

Politics in Idaho: Election Results & 2015 Legislative Session

2014 Election Results: Idaho Remains Reliably Red

As Idaho Goes, so Goes the Nation

It was big news that Republicans dominated the national political landscape on November 4th, but it was business as usual here in the Gem State. Proving that Idaho is still one of the reddest of the red states, Idaho Republicans maintained their grip on every statewide and Congressional office, and held two open Constitutional offices that many thought might swing blue. It didn't happen despite money flowing freely on both sides of the aisle. At the statehouse, the status quo prevails, with Republicans in the legislature maintaining strong majorities – 28/7 in the Idaho Senate and 56/14 in the House, where the GOP just lost one seat. In Idaho, demographics are still destiny, and this red state still rewards candidates with an (R) behind their name when it appears on the ballot.

Statewide Races: In Idaho, unlike nationally, results hued closer to what pollsters had predicted. U.S. Senator Risch, Congressmen Labrador and Simpson all won by > 60%. Governor Otter was elected to his third term as Governor by 53% / 38%, a wider margin than was predicted, while Lt. Governor Little, Attorney General Wasden, and Treasurer Crane all won by > 60%. In the Secretary of State race, former Speaker of the House Lawrence Denney won by 56% / 43%, a wider margin than was expected.

The only close statewide race was for Superintendent of Public Instruction, where political newcomer Sherri Ybarra won by fewer than 6000 votes (50.7% / 49.3%) in a race that was widely expected to go to Jana Jones, the Democrat.

Idaho Legislative Races: State legislative election results produced little change in the makeup of either Chamber - the Senate stays the same (28/7) in Republican to Democrat split while the Democrats picked up 1 seat in the House (56/14). Several incumbents survived close calls (Representatives Rusche in Lewiston, Representative Luker in Boise, Representative Hartgen in Twin Falls, and Representative Miller in Fairfield, but come Wednesday morning, only two incumbents lost their seats (Representative Agidius in Moscow, and Representative Stevenson in Lewiston).

The Bottom Line: Idaho Remains Reliably Red

Republicans dominate statewide Congressional and Constitutional offices, and once again swept the ticket from the top. The legislature stands pat, solidly in Republican hands, and very likely under the guidance of a familiar and experienced leadership team. The December 4th organizational session will determine chairmen (most will remain the same) and membership (expect changes at the margins) but by and large the Idaho Statehouse will welcome mostly familiar faces when the Legislature convenes on January 12, 2015.

IPM&CSA PAC Supports Our Allies at the Statehouse:

IPM&CSA commits time and resources to legislative and statewide races and supports elected officials who share our philosophy of government policy and regulations. As in previous election cycles, Idaho marketers continue to build relationships with key legislators and government officials to ensure that our industry is represented in the development of Idaho laws and regulations. IPM&CSA contributed to 58 candidates in the 2014 election cycle. Thanks to members, vendors, and friends who support the IPM&CSA PAC golf tournaments to fund our state PAC efforts!

2015 Legislative Issues:

Motor Fuel Taxes: It is critical that marketers be engaged early in any discussions that may impact how motor fuel taxes are collected. Distributors play a vital role in collecting the state's fuel tax, which came to \$233 million in FY 2012, and amounted to 5.2% of major state and local tax collections.

Transportation Issues: Idaho will revisit how transportation infrastructure is funded, and motor fuel taxes are always on the table when these discussions occur. IPM&CSA will remain closely engaged in the legislative process and will be prepared to weigh in on any proposals that impact our industry through motor fuel taxes, transfer fee, sales tax on fuel, registration, sales tax on other items, or any other related concepts.

WPMA / Idaho Website Makeover:

Come Visit Our Updated Site

Look for a makeover for the Idaho section of the WPMA Website. We are updating the look and content of WPMA and state pages. We will make it easier to register for events, find critical industry information and see your favorite photos from IPM&CSA events. Visit the updated Idaho page and let us know what you think! <http://www.wpma.com/idaho>



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State Holiday Greetings *continued*

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**Mark Your Calendar: August 4-8, 2015
at the newly remodeled Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho**

Hold the date for a family vacation in beautiful Sun Valley Idaho for the 2015 IPM&CSA Convention and Trade Show. You will want to bring friends and family and stay awhile! The lodge is being remodeled for 2015 so please get your room early! Call Sun Valley Reservations at 1-800-786-8259 and ask for the IPM&CSA room block. <http://www.sunvalley.com>.

NACS 2013 Report for Idaho Offers C-Store Industry Snapshot:

NACS provided some interesting statistics for Idaho C-Stores and illustrated just how important we are to the Idaho economy! Here's how the numbers lay out based on the NACS State of the Industry Report of 2013; Nielsen TDLinx Store Count (December 31, 2013).