

2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN IDAHO

September 2012

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan



Map adopted by Idaho Redistricting Commission on Oct. 17, 2011.

2012 Projections: (2R, 0D)*

Idaho is one of the most Republican states in the nation in presidential elections, and Republicans also dominate congressional races in the state as well. Although in 2008 Democrat Walt Minnick became the first Democrat to win in two decades, he then was defeated in 2010.

Both congressional districts are heavily Republican. Mike Simpson is very safe in his district; freshman Raul Labrador, a Latino Republican, is likely safe in his district as well.

* See details and the fair voting alternative on the following pages.

Idaho's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines

New Redistricting Maintains Political Distortion



Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election.

Competition and Voting Rights in Idaho

	Current Plan	Previous Plan
District Competition	0% (0/2)	0% (0/2)
Racial Minority Voting Strength*	0%	0%

* Measures the percentage of eligible voters of a racial minority in districts where their racial group is a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

Redistricting Process in Idaho

Idaho uses a bipartisan commission to redistrict. Members of the commission are appointed by state legislators and both major parties. The commission was required to hold public meetings in different parts of the state. The commission's website allowed members of the public to submit their own redistricting proposals.

After months of deliberation the commissioners initially deadlocked on the process, but then came up with a new congressional map that passed with a 4-2 vote on October 17, 2011. Republicans charged that Democrats delayed the process in order to gain leverage later, but eventually Democrat Ron Beitelspacher crossed the aisle to approve the map.

U.S. House Elections in Idaho

Idaho had its primary on May 15, 2012. Both incumbents won their respective nominations with little resistance.

Although the seat in District 1 has switched hands the past two elections, incumbents usually dominate general elections. The average margin of victory since 1994 has been 49%.

Over the past two decades, Democratic voters have won just one term in the U.S. House, from 2009-2011. In 2010, Democratic candidates received over a third of the statewide vote, but no representation.

Currently, there are no women serving in Idaho's congressional delegation. Latino Republican Raul Labrador is the state's first racial minority member of the U.S. House.

View redistricting alternatives at FairVotingUS.com



2012 HOUSE ELECTIONS IN IDAHO

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Idaho's new congressional districts. Incumbents are listed according to the districts in which they are running in 2012, with the 2010 district partisanship connected to that incumbent.

District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	Raul Labrador	R	2010	51%	33 / 67	32 / 68	Strong R	Likely R
2	Mike Simpson	R	1998	69%	34 / 66	34 / 66	Strong R	Safe R



IDAHO REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012



Idaho's Fair Voting Plan

Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisanship Projection: 1R, 0D, 1?
A (CDs – 1, 2)	2	783,791	33.3%	33 / 67	1R, 0D, 1?

* plus 1 vote

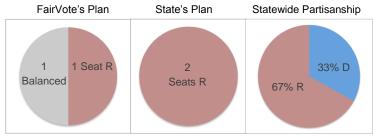
How Does Fair Voting Work?

Fair voting describes American forms of proportional representation that uphold electoral traditions and are based on voting for candidates. They ensure meaningfully contested elections and provide voters with more accurate representation.

Instead of two individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into one larger "super-district." Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a third of voters will win.

Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Idaho's Redistricting Plan

More Accurate Political Representation*



* Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election similar to the Partisan Voting Index. They do not account for other candidate-based factors like incumbency.

Meaningful Elections and Representation

	FairVote's Plan	State's Plan
District Competition	100% (1/1)	0% (0/2)
Shared Representation*	Uncertain	Not Possible

^{*} Shared representation indicates districts represented by both Democrats and Republicans – which enables more accurate congressional representation for most voters. Democratic voters have a chance to win one of the two seats with fair voting, but it's not guaranteed.

Benefits of a Fair Voting Plan

Shared representation of different views: Supporters of both major parties elect candidates everywhere, with accurate balance of that district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice: Better chance for third parties, independents and major party innovators, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat.

More competition: With voters having a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

Better representation of racial minorities: Lower threshold for racial minority candidates to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidacies.