

REVIEWED

Name: John Rusche

Office Title: Idaho House of Representatives, District 6B

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SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF IDAHO

Biography:

Born in Wisconsin, John attended Notre Dame for college and Washington University in St. Louis for Medical School. There he met and married Kay. Internship and residency at the University of Arizona followed.

Drs John and Kay Rusche started practice at Valley Medical Center in Lewiston, Idaho in 1980. In 1995, Dr. John moved to BlueShield of Idaho (now Regence) as Medical Director. After working there 11 years, he retired as the Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Regence BlueShield of Idaho and Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah.

He has served as the Chief of Staff at St Joseph Regional Medical Center and secretary-treasurer of the Idaho Pediatrics society. In 1991 he was awarded the Pediatric Society "Shaker and Mover" award for child advocacy and governmental activities and named Child Advocate of the Year in 2008. He received the 2012 Elected Official award from the State Planning Council on Mental Health and the 2012 Qualis Health Quality award for improving healthcare quality in Idaho. In 2014 he was awarded the President's award from the Idaho Public Health Association and the Public Official of the Year from the National Association of Social Workers-Idaho.

The 2004 campaign was Dr. Rusche's initiation into electoral politics, and he has been re-elected five times. He serves on the Idaho House Health and Welfare, Environment, Energy and Technology, and Business Committees, the Health Care Taskforce, and as the House Minority Leader since 2008. He is also the co-chairman of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee which authorizes quality improvement investigations of State performance. He is also a board member of Your Health Idaho, the Idaho health insurance exchange.

Why vote for me?:

In 12 years representing the district, I have been extraordinarily successful in relationship building, leadership, and legislation production. While health care and children's issues are my primary concerns, my experience on State Affairs Committee, Revenue and Taxation Committee, the Millennium Fund, Education and Healthcare taskforces, and time as the Minority Leader has given me exposure to a broad reach of issues and people throughout State government. I have fostered good relationships and shown the ability to pull coalitions together for progress. I have the support of small and large businesses, educators and fellow representatives. All this experience is valuable to the district and its citizens.