LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Sixty-first Legislature

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First Regular Session - 2011

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 60

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTION CONSOLIDATION; AMENDING SECTION 1, CHAPTER 341, LAWS OF 2009, TO REVISE HOW APPROPRIATED MONEYS MAY BE USED; AMENDING SECTION 22-2721, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS; AMENDING SECTION 22-4301, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING ELECTIONS IN WEATHER MODIFI-CATION DISTRICTS AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING SECTION 31-1410A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING ELECTIONS OF FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS; AMENDING SECTION 33-502, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE WHEN DECLARATION OF CANDIDACIES FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES SHALL BE FILED AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING SECTION 33-503A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE WHEN CERTAIN TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DIS-TRICTS SHALL SERVE; REPEALING SECTION 33-2717B, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY FROM LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARDS; REPEALING SECTION 33-2717C, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO PROCEDURE FOR CORRECTION OF BALLOTS IN LIBRARY DISTRICT ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 33-2722, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE WHO CONDUCTS LIBRARY DISTRICT ELECTIONS AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING SECTION 34-102, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE WHEN THE PRIMARY ELECTION IS HELD; AMENDING SECTION 34-106, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE WHEN ELECTIONS AND RECALL ELECTIONS MAY BE HELD AND TO REVISE ELECTION FUNDING; AMENDING SECTION 34-717, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PRO-VISIONS RELATING TO WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY; AMENDING SECTION 34-902, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRO-VIDING SUFFICIENT BALLOTS AND BALLOT BOXES FOR EACH POLLING PLACE AT ALL ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 34-1003, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS; AMENDING SECTION 34-1401, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS; AMEND-ING SECTION 34-1404, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING DECLA-RATION OF CANDIDACY; AMENDING CHAPTER 14, TITLE 34, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 34-1405A, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE WITH-DRAWAL OF CANDIDACY; AMENDING SECTION 34-1406, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING NOTICE OF ELECTION; AMENDING SECTION 34-1407, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING WRITE-IN CANDIDATES; AMENDING SECTION 34-1410, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING CANVASSING OF ELECTION RESULTS; AMENDING CHAPTER 14, TITLE 34, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 34-1412, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS FOR TERMS OF OFFICE GOING BEYOND THE NEXT ELECTION DATES; AMENDING SECTION 39-1330, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING ELECTIONS OF HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBERS; AMENDING SECTION 40-1304, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING WHEN HIGHWAY DISTRICT COMMISSION-ERS TAKE OFFICE; AMENDING SECTION 42-3211, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PRO-VISIONS REGARDING WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 50-1026, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN CITY BOND ELECTIONS AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING SECTION 67-4911,

1 IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING AUDITORIUM DISTRICT ELEC-2 TIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.

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

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SECTION 1. That Section 1, Chapter 341, Laws of 2009, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. In addition to the appropriation provided for by law, there is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of State to be used to provide training and training materials directly related to election consolidation and for trustee and benefit payments the sum of \$1,500,000 from the Budget Stabilization Fund for the period July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, which shall be placed in the Consolidated Elections Fund. The Secretary of State shall reimburse counties for the cost of needed equipment and computer software, maps and map development, materials, conducting and attending training sessions, and methodologies and tools for delineating a geographic ballot area, which are directly related to compliance with this act. Such moneys shall be expended from the Consolidated Elections Fund which is created in the State Treasury. Each county may apply to the Secretary of State for reimbursement of its actual costs incurred in acquiring equipment and computer software with the maximum amount reimbursed being the greater of one dollar (\$1.00) per person in the county according to the latest decennial census or ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Moneys may be expended pursuant to appropriation or by the Secretary of State. The Consolidated Elections Fund shall cease to exist and shall be null and void on January 1, 2016, at which time any amounts remaining in the fund will revert to the General Fund.

SECTION 2. That Section 22-2721, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

22-2721. ELECTION, APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE OF SUPER-VISORS. (1) The governing body of the district shall consist of five (5) supervisors, elected or appointed as provided in this chapter. Elections shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of this section and the uniform district election law, chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code. If at any time the supervisors of a district deem it necessary, they may request permission from the state soil and water conservation commission to increase the number of supervisors to seven (7). Upon receipt of such a request in writing, signed by all five (5) supervisors, stating a valid reason for such need, the commission shall grant permission. The additional supervisors shall then be appointed as outlined in subsection (5) of this section until such time as regular district elections for two (2) supervisors in each district. At that time those districts having seven (7) supervisors shall then elect four (4) supervisors for four (4) year terms. The two (2) supervisors appointed by the commission shall be persons who are by training and experience qualified to perform the specialized services which will be required of them in the performance of their duties. All supervisors shall be landowners or farmers of the district where they are elected or appointed and shall be registered to vote in the state of Idaho.

- (2) Within thirty (30) days after the date of issuance by the secretary of state of a certificate of organization of a soil conservation district, nominating petitions may be filed with the state soil and water conservation commission to nominate candidates for supervisors of each district. county clerk shall conduct the election for the district and shall be the election official for the district. The election official shall have authority to extend the time within which nominating petitions may be filed. No such nominating petition shall be accepted by the election official unless it shall be subscribed by not less than five (5) persons who are qualified electors owning land or residing within the boundaries of the district. The election official shall give due notice of an election to be held, subject to the provisions of section 34-106, Idaho Code, for the election of three (3) supervisors for the district. The names of all nominees on behalf of whom such nominating petitions have been filed within the time herein designated shall appear upon ballots, with directions to choose three (3) names to indicate the voter's preference. The three (3) candidates who shall receive the largest number, respectively, of the votes cast in such election shall be the elected supervisors for such district. The commission shall pay all the expenses of such election, which shall be supervised and conducted by the election official.
- (3) All elections in districts shall be conducted by the county clerk. Such election shall be held on the first Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year. Such elections shall be in compliance with the provisions of chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code, and shall be supervised and conducted by the county clerk. The cost of conducting such elections shall be borne by the county that conducted the election. The county clerk shall certify to the state soil and water conservation commission the names of the elected supervisors. The state soil and water conservation commission shall issue certificates of election to each elected supervisor so certified. The county clerk or county clerks of the county or counties in which the district is located shall conduct the election for the soil conservation district, and the county clerk must provide a ballot for the district election and must provide a process that allows only qualified electors of the district to vote in that district's election.
- (4) In any election for supervisor, 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 supervisors to be elected, it shall not be necessary for the candidates to stand for election, and the board of supervisors shall declare such candidates elected as supervisors, and the state soil and water conservation commission shall immediately make and deliver to such persons certificates of election.
- (5) In any election for supervisors of a soil conservation district, if after the expiration of the date for filing written nominations it appears that only one (1) qualified candidate has been nominated for each position to be filled and no declaration of intent has been filed by a write-in candidate as provided in subsection (6) of this section, it shall not be necessary to hold an election, and the county clerk shall, no later than seven (7) days before the scheduled date of the election, declare such candidate elected as

supervisor, and the state soil and water conservation commission shall immediately make and deliver to such person a certificate of election.

- (6) No write-in vote for supervisor shall be counted unless a declaration of intent has been filed with the county clerk indicating that the person making the declaration desires the office and is legally qualified to assume the duties of supervisor if elected as a write-in candidate. The declaration of intent shall be filed not later than twenty-five (25) days before the day of election.
- $(\bar{75})$ The supervisors shall designate a chairman and may, from time to time, change such designation. The term of office of each supervisor shall be four (4) years commencing on the first day of January next following election, except that the two (2) supervisors who are first appointed shall be designated to serve for terms of two (2) years. A supervisor shall hold office until a qualified successor has been elected or appointed. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term. The selection of successors to fill an unexpired term, or for a full term shall be made by a vote of the majority of the supervisors duly qualified and acting at the time the vacancy shall arise and the supervisors shall certify the name of the appointed supervisor to the state soil and water conservation commission which shall issue a certificate of such appointment.
- (86) A majority of the supervisors shall constitute a quorum and the concurrence of a majority in any matter within their duties shall be required for its determination. A supervisor shall be entitled to expenses, including travel expense, necessarily incurred in the discharge of duties. A supervisor shall receive no compensation for services from regular district funds, county funds authorized in section 22-2726, Idaho Code, or state funds authorized in section 22-2727, Idaho Code.
- (97) In the event the district has a special project, approved by the state soil and water conservation commission, making project funds available from federal or other sources, a supervisor may receive compensation not to exceed thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) per day plus actual and necessary expenses from project funds for services directly related to the project.
- (108) The supervisors may employ a secretary, technical experts, and such other officers, agents, and employees, permanent and temporary as they may require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties and compensation. The supervisors may call upon the attorney general of the state for such legal services as they may require or may employ their own counsel and legal staff. The supervisors may delegate to their chairman, to one (1) or more supervisors, or to one (1) or more agents, or employees, such powers and duties as they may deem proper. The supervisors shall furnish to the state soil and water conservation commission, upon request, copies of such ordinances, rules, orders, contracts, forms and other documents as they shall adopt or employ, and such other information concerning the supervisors' activities as the commission may require in the performance of the commission's duties under this chapter.
- (119) The supervisors shall provide for the execution of surety bonds for all employees and officers who shall be entrusted with funds or property; they shall provide for the keeping of a full and accurate record of all proceedings and of all resolutions, and orders issued or adopted; and shall provide for independent financial audits in accordance with the provisions of

section 67-450B, Idaho Code. Supervisors shall be subject to recall in accordance with the provisions of chapter 17, title 34, Idaho Code.

 (120) The supervisors may invite the legislative body of a municipality or county located near the territory comprised within the district to designate a representative to advise and consult with the supervisors of the district on all questions of program and policy which may affect the property, water supply, or other interests of such municipality or county.

SECTION 3. That Section 22-4301, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 22-4301. ESTABLISHMENT -- PETITION -- ELECTION. (1) The county commissioners of any county shall, upon petition signed by not less than fifty (50) resident real property holders of said county, or any portion thereof, which may exclude incorporated cities, undertake the following procedure to determine the advisability of resolving to establish and maintain a weather modification district within the county as may be designated in the petition.
 - (a) A petition to form a weather modification district shall be presented to the county clerk and recorder. The petition shall be signed by not less than fifty (50) of the resident real property holders within the proposed district. The petition shall designate the boundaries of the district.
 - (b) The petition shall be filed with the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the signers of the petition are located. Upon the filing of the petition the county clerk shall examine the petition and certify whether the required number of petitioners have signed the petition. If the number of petition signers is sufficient, the clerk shall transmit the petition to the board of county commissioners.
 - (c) Upon receipt of a duly certified petition the board of county commissioners shall give notice of an election to be held, subject to the provisions of section 34-106, Idaho Code, in such proposed district for the purpose of determining whether or not the proposed district shall be organized and to elect the first board of trustees for the district. Such notice shall include the date and hours of the election, the polling places, the maximum percent of market value for assessment purposes of taxable property within the district which the proposed district will be permitted to levy, the general purposes of the proposed district, a description of lands to be included in the proposed district, a statement that a map of the proposed district is available in the office of the board of county commissioners, and the names and terms of the members to be elected to the first board of trustees. The notice shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks prior to such election, in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.
 - (d) The election shall be held and conducted consistent with the provisions of chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code. The county clerk shall appoint judges of election, one (1) of whom shall act as clerk for the election. At such election the electors shall vote for or against the organization of the district, and the members of the first board of trustees.

- (e) The county clerk shall certify the returns of the election to the board of county commissioners. If a majority of the votes cast at said election are in favor of the organization, the board of county commissioners shall declare the district organized and give it a name by which, in all proceedings, it shall thereafter be known, and shall further designate the first board of trustees elected, and thereupon the district shall be a legal taxing district.
- (f) On the third Tuesday of May, in the next odd-numbered calendar year after the organization of any district, and on the third Tuesday of May every odd-numbered year thereafter, an election shall be held.

At the election in any district hereafter organized, there shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district, two (2) members of the board to serve for a term of four (4) years; at the next odd-numbered year election, there shall be elected one (1) member of the board to serve for a term of four (4) years. Such election shall be held and conducted consistent with the provisions of chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code.

Not later than the sixth Friday before any such election, nominations may be filed with the secretary of the board and if a nominee does not withdraw his name before the first publication of the notice of election, his name shall be placed on the ballot. The county clerk shall conduct such election, shall appoint judges, shall give notice of election by publication, and shall arrange such other details in connection therewith. The returns of the election shall be certified to and shall be canvassed and declared by the board. The candidate or candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected.

In any election for trustees, if after the deadline for filing a declaration of intent as a write-in candidate, it appears that only one (1) qualified candidate has been nominated for a trustee position, it shall not be necessary for the candidate to stand for election, and the board of trustees of the district shall declare such candidate elected as trustee, and the secretary of the district shall immediately make and deliver to such person a certificate of election.

SECTION 4. That Section 31-1410A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

31-1410A. DECISION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE BOARD. Subsequent to the creation of a fire protection district and the appointment of the first board of fire protection commissioners, the fire protection board may, by a majority vote of all of the fire protection district board members elect to increase the size of the board to five (5) members.

If the board of fire protection commissioners elects to expand the board to five (5) members, the existing board members shall subdivide the district into five (5) subdivisions as nearly equal in population, area and mileage as practicable to be known as subdistricts one, two, three, four and five.

At the first election following the decision of the board of fire protection commissioners to expand the board from three (3) to five (5) members, five (5) commissioners shall be elected. The commissioners from fire protection subdistrict one shall be elected for a term of one (1) year; the commissioner from subdistrict two for two (2) years; the commissioner from subdistrict three for three (3) years; and the commissioners from subdistricts

four and five shall be elected for terms of four (4) years. subdistricts one and two shall be elected to a term of two (2) years, the commissioners from subdistricts three, four and five shall be elected to a term of four (4) years. Thereafter, the term of all commissioners shall be four (4) years.

 A fire district which, prior to the effective date of this section, had elected to expand a board from three (3) to five (5) members shall, prior to the next election of the district, adopt a transition schedule as nearly reflecting the schedule provided in this section as possible so that one (1) commissioner is elected each year except that in one (1) year, two (2) commissioners are elected. For commissioners whose offices expire in 2012 and in any even-numbered year, such commissioners shall remain in office until the next election in an odd-numbered year.

SECTION 5. That Section 33-502, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-502. DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY FOR TRUSTEES. Any person legally qualified to hold the office of school trustee, may file a declaration of candidacy for the office, each of which shall bear the name of the candidate, state the term for which declaration of candidacy is made, and bear the signature of not less than five (5) school district electors resident of the trustee zone of which the candidate is resident. The declaration shall be filed with the clerk of the board of trustees of the school district not later than 5:00 p.m. on the fifth Friday preceding the day of election of trustees as provided in section 34-1404, Idaho Code.

SECTION 6. That Section 33-503A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-503A. TRANSITION OF SCHOOL TRUSTEE TERMS FROM THREE YEARS TO FOUR YEARS. In order to achieve an orderly transition to terms of four (4) years, and to hold trustee elections in the odd-numbered years, the following schedule shall be followed:

- (1) For school districts with five (5) trustees:
- (a) If two (2) trustees were elected to a regular trustee term in 2007, and one (1) trustee was elected to a regular term in 2008, then these three (3) trustees shall each serve a term that expires on July 1, 2011, and the trustees elected to a regular trustee term in 2009 shall each serve a term that expires on July 1, 2013.
- (b) If two (2) trustees were elected to regular trustee terms in 2007, and two (2) trustees were elected to regular trustee terms in 2008, then those trustees elected in 2007 shall each serve a term that expires on July 1, 2011, and those elected in 2008 shall each serve a term that expires on July 1, 2013, and the trustee elected to a regular trustee term in 2009 shall serve a term that expires on July 1, 2013.
- (c) If one (1) trustee was elected to a regular trustee term in 2007, the trustee shall serve a term that expires on July 1, 2011, and the trustees elected to a regular trustee term in 2008 shall each serve a term that expires on July 1, 2011.
- (2) For school districts with six (6) trustees, two (2) trustees elected to a regular term in 2007 shall each serve a term that expires on July

1, 2011, and two (2) trustees elected to a regular term in 2009 shall each serve a term that expires on July 1, 2013, and one (1) of the trustees elected to a regular term in 2008 shall serve until July 1, 2011, and one (1) of the trustees elected to a regular term in 2008 shall serve until July 1, 2013, which shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

- (3) For school districts with seven (7) trustees, two (2) trustees elected to a regular term in 2008 or 2009 shall each serve until July 1, 2011, and any remainder of the trustees elected in 2008 or 2009 shall serve until July 1, 2013, which shall be determined by the toss of a coin; and trustees elected to a regular term in 2007 shall serve until July 1, 20131.
- (4) For elementary school districts with three (3) trustees, two (2) trustees elected to a regular term in 2007 and 2008 shall serve until July 1, 2011, and one (1) trustee elected to a regular term in 2009 shall serve until July 1, 2013.
- SECTION 7. That Section 33-2717B, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.
- SECTION 8. That Section 33-2717C, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.
 - SECTION 9. That Section 33-2722, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 33-2722. TREASURER -- CLERK. The board of trustees of each library district shall appoint some qualified person, who may or may not be a member of the board of trustees, to act as treasurer of the library district. This person shall, on taking office, give bond to the library district, with sureties approved by the board of trustees, in the amount of at least five thousand dollars (\$5,000), which bond shall be paid for by the district, and shall be conditioned upon faithful performance of the duties of his office and his accounting for all moneys of the library district received by him or under his control. The treasurer shall supervise all moneys raised for the library district by taxation or received by the district from any other sources and shall supervise all disbursements of funds of the district by order of the board of trustees.

Under the direction of the board of trustees, the treasurer shall have all moneys of the district deposited in accordance with the public depository law and other applicable state and federal laws.

The board of trustees of each library district shall appoint some qualified person, who may or may not be a member of the board of trustees, to act as clerk of the library board. The clerk shall conduct library district elections, other than for excision, annexation, consolidation, or division; shall prepare and distribute legal notices; and shall have other duties as the board may prescribe.

- SECTION 10. That Section 34-102, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-102. "PRIMARY ELECTION" DEFINED -- PURPOSES. "Primary election" means an election held for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates

of political parties for election to offices, and for the purpose of electing persons as members of the controlling committees of political parties. Primary elections shall be held on the <u>fourth</u> <u>third</u> Tuesday of May in each even-numbered year.

"Presidential primary" or "presidential preference primary" means an election held for the purpose of allowing voters to express their choice for candidates for nominations for president of the United States. Presidential primary elections shall be held in conjunction with the primary election, on the fourth third Tuesday of May in each presidential election year.

SECTION 11. That Section 34-106, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 34-106. LIMITATION UPON 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, 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 (1) 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 if it is necessary to do emergency work to prepare for a national or local defense, or it is necessary to do emergency work to safeguard life, health or property. Such a special election, if conducted by the county clerk, shall be conducted at the expense of the political subdivision submitting the question.
- (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, which, 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 which 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 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, except that school districts may also hold an election on the second Tuesday in March of each year and on the last Tuesday in August of each year on bonded indebtedness and property tax levy questions.

- (8) Initiative, referendum, recall, bond, levy and any other ballot question elections conducted by any political subdivision shall be held on the nearest date authorized in subsections (1) and (7) of this section which falls more than forty-five (45) days after the clerk of the political subdivision orders that such election shall be held, unless otherwise provided by law.
- (9) Recall elections may be held on a different date as any of the four (4) dates authorized in subsections (1) and (7), and on the second Tuesday of March and the last Tuesday of August, as determined by the county clerk after receipt of necessary petitions of this section that falls more than forty-five (45) days after the clerk of the political subdivision orders that such election shall be held.
- (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 by title 43, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 12. That Section 34-717, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-717. WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY. A candidate for nomination or candidate for election to an <u>partisan</u> 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 general election when the deadline shall be no later than September 7. Filing fees paid by the candidate shall not be refunded.

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 13. That Section 34-902, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 34-902. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT BALLOTS AND BALLOT BOXES FOR EACH POLLING PLACE AT ALL ELECTIONS. At its regular meeting in March, the board of county commissioners shall authorize that a suitable number of ballots be printed for each polling place. The county clerk shall cause such ballots to be printed upon receiving final instructions from the secretary of state, and the cost shall be paid from the county treasury. The board of county commissioners shall authorize the printing of ballots in the

same manner for special elections when such special election is ordered by the governor or provided by law.

 The board of county commissioners shall also provide a suitable number of ballot boxes for each polling place within the county, and shall have complete authority to determine the specifications for such ballot boxes.

SECTION 14. That Section 34-1003, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-1003. ISSUANCE OF ABSENTEE BALLOT. Upon receipt of an application for an absent elector's ballot within the proper time, the county clerk receiving it shall examine the records of his office to ascertain whether or not such applicant is registered and lawfully entitled to vote as requested and, if found to be so, he shall arrange for the applicant to vote by absent elector's ballot. The absentee ballot may be delivered to the absent elector in the office of the county clerk, by postage prepaid mail or by other appropriate means, including use of a facsimile machine or other electronic transmission. Validly requested absentee ballots for candidates for federal office, where the request is received at least forty-five (45) days before an election, shall be sent not later than forty-five (45) days before that election to all electors who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

Pursuant to the uniformed and overseas citizens absentee voting act (UOCAVA, 42 U.S.C. 1973 ff, et seq., as amended) the secretary of state shall establish procedures for the transmission of blank absentee ballots by mail and by electronic transmission for all electors who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the uniformed and overseas citizens absentee voting act, and by which such electors may designate whether the elector prefers the transmission of such ballots by mail or electronically. If no preference is stated, the ballots shall be transmitted by mail. The secretary of state shall establish procedures for transmitting such ballots in a manner that shall protect the security and integrity of such ballots and the privacy of the elector throughout the process of transmission.

A political party may supply a witness to accompany the clerk in the personal delivery of an absentee ballot. If the political party desires to supply a witness it shall be the duty of the political party to supply the names of such witnesses to the clerk no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the election. The clerk shall notify such witnesses of the date and approximate hour the clerk or deputy clerk intends to deliver the ballot.

A candidate for public office or a spouse of a candidate for public office shall not be a witness in the personal delivery of absentee ballots.

An elector physically unable to mark his own ballot may receive assistance in marking such ballot from the officer delivering same or an available person of his own choosing. In the event the election officer is requested to render assistance in marking an absent elector's ballot, the officer shall ascertain the desires of the elector and shall vote the applicant's ballot accordingly. When such ballot is marked by an election officer, the witnesses on hand shall be allowed to observe such marking. No county clerk, deputy, or other person assisting a disabled voter shall attempt to influence the vote of such elector in any manner.

SECTION 15. That Section 34-1401, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

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34-1401. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the county clerk shall administer all elections on behalf of any political subdivision, subject to the provisions of this chapter, including all special district elections and elections of special questions submitted to the electors as provided in this chapter. Water districts governed by chapter 6, title 42, Idaho Code, recreational water and/or sewer districts as defined in section 42-3202A, Idaho Code, ground water recharge districts governed by chapter 42, title 42, Idaho Code, ground water management districts governed by chapter 51, title 42, Idaho Code, ground water districts governed by chapter 52, title 42, Idaho Code, and irrigation districts governed by title 43, Idaho Code, are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Municipal elections shall be conducted under the provisions of this chapter except for the specific provisions of chapter 4, title 50, Idaho Code. All municipal, school district and highway district elections shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code. All highway district and school district elections shall be administered by the clerk of the county wherein the district lies. Elections in a joint school district or other political subdivisions that extend beyond the boundaries of a single county shall be conducted jointly by the clerks of the respective counties, and the clerk of the home county shall exercise such powers as are necessary to coordinate the election. county" shall be defined as the county in which the business office for the district or political subdivision is located. For the purposes of achieving uniformity, the secretary of state shall, from time to time, provide directives and instructions to the various county clerks. Unless a specific exception is provided in this chapter, the provisions of this chapter shall govern in all questions regarding the conduct of elections on behalf of all political subdivisions. In all matters not specifically covered by this chapter, other provisions of title 34, Idaho Code, governing elections shall prevail over any special provision which conflicts therewith.

The county clerk shall conduct the elections for political subdivisions and shall perform all necessary duties of the election official of a political subdivision including, but not limited to, notice of the filing deadline, notice of the election, and preparation of the election calendar.

SECTION 16. That Section 34-1404, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-1404. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY. 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, bear the signature of not less than five (5) electors of the candidate's specific zone or district of the political subdivision, and be filed with the clerk of the political subdivision. The form of the nominating petition shall be as provided by the county clerk and shall be uniform for all political subdivisions. For an election to be held on the third Tuesday in May, in even-numbered years, the nomination petition shall be filed during the period specified in section 34-704,

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Idaho Code. The election official 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 and any special questions placed by action of the governing board 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 election official clerk of the political subdivision shall verify the qualifications of the nominees, and shall not later than seven (7) days after the close of filing, certify the nominees and any special questions placed by action of the governing board of the political subdivisions. For all other elections, the nomination shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth ninth Friday preceding the election for which the nomination is made. The election official clerk of the political subdivision shall verify the qualifications of the nominee, and shall not more than seven (7) days following the filing certify the nominees and any special questions, placed by action of the governing board of the political subdivisions, to be placed on the ballot of the political subdivision.

SECTION 17. That Chapter 14, Title 34, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a $\underline{\text{NEW SECTION}}$, to be known and designated as Section 34-1405A, Idaho Code, and 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 forty-five (45) days before an election.

SECTION 18. That Section 34-1406, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-1406. NOTICE OF ELECTION. The county clerk shall give notice for each political subdivision for any election by publishing such notice in the official newspaper of the county. The notice shall state the date of the election, the polling places, and the hours during which the polls shall be open for the purpose of voting. The first publication shall be made not less than twelve (12) days prior to the election, and the last publication of notice shall be made not less than five (5) days prior to the election. For each primary, general and special election, the county clerk shall cause to be published a facsimile, except as to size, of the sample ballot in at least two (2) newspapers published within the county, but if this is not possible, the sample ballot shall be published in one (1) newspaper published within the county or one (1) newspaper that has general circulation within the county. Such publication shall be in conjunction with the second notice of election required by this section. The political subdivision shall notify the county clerk in writing of the county's official newspaper of the political subdivision.

SECTION 19. That Section 34-1407, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-1407. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES. No write-in candidate for any nonpartisan 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 election official clerk of the political subdivision not less than twentyforty-five (245) days before the date of the election.

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 $\frac{1}{1}$ twenty forty-five (245) days preceding 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 candidates in the primary or general election covered by the provisions of section 34-702A, Idaho Code.

SECTION 20. That Section 34-1410, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-1410. CANVASSING OF ELECTION RESULTS. The board of county commissioners shall conduct the canvass of the election results within ten (10) days after the election, in the manner provided in chapter 12, title 34, Idaho Code. The county clerk shall certify the election results to the clerk of each political subdivision for which an election was held. Each political subdivision shall issue the appropriate certificates of election.

SECTION 21. That Chapter 14, Title 34, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a <u>NEW SECTION</u>, to be known and designated as Section 34-1412, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

34-1412. TERMS OF OFFICE GOING BEYOND NEXT ELECTION DATE. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, whenever a member of the governing board of a taxing district has been elected to a term of office that goes beyond the next election date as provided by statute, such member of the governing board shall be entitled to serve his or her term of office and shall continue to serve until the following election provided by statute. All governing board members elected on and after January 1, 2011, shall serve terms of office beginning and ending as otherwise provided by statute.

SECTION 22. That Section 39-1330, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

39-1330. BIENNIAL ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS -- TERMS OF OFFICE. On the third Tuesday of May in the next odd-numbered calendar year after the organization of any district, and on the third Tuesday of May every second year thereafter, an election shall be held which shall be known as the biennial election of the district.

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 three (3) members 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 a term of six (6) years; 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.

 Nominations may be filed with the secretary of the board not later than the sixth Friday preceding the election for which the nomination is made, and if a nominee does not withdraw his name before the first publication of the notice of election, his name shall be placed on the ballot. The county clerk shall provide for holding such elections 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 as the board may direct. The returns of the election shall be certified to and shall be canvassed and declared by the board of county commissioners. 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.

In any election for director, if after the deadline for filing a declaration of intent as a write-in candidate, it appears that only one (1) qualified candidate has been nominated for a director's position, it shall not be necessary for the candidate to stand for election, and the board of directors of the district shall declare such candidate elected as a director, and the secretary of the board of the district shall immediately make and deliver to such person a certificate of election.

For the purpose of achieving an orderly transition to a term of six (6) years and to hold trustee elections in odd-numbered years, the following schedule shall be followed:

- (a) For trustees elected in 2005, their terms shall expire in 2011 and the terms for each of those elected in 2011 shall be six (6) years and thereafter those terms shall be for six (6) years;
- (b) For trustees elected in 2006, their terms shall expire in 2013 and the terms for each of those elected in 2013 shall be six (6) years and thereafter those terms shall be for six (6) years;
- (c) For trustees elected in 2007, their terms shall expire in 2013 and the terms for each of those elected in 2013 shall be six (6) years and thereafter those terms shall be for six (6) years;
- (d) For trustees elected in 2008, their terms shall expire in 2015 and the terms for each of those elected in 2015 shall be six (6) years and thereafter those terms shall be for six (6) years;
- (e) For trustees elected in 2009, their terms shall expire in 2015 and the terms for each of those elected in 2015 shall be six (6) years and thereafter those terms shall be for six (6) years;
- (f) For trustees elected in 2010, their terms shall expire in 2017 and the terms for each of those elected in 2017 shall be six (6) years and thereafter those terms shall be for six (6) years.

SECTION 23. That Section 40-1304, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 40-1304. DIVISION OF DISTRICTS INTO SUBDISTRICTS -- VACANCY IN OFFICE OF HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER. (1) At the meeting of the county commissioners at which the highway district is declared organized, the commissioners shall divide the highway district into three (3) subdistricts, as nearly equal in population, area and mileage as practicable, to be known as highway commissioners subdistricts one, two and three. Subdistricts may be revised or modified by the highway district commissioners as changes in conditions demand. Not more than one (1) of the highway district commissioners shall be an elector of the same highway subdistrict. The first highway district commissioners appointed by the governor shall serve until the next highway district election, at which their successors shall be elected. The highway commissioners shall take office on the date specified in the certificate of election but not more than sixty (60) days July 1 following their election.
- (2) Any vacancy occurring in the office of highway commissioner, other than by expiration of the term of office, shall be determined by the remaining highway district commissioners using the criteria established in section 59-901, Idaho Code. If it is determined that a vacancy has occurred, the commissioners shall declare there is a vacancy and such vacancy shall be filled by the highway district board and be for the balance of the term of the person replaced. If the remaining highway district commissioners are unable to agree on a person to fill the vacancy within ten (10) days after the vacancy occurs, the chairman of the county commissioners of the county with the largest number of electors in the highway district shall then become a member of the highway district board for the purpose of filling the vacancy only. If a majority of the highway district board so constituted shall be unable to agree upon a person to fill the vacancy within ten (10) days, or if two (2) or more vacancies shall occur in the board of highway commissioners at one (1) time, a special election to fill the vacancy shall be called and held in the same manner provided by law for the holding of elections for highway commissioners, except that the date of the election shall be as soon as possible, and all duties imposed by law upon the highway district board in connection with elections shall be performed by the county commissioners.
- (3) When there are two (2) or more vacancies on the highway district board at the same time, the chairman of the county commissioners along with the additional county commissioners that the county commission chairman appoints, and with the remaining highway district commissioner, if applicable, shall constitute a temporary board of highway district commissioners. The temporary board of highway district commissioners shall perform the duties required by law of a highway district board of commissioners until the newly elected highway commissioners take office.

SECTION 24. That Section 42-3211, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

42-3211. ELECTIONS -- TERMS OF OFFICE. (1) On the third Tuesday in May, in the first odd-numbered year after the organization of any district, and on the third Tuesday in May every second year thereafter an election shall be held, which shall be known as the biennial election of the district. Such election shall be held and conducted consistent with the provisions of chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code.

(2) In districts created under section 42-3202B, Idaho Code, biennial elections shall be held on the third Tuesday in May.

 (3) 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.

Not later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth Friday preceding the election, nominations may be filed with the secretary of the board and if a nominee does not withdraw his name before the first publication of the notice of election, his name shall be placed on the ballot. The county clerk shall conduct the election and shall appoint judges to conduct it. The returns of the election shall be certified to and shall be canvassed and declared as provided in chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code. 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.

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 of directors shall declare such candidates elected as directors, and the secretary of the district shall immediately make and deliver to such persons certificates of election signed by him and bearing the seal of the district.

SECTION 25. That Section 50-1026, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

50-1026. CITY BONDS -- ORDINANCE -- ELECTION. Whenever the city council of a city shall deem it advisable to issue the coupon bonds of such city, the mayor and council shall provide therefor by ordinance, which shall specify and set forth all the purposes, objects, matters and things required by section 57-203, Idaho Code, and make provision for the collection of an annual tax sufficient to pay the interest on such proposed bonds as it falls due, and also to constitute a sinking fund for the payment of the principal thereof within thirty (30) years from the time of contracting the same as required by the constitution and laws of the state of Idaho.

The ordinance shall also provide the date for holding an election that is in accordance with the dates authorized in section 50-405, Idaho Code, of which falls more than forty-five (45) days after the clerk of the political subdivision orders that such election shall be held. Naotice shall be given in the official newspaper of the city by the county clerk in accordance with election law in title 34, Idaho Code. Such election shall be conducted as other city elections. The voting at such elections must be by ballot, and the ballot used shall be substantially as follows: "In favor of issuing bonds to the amount of dollars for the purpose stated in Ordinance No.," and "Against issuing bonds to the amount of dollars for the purpose

stated in Ordinance No." If at such election, held as provided in this chapter, two-thirds (2/3) of the qualified electors voting at such election, assent to the issuing of such bonds and the incurring of the indebtedness thereby created for the purpose aforesaid, such bonds shall be issued in the manner provided by the laws of the state of Idaho.

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. On an election date as provided for in section 34-106(1), Idaho Code, in November 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.

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.

Not later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth ninth Friday before any such election, nominations may be filed with the secretary of the board and if a nominee does not withdraw his name before the first publication of the notice of election, his name shall be placed on the ballot. 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. 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.

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. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval, and retroactively to January 1, 2011.