

Study discloses Idaho continues GOP trends

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A study by the University of Idaho Bureau of Public Affairs Research shows Idaho continued a strong drift in the period 1950-78 to the Republican Party — and that was even before the 1980 elections which was a virtual Republican sweep.

The study is contained in the 1980 Idaho Political Handbook compiled and written by Alwyn Rouyer, associate professor of political science at UI.

The study shows of the 44 Idaho counties, only seven lean Democratic, Bannock as the only one in South Idaho, and six in North Idaho.

Eight other counties are listed a competitive, with neither party in strong control. This is a decline from nine Democratic counties in 1978, with Elmore and Idaho shifting from Democratic to competitive, meaning about equal for both parties.

The results from the 1980 elections might cut the small Democratic list even more.

Rouyer said "county-by-county summary strength index scores shows Idaho a Republican leaning state, which it has been during the 1958-78 period covered in the trend graphs. Only in the 1930s, the era of the Great Depression, has Idaho been heavily Democratic in voting patterns. Only 1932 and 1934 could be considered solidly Democratic election years."

The handbook notes Republicans have controlled both houses of the Idaho Legislature since 1961.

One area not following this trend is the City of Boise and this is attributed to a substantial emigration of people into Boise Valley which has produced an increase in party competition over the 1970s.

Rouyer said the election of Democrat John Evans in 1978 against the Republican tide emphasized the Idaho trait of split-ticket voting.

All East Idaho counties are solidly Republican with Madison leading the state with 65.4 percent; followed by Cassia 64.2; Franklin 63.5; Clark 62.7; and Jefferson 62.5.

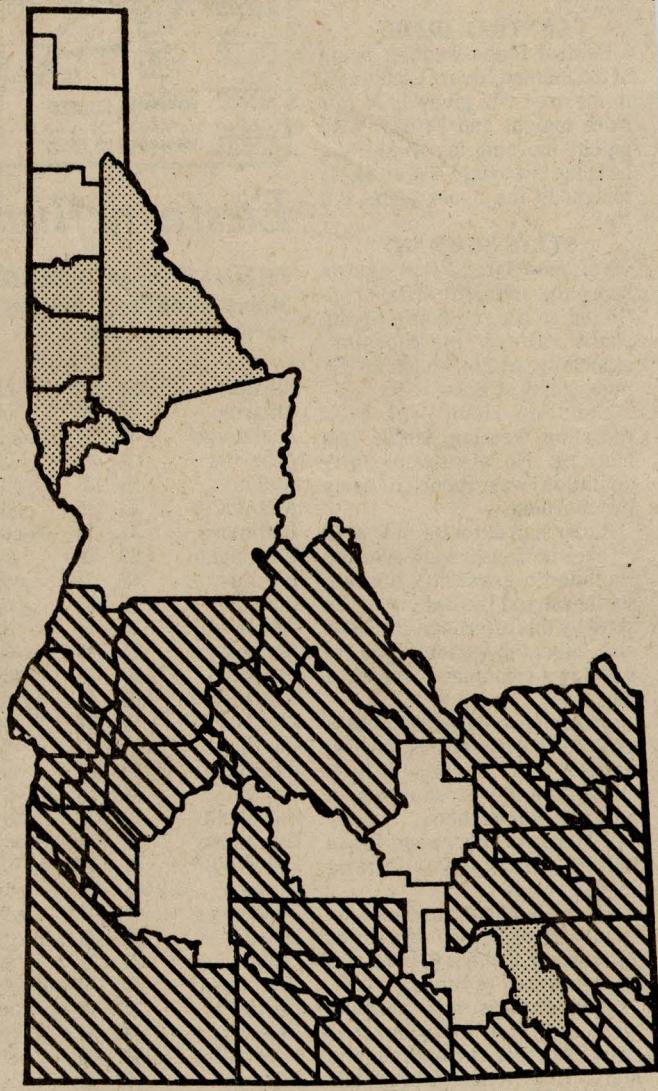
Other East Idaho counties listed Republican are Lemhi 61.4; percent; Teton 61; Fremont 59.6; Bonneville 58.6; Custer 57.5; and Bingham 55.1.

The Democratic counties are Clearwater 63.1 percent; Nez

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Republican Democratic Competitive

UI map

Republican state

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY continues to increase its stranglehold in Idaho as shown by the map compiled by the University of Idaho Bureau of Public Affairs Research. Of the 44 counties, only six lean Democrat and seven are listed competitive in which neither party is in control while all the other 31 are Republican.

Perce 61.9; Latah 57.6; Benewah 55.1; Shoshone 54.6 and Bannock 54.5.

The competitive counties which shows a fairly even bal-

ance listing the Democratic vote are Boundary 52.8 percent; Idaho 52.1; Kootenai 51.7; Bonner 49.9; Power 49; Butte 48.9; Blaine 47.8 and Elmore 47.6.