



## Supermajority

*“Lower the supermajority to 60% from the current 66 2/3% to assist tax supported governmental entities, including school districts, to pass the bonds necessary for investment in schools and infrastructure.”*

---

### **Where is the supermajority requirement in the Constitution?**

Article VIII, § 3 states, “No county, city, board of education, or school district, or other subdivision of the state, shall incur any indebtedness, or liability . . . without the assent of two thirds (2/3) of the qualified electors thereof voting at an election to be held for that purpose . . . .”

### **How does Idaho’s general obligation bond requirement compare with other states?**

The Idaho Supreme Court has, since 1912, recognized that the supermajority requirement is “the strictest” in the nation. Only Kentucky and Idaho have a 2/3 requirement, while other states require much less. Utah has a simple majority requirement, and their GDP growth over the last five years is triple that of Idaho.

### **How are amendments to the Constitution proposed?**

An amendment can be proposed in either branch of the legislature.

### **What is required to pass a proposed amendment through the legislature?**

If the proposed amendment is agreed upon by 2/3 of all of the members of both houses, it is submitted to the people of the State of Idaho for a vote.

### **Once it gets to the people for a vote, what is required to ratify the constitutional amendment?**

Only a majority of the electors have to ratify the proposed amendment for it to become a part of the Idaho Constitution.

### **What should the supermajority requirement be lowered to?**

Even a 60% supermajority would have been sufficient to protect against unwanted tax increases, but still pass those that have a clear support of a large majority of the community.

### **How would lowering the supermajority to 60% help?**

Using school bonds as an example, the bond pass rate since 2002 has been approximately 57%. If Idaho had a 60% requirement, during that same period approximately 75% of school bonds would have passed.

Lowering the supermajority to 60% is more consistent with democratic ideals of majority rule, but still protects the minority who do not wish for tax increases. General obligation and revenue bond projects typically support the improvement of communities and infrastructure, which increase the likelihood of commercial development.

**The supermajority inhibits growth. It needs to be changed, and 60% is the most reasonable change. Please support amending Article VIII § 3 to lower the supermajority to 60%.**