



Idaho

Voters in Idaho will elect a Governor and Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 70 seats in the State House are up as well as all 35 seats in the State Senate. Republicans are expected to maintain their strongholds on both chambers as well as their trifecta of the branches of government.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Paulette Jordan](#)

Paulette Jordan represented the 5th district in the State House – the only district in northern Idaho that went Republican at the top of the ticket and Democratic for the legislature in 2016. She is a member of the Coeur d’Alene tribe and, if elected, would be the first Native American governor in the country. She previously served as finance chair on the Executive Board of the National Indian Gaming Association.

Jordan ran as the more progressive candidate during the primary and won big – she garnered 60% of the vote against a much better known and establishment-backed candidate. She is campaigning on expanding Medicaid, legalizing marijuana, raising the state’s minimum wage, and state funded universal pre-K.

Jordan wants to raise the statewide starting salary for teachers. She wants to use [more incentives](#), like loan forgiveness, to keep teachers in rural districts. As governor, she wants to increase funding for advanced placement courses and technical career training courses.

She believes that healthcare is a basic human right and would like to see universal healthcare for all. She is in favor of building a public medical school to both provide more medical professionals within Idaho and to create an economic impact within the state. During this years’ [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians’ Winter Convention](#), Jordan participated on a [panel](#) entitled Combatting Opioids in Native Communities.

Jordan is also campaigning to protect Idaho’s public lands. She is critical of the current state and federal administrations for failing to enforce existing air and water pollution laws. She is in favor of expanding development and statewide use of wind, solar, water, geothermal, and biomass energy.

Trivia: Jordan was offered a basketball scholarship at Washington State University but turned it down to attend the University of Washington on an academic scholarship.