

SAMPLE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
BALLOT MEASURES
PROPOSITION 1
CAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF IDAHO
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

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INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER: To vote, completely fill in the box next to measure of your choice with black or blue pen. Ballots are public record. To ensure a secret ballot, avoid making any unique or personal identifying marks. If you make a mistake, request a new ballot from an election worker.

PROPOSITION 1

Measure to:

- (1) replace voter selection of party nominees with a top-four primary;
- (2) require a ranked-choice voting system for general elections.

This measure proposes two distinct changes to elections for most public offices.

First, this measure would abolish Idaho’s party primaries. Under current law, political parties nominate candidates through primary elections in which party members vote for a candidate to represent the party in the general election. The initiative creates a system where all candidates participate in a top-four primary and voters may vote on all candidates. The top four vote-earners for each office would advance to the general election. Candidates could list any affiliation on the ballot, but would not represent political parties, and need not be associated with the party they name.

Second, the measure would require a ranked-choice voting system for the general election. Under current law, voters may select one candidate for each office, and the candidate with the most votes wins. Under the ranked-choice voting system, voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference, but need not rank every candidate. The votes are counted in successive rounds, and the candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round is eliminated. A vote for an eliminated candidate will transfer to the voter’s next-highest-ranked active candidate. The candidate with the most votes in the final round wins.

Funding Source Statement: The Idaho Open Primaries Act will be funded by an augmentation of existing state and county expenditures for advertising and tabulation. Implementation of the act will require 1.) A public awareness effort to inform voters, candidates, and election workers about changes to the election process, and 2.) The purchase of ballot tabulation equipment capable of conducting instant runoff elections.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Under this initiative, new software for tabulating ballots via instant runoff voting is needed; no federally certified software exists for this process, though there is open-source software for tabulation. We cannot estimate the cost of software for tabulation.

Seventeen counties need to purchase an election management software at an estimated cost of \$300,000. Material costs for a May primary election have been above \$800,000. By 2026, the (inflated, population) adjusted value is \$1,600,000. The software update may increase to \$600,000 were the purchase postponed.

Question: Shall the above-entitled measure proposed by Proposition One be approved?

A **YES** vote would **replace** Idaho’s primary election with a single top-four primary and change Idaho’s general election to a ranked-choice voting system.

A **NO** vote would make **no changes** to the current primary and general election voting process.

YES

NO