

The 2010 Primary Election in Idaho has come and gone. Here is a look at the results around the state.

As is always the case in Idaho, the lion's share of the contests were on the Republican ticket. In a heated 1st Congressional District primary former state Representative Raul Labrador upset the favored newcomer Vaughn Ward to move on to face Democrat Congressman Walt Minnick in November's General Election. Until just a few weeks ago this seemed like Ward's race to lose. Ward was unable to recover from numerous setbacks over the past month and the negative publicity proved to be too much for his campaign to overcome.

Senator Mike Crapo easily won in his primary bid to continue serving as U.S. Senator. In the November general, he will face Democrat challenger P. Tom Sullivan, a small businessman from Teton.

Congressman Mike Simpson handily beat three (3) challengers with 59% of the vote in the 2nd Congressional District and will face Democrat challenger Mike Crawford in the general.

Governor Otter held off four (4) challengers by winning 55% of the vote to be the GOP's nomination for governor, with Rex Rammell being the only challenger with double digit points in the election. He will face Democrat Keith Allred of Eagle in the general.

Lieutenant Governor Brad Little also successfully defended his seat easily with 68% of the vote against two (2) challengers. He will face Democrat Eldon Wallace of Boise in the general.

In the State Controller primary, incumbent Donna Jones held off an active challenger Todd Hatfield to earn the party's nomination in November. She will face Democrat Bruce Robinett a Management Accountant for Hewlett Packard of Boise in the general.

The 2010 primary also featured a final election for a seat on the Idaho Supreme Court. In a highly publicized race, sitting Justice, Roger Burdick handily beat 2nd Judicial District Judge John Bradbury in Bradbury's second attempt to gain a seat on the Idaho Supreme Court.

There were 31 contested legislative primaries on the Republican ballot, 26 of which were incumbents facing challengers. Six (6) incumbents lost this cycle: two (2) House Members and four (4) Senators. Representative Steve Kren lost his seat in District 13 to newcomer Christy Perry of Nampa and Representative Rich Jarvis of District 21 lost to former State Representative John Vander Woude of Kuna. (Rep. Jarvis beat Vander Woude in the 2008 Republican primary election).

The upsets in the Senate were much more significant. Nine (9) term Senator Gary Schroeder (Moscow) lost his District 6 Senate seat. Sen. Schroeder was Chairman of the Senate Resource and Environment Committee and was the third ranking Senator in Seniority within the caucus. Senator Mike Jorgenson (Hayden) lost his District 3 seat and was the Vice-Chair of the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee. Senator Lee Heinrich (Cascade) who lost in District 8 was the Vice-Chair of the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee. Finally Senator Charles Coiner (Twin Falls) lost in District 24. Senator Coiner held the Vice-Chairmanship of the Senate Commerce and Human Resource Committee. The loss of these key committee members will force the Senate Majority to reshuffle the committees during the next legislative session. Senator Michelle Stennett, a Democrat from Ketchum, who filled in for her

husband Clint Stennett while he was being treated for cancer during the 2010 legislative session, easily won her three way primary with 80% of the votes. Senator Clint Stennett was a past Minority Leader and stepped down after his 8th term.

The November General election has a total of 48 incumbents facing challengers for legislative seats. Of the 48 seats, 33 are currently held by Republicans and 15 are held by Democrats. There are 41 of the 105 legislative seats that are held by incumbents that will be uncontested in the November General Election. There are 16 candidates vying for newly opened seats.

The Idaho Building Contractors Association had a 81% success rate in the races that we weighed in on. The candidates that we supported won sixteen (16) of twenty (20) legislative primaries and won the only statewide race with Lieutenant Governor Little winning in his primary. Our contributions for all twenty-one (21) races totaled \$5,250.