

So many election dates.



Let's consolidate.

*THE CASE FOR IDAHO ELECTION CALENDAR
CONSOLIDATION*

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INTRODUCTION

When you think of “election day,” you probably think of a date in early November. Or, you might think of a day in late May. If you pay attention to school district elections, a date in mid-March or late August might also pop into your mind. But these four election dates are not the only four days on which Idaho voters go to the polls.

Idaho has eight election dates. Four of those dates are outliers, with only a handful of items for electors to vote on — or sometimes only one.

Removing these four outlier dates from Idaho law —resulting in just four election dates each year— is beneficial in two ways. The most compelling benefit is the clarity it gives voters, which in turn encourages voter participation. Having a multitude of election dates diminishes voter turnout. Groups like the National Conference of State Legislators have found that voter participation increases when there are fewer dates.

In Idaho, this situation holds true: Voter turnout is higher on the four main election dates than on the outlier dates. Take, for example, the only election in the state that is held in September of even-numbered years. That’s when the public elects trustees for the Boise School District. In the last trustee election, held in 2018, voter turnout was less than 4%, much lower than the 24% voter turnout for the same district’s bond election in March 2017, which was held on the same day that many other districts were holding elections. The 24% participation rate was, in turn, much less than the 78% turnout for the county’s general election in 2018, held on a date with many items for voters to consider. In short, placing an election on an irregular or unusual date drives down voter turnout.

Not only does consolidating election dates have the civic virtue of increasing voter turnout, it also saves money. Local elections are conducted by counties, which receive about \$4 million a year in election support from the state. Every extra election date that state statute mandates costs money. It does not make sense to spend money on an election where only one subject is ever voted on. It makes much more sense to consolidate these smaller elections.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

1. Remove the election on the first Tuesday in February, which is used by only irrigation and ground water management districts.
2. Remove the election on the first Monday in March, only used by water districts.
3. Remove the election on the first Tuesday in August, only used by irrigation districts.
4. Change the charter of the Boise School District to remove its special September election date and bring it in line with the trustee election date used for all other school districts: The Tuesday following the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years.



ELECTION DISTRICTS BY THE NUMBERS

There are 29 different types of election districts in the state of Idaho. Some are more common than others. For example, Idaho has approximately 200 cities and 44 counties while there are only four community college districts and one port district (the Port of Lewiston). There are over 1,100 election districts (with 967 of them actively levying taxes) in the state, listed below by category.

Ambulance district
Auditorium district
Cemetery district
City
Community college district
Community infrastructure district
County
County hospital board
County museum board
Drainage district
Fire protection district
Flood control district
Ground water district
Ground water management district
Highway district

Hospital district
Irrigation district
Library district
Mosquito abatement district
Port district
Recreation district
Regional airport
School district
Soil conservation district
Urban renewal district
Water and sewer district
Water district
Watershed improvement district
Weather modification district



DID YOU KNOW?

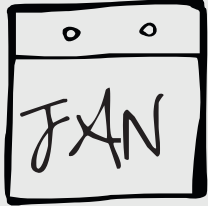
Idaho has more than

1,100

separate election districts.



EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS



NO ELECTIONS



First Tuesday:

OUTLIER

- Ground water management district: elect director
- Irrigation district: elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation



First Monday:

OUTLIER

- Water district: elect watermaster, elect treasurer

Second Tuesday:

- School district: bonds and levies
- Recall election for elected official of any type of district
- Presidential primary election



NO ELECTIONS



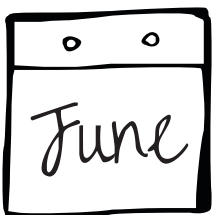
Third Tuesday:

- Ambulance district: vote on any proposed levy increase
- Auditorium district: creation of district, dissolution of district, indebtedness
- Cemetery district: creation of district, annexation of territory, district consolidation
- Cities: special election
- Community college: elect trustees, creation of district, annexation of territory, bonds, levies
- Community infrastructure district: bond election
- County: advisory question, bonds and levies, vote on initiatives and referendums



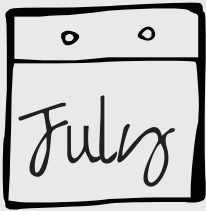


- County hospital board: dissolution
- Fire district: creation of district, annexation of territory, district consolidation, vote on recommended levy rate for consolidated districts, dissolution of district
- Flood control district: vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness, district consolidation
- Ground water district: creation of district, elect directors, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution
- Ground water management district: indebtedness
- Hospital district: creation of district, dissolution, indebtedness, annexation of territory, district consolidation, adjustment of boundaries
- Irrigation district: elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation
- Library district: creation of district, annexation of territory, addition of city library to district, dissolution, indebtedness
- Mosquito abatement district: creation of district, annexation of territory
- Port district: creation of district, annexation of territory, disincorporation of territory, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness
- Recreation district: creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, annexation of territory, dissolution, indebtedness
- Regional airport: elect trustees, creation of airport, annexation of territory, dissolution, disincorporation of territory
- School district: bonds and levies, annexation of territory, division of district, creation of sub-district
- Soil conservation district: creation of district, dissolution
- Urban renewal agency: creation of agency (if associated with a county), election on certain debt
- Water and sewer district: annexation of territory, creation of sub-district, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution and transfer of assets to municipality, annexation or withdrawal of area within a city's limits
- Watershed improvement district: elect directors, creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness, dissolution
- Weather modification district: creation of district
- Recall election for elected official of any type of district
- Primary election (except for the position of president)



NO ELECTIONS





NO ELECTIONS

First Tuesday: ←

OUTLIER

- **Irrigation district:** elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation.

Last Tuesday:

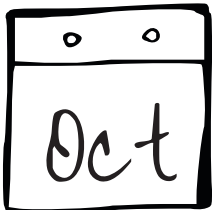
- **School district:** bonds and levies
- Recall election for elected official of any type of district



First Tuesday: ←

OUTLIER

- **Boise School District:** elect trustees



NO ELECTIONS

Tuesday following the first Monday:

- **Ambulance district:** vote on any proposed levy increase
- **Auditorium district:** creation of district, dissolution of district, indebtedness
- **Cemetery district:** creation of district, annexation of territory, district consolidation
- **Cities:** special election
- **Community college:** elect trustees, creation of district, annexation of territory, bonds, levies
- **Community infrastructure district:** bond election
- **County:** elect commissioners, advisory question, consolidation of counties, bonds and levies, vote on initiatives and referendums
- **County hospital board:** dissolution
- **County museum board:** creation of board
- **Fire district:** creation of district, annexation of territory, district consolidation, vote on recommended levy rate for consolidated districts, dissolution of district





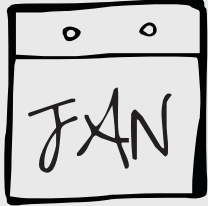
- **Flood control district:** vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness, district consolidation
- **Ground water district:** creation of district, elect directors, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution
- **Ground water management district:** indebtedness
- **Hospital district:** creation of district, dissolution, indebtedness, annexation of territory, district consolidation, adjustment of boundaries
- **Irrigation district:** elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation
- **Library district:** creation of district, annexation of territory, addition of city library to district, dissolution, indebtedness
- **Mosquito abatement district:** make an interim district permanent, creation of district, annexation of territory
- **Port district:** elect commissioners, creation of district, annexation of territory, disincorporation of territory, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness
- **Recreation district:** creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, annexation of territory, dissolution, indebtedness
- **Regional airport:** elect trustees, dissolution, disincorporation of territory, indebtedness
- **School district:** bonds and levies, annexation of territory, division of district, creation of sub-district
- **Soil conservation district:** elect district supervisors, creation of district, dissolution
- **Urban renewal agency:** creation of agency (if associated with a county), elect commissioners (if associated with a county, which has passed an associated ordinance), election on certain debt
- **Water and sewer district:** creation of district, annexation of territory, creation of sub-district, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution and transfer of assets to municipality, annexation or withdrawal of area within a city's limits
- **Watershed improvement district:** elect directors, creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness, dissolution
- **Weather modification district:** creation of district
- Recall election for elected official of any type of district
- General election (includes position of president)



NO ELECTIONS



ODD-NUMBERED YEARS



NO ELECTIONS



First Tuesday:



OUTLIER

- Ground water management district: elect director
- Irrigation district: elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation



First Monday:



OUTLIER

- Water district: elect watermaster, elect treasurer

Second Tuesday:

- School district: bonds and levies
- Recall election for elected official of any type of district



NO ELECTIONS



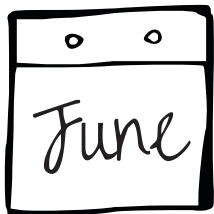
Third Tuesday:

- Ambulance district: vote on any proposed levy increase
- Auditorium district: elect board members, creation of district, dissolution of district, indebtedness
- Cemetery district: creation of district, annexation of territory
- Cities: special election
- Community college: creation of district, annexation of territory, bonds, levies
- Community infrastructure district: bond election
- Fire district: creation of district, annexation of territory, district consolidation, vote on recommended levy rate for consolidated



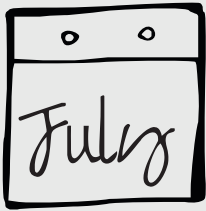


- districts, dissolution of district
- **Flood control district:** vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness, district consolidation
 - **Ground water district:** creation of district, elect directors, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution
 - **Ground water management district:** indebtedness
 - **Highway district:** elect commissioners
 - **Hospital district:** elect board members, creation of district, dissolution, indebtedness, annexation of territory, district consolidation, adjustment of boundaries
 - **Irrigation district:** elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation
 - **Library district:** elect trustees, creation of district, annexation of territory, addition of city library to district, dissolution, indebtedness
 - **Mosquito abatement district:** creation of district, annexation of territory
 - **Port district:** creation of district, annexation of territory, disincorporation of territory, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness
 - **Recreation district:** creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, annexation of territory, dissolution, indebtedness
 - **Regional airport:** dissolution, disincorporation of territory
 - **School district:** bonds and levies, annexation of territory, division of district, creation of sub-district
 - **Soil conservation district:** creation of district, dissolution
 - **Urban renewal agency:** election on certain debt
 - **Water and sewer district:** elect board members, annexation of territory, creation of sub-district, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution and transfer of assets to municipality, annexation or withdrawal of area within a city's limits
 - **Watershed improvement district:** elect directors, creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness, dissolution
 - **Weather modification district:** elect board members, creation of district
 - Recall election for elected official of any type of district



NO ELECTIONS





NO ELECTIONS

First Tuesday:

OUTLIER

- **Irrigation district:** elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation.

Last Tuesday:

- **School district:** bonds and levies
- **Recall election for elected official of any type of district**



NO ELECTIONS



NO ELECTIONS

First Tuesday:

- **Ambulance district:** vote on any proposed levy increase
- **Auditorium district:** creation of district, dissolution of district, indebtedness
- **Cemetery district:** elect district commissioners, creation of district, annexation of territory
- **Cities:** Elect the mayor and city council members, vote on initiatives and referendums, special election
- **Community college:** creation of district, annexation of territory, bonds, levies
- **Community infrastructure district:** bond election
- **County museum board:** creation of board
- **Fire district:** elect commissioners, creation of district, annexation of territory, district consolidation, vote on recommended levy rate for consolidated districts, dissolution of district
- **Flood control district:** vote on any proposed levy increase,



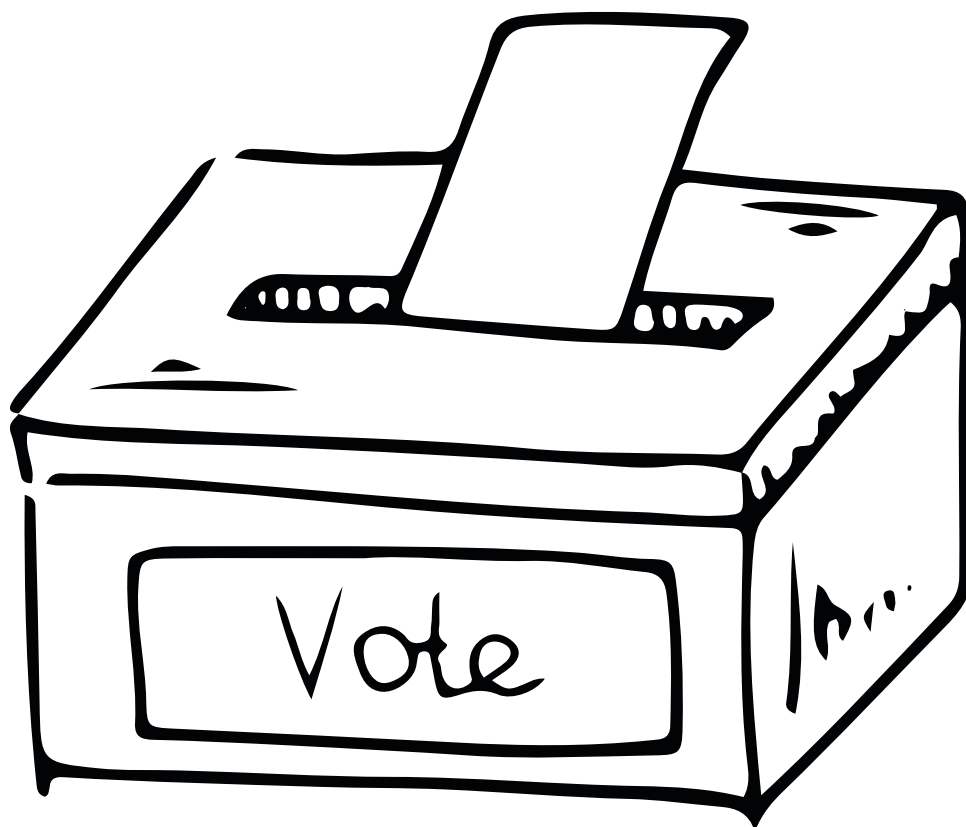


- indebtedness, district consolidation
- **Ground water district:** creation of district, elect directors, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution
 - **Ground water management district:** indebtedness
 - **Hospital district:** creation of district, dissolution, indebtedness, annexation of territory, district consolidation, adjustment of boundaries
 - **Irrigation district:** elect directors, creation of district, increasing or decreasing the number of directors, indebtedness, approval or denial of a sale of license/property, special assessments, question as to the construction of improvement, annexation of territory, modification of district, dissolution, district consolidation
 - **Library district:** creation of district, annexation of territory, addition of city library to district, dissolution, indebtedness
 - **Mosquito abatement district:** creation of district, annexation of territory
 - **Port district:** creation of district, annexation of territory, disincorporation of territory, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness
 - **Recreation district:** elect directors, creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, annexation of territory, dissolution, indebtedness
 - **Regional airport:** dissolution, disincorporation of territory
 - **School district:** elect trustees, bonds and levies, annexation of territory, division of district, creation of sub-district
 - **Soil conservation district:** creation of district, dissolution
 - **Urban renewal agency:** creation of agency (if associated with a city), elect commissioners (if associated with a city, which has passed an associated ordinance), election on certain debt
 - **Water and sewer district:** annexation of territory, creation of sub-district, indebtedness, district consolidation, dissolution and transfer of assets to municipality, annexation or withdrawal of area within a city's limits
 - **Watershed improvement district:** elect directors, creation of district, vote on any proposed levy increase, indebtedness, dissolution
 - **Weather modification district:** creation of district
 - Recall election for elected official of any type of district



NO ELECTIONS





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