

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28374 / H0106

Idaho's election laws provide for four possible election dates each year - March, May, August and November. This legislation would eliminate the August election date. With four dates, the current election calendar provides no time in which county clerks are not either finishing tasks associated with the last election, preparing for the next election, or both simultaneously. Eliminating one of these four election dates would provide a window of time in the election calendar in which the state can take the voter registration system down for planned maintenance, county clerks can schedule voter registration list maintenance, while also providing an opportunity for the Secretary of State to provide required training for county clerk election employees.

There are several reasons why this legislation chooses August as the election date to be eliminated. First, it is the only election at which there are no state or federal elections on the ballot. Second, no taxing districts have access to the August ballot, apart from school districts, and those only for tax levy elections. And third, by performing the most thorough voter registration list maintenance at this time, it ensures that Idaho's voter registration lists will be at their most accurate going into the election at which state, federal, county, and city officials are elected.

FISCAL NOTE

Eliminating the August election will have a positive fiscal impact for those counties that would otherwise have had to conduct an election on that date.

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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).