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Statewide Poll Finds John Stegner is the Only Candidate with Path to Defeat Brad Little in Upcoming Election

BOISE, Idaho — August 6, 2026 — A new statewide poll finds former Idaho Supreme Court Justice [John Stegner](#) is the only gubernatorial candidate with a path to majority support against Gov. Brad Little. In an informed head-to-head matchup Stegner leads Little 51 to 35 percent.

The poll tested multiple ballot configurations, including three-candidate races and separate two-candidate matchups where respondents first received factual biographies of each candidate.

In the initial three-candidate ballot test, Little received 48 percent, Democrat Terri Pickens received 27 percent and Stegner received 11 percent. In a separate head-to-head matchup, **Stegner earned 51 percent support, compared with 35 percent for Little.**

In a similar head-to-head matchup between Little and Pickens, Little leads with 54 percent of the vote while Pickens receives 35 percent support. According to [Change Research's](#) summary of findings, Stegner has a path to victory that other candidates do not. This finding is due in part to Stegner's ability to garner support from Republican, Independent and Democrat voters—reducing Little's share of his own party. Findings suggest that Republican voters who are disappointed in Little remain unwilling to vote for a Democrat, as Democratic candidates make no gains among Republicans.

The poll also found an electorate looking for a change. A majority of likely voters (53 percent) believe Idaho is headed in the wrong direction, while Gov. Little's favorability stands at 37 percent favorable and 47 percent unfavorable.

"Idahoans across every party are frustrated with the high cost of living and low quality of leadership," said John Stegner. "I am running to give Idahoans a choice they never felt like they had. Our polling confirms that many Idahoans are ready to retire Brad Little when they learn who I am and what I stand for."

The poll evaluated federal races too. The same pattern of Independent candidates prompting real competition was evident. In two-candidate informed matchups, Independent Todd Achilles led U.S. Sen. Jim Risch 45 percent to 42 percent. First Congressional District candidate Sarah Zabel and U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher were tied at 42 percent each.

The survey was conducted by Change Research among 1,213 likely Idaho voters from July 28–30, 2026, and carries a modeled margin of error of ± 3.0 percentage points. The research was commissioned by the Stegner for Idaho campaign. A summary of findings prepared by Change Research is available at stegnerforidaho.com/media.

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About [John Stegner](#)

John Stegner is a lifelong Idahoan, born and raised in Grangeville, and a former Idaho Supreme Court Justice who spent 27 years on the bench after appointment by Republican governors. He is running as an Independent for Governor because he feels betrayed by the current Governor's leadership and focus on special interests and party insiders. His platform focuses on defending ballot initiatives passed by voters, fulfilling the constitutional duty to properly fund public schools, and addressing the rising cost of living.

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