,000, offsetting a portion of these costs. In 2016, 16 presidential candidates appeared on Idaho ballots. Depending on the competitiveness of the presidential primary, an estimated \$200,000 - \$1,000,000 could be received from candidates to offset the cost of administering the primary.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).