



## 2024 Convention Platform Committee Report

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**Secretary:** Brian Almon

**Parliamentarian:** Cornel Rasor / Chris Sacia

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Duncan Ruzicka

Rick Schultze

Alexis Scott

Chuck Shambaugh

Heidi Smith

Teri Stokes

Mike Stoltey

Gregory Stuck

Steve Tanner

Carlos Vidales

Ken Zaken

The 2024 Idaho GOP Convention Platform Committee met in two sessions. On Thursday, June 13, 2024, Chairman Bjorn Handeen called the meeting to order at 3:33pm. 43 of 51 members of the committee were present, establishing a quorum for the meeting, at which they considered five platform proposals. Cornel Rasor served as parliamentarian for this session.

On Friday, June 14, 2024, Chairman Handeen called the meeting to order at 9:00am. 46 of 51 members of the committee were present, establishing a quorum for the meeting, at which they considered the remainder of submitted proposals. Chris Sacia served as parliamentarian for this session.

In all, the committee considered 17 platform proposals, and brings the following 11 to the Convention for your consideration.

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**TITLE: "WE BELIEVE" OF THE PREAMBLE TO THE IDAHO REPUBLICAN  
PARTY PLATFORM**

**Platform Amendment #:** 2024-1

**Submitted by:** Darryl Ford, Canyon County Delegate

**Presented by:** Darryl Ford, Canyon County Delegate

Item 9: **We believe** government must practice fiscal responsibility, and that taxpayers shall allow the government only the money necessary to provide ~~appropriate~~ functions.

Amend to read:

Item 9: **We believe** government must practice fiscal responsibility, and that taxpayers shall allow the government only the money necessary to provide Constitutionally specified functions.

**TITLE: ADDITION OF A PLATFORM FOREWARD**

**Platform Amendment #: 2024-2**

**Submitted By:** Branden Durst, Ada County Delegate and Kirsten Lucas, Canyon County Delegate

**Presented by:** Branden Durst, Ada County Delegate and Kirsten Lucas, Canyon County Delegate

The Platform of the Idaho Republican Party is amended with a new section to be added immediately following the preamble as follows:

**FOREWORD**

Running as a Republican is both a privilege and responsibility. Our Republican elected officials deserve our support and we deserve to know that they are committed to pursuing and supporting our priorities in their respective offices. It is unfair to all involved to not have a transparent and clear set of expectations. To that end, the platform is how Republican elected officials will be judged, measured and held accountable for the next two years.

## TITLE: RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT

**Platform Amendment #:** 2024-3

**Submitted By:** Parrish Miller, Stephanie Alvarez, Craig Campbell, Benjamin Chafetz, Heidi Fackrell, Paul Lewer, and Jeffrey B. Russell, Ada County Delegates, and Bonnie Carter, Matthew Jensen, and Niklas Kleinworth, Ada County Alternates

**Presented by:** Parrish Miller, Ada County Delegates

ARTICLE I. RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT, amend Section 1(D) and add Section 1(F) as follows:

### ARTICLE I. RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT

#### Section 1. Fiscal Responsibility

- A. The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that all government is financed by taxing its citizens. We believe the size and cost of government, as well as the national debt, must be reduced.
- B. We believe Social Security must be stabilized, diversified, and privatized to allow expansion of individual retirement options.
- C. We believe in a balanced budget and support congressional action to pass a balanced budget amendment.
- D. We believe the ~~unnecessary~~ growth of government is unnecessary and has a negative impact on both the conduct of business and our individual lives. We endorse the review of all government programs and encourage their assumption by private enterprise ~~or local government~~ where appropriate and workable. Programs which are outside of government's constitutional obligations, not cost effective, or have outlived their usefulness should be terminated.
- E. We expect the government entity which mandates a program to provide the funding for its implementation.
- F. We believe the state legislature should appropriate funds only for purposes and to the extent required to meet government's constitutional obligations. Any current programs, functions, or activities of government that are not required by the constitution should be repealed, defunded, and left to the private sector.

## TITLE: SOUND CURRENCY

**Platform Amendment #:** 2024-5

**Submitted By:** Colton Bennett, Latah County

**Presented by:** Colton Bennett, Latah County

Proposal Text:

Article I, Section 4: Sound Currency

A. We recognize the failure of the Federal Reserve System to maintain a sound U.S. dollar and the danger of mercantile banks controlling the issuance of our currency. We believe the Federal Reserve Bank should be abolished and the issuing power restored to the people with the stipulation that the U.S. dollar be backed by gold, ~~and silver,~~ or other stores of value. We believe Idahoans need to protect their savings from the ravages of inflation, which is hidden taxation, and encourage citizens to participate in a systematic acquisition of precious metals or other assets which represent real value as opposed to ~~paper~~ fiat currencies.

B. We oppose the creation of a Central Bank Digital Currency, the regulation and/or excessive taxation of decentralized digital currency such as Bitcoin, and we affirm the right of individuals to engage in commerce and exchange with cash, barter, precious metals, and decentralized digital currencies.



## TITLE: OPPOSE RANK CHOICE VOTING

**Platform Amendment #:** 2024-6

**Submitted By:** Nina Beesley, Kootenai County Delegate

**Presented by:** Nina Beesley, Kootenai County Delegate

**Proposal Text:** It is proposed to make the following additions to Article 2 of the Idaho Republican Party Platform.

Article II: Citizen Involvement in Government (add new section: Section 4)

### ARTICLE II. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT

The Idaho Republican Party believes that government works best when its citizens become actively involved. The Party encourages all citizens to engage in healthy debate on all issues that will increase citizen control of government.

Section 1: We encourage all citizens to educate themselves in constitutional government and to be full participants in the political process.

Section 2: We seek to heighten the level of discourse by encouraging all office holders, candidates and citizens to be civil, dignified, honest and forthright in their discussions, actions, statements and political processes. This includes the actions of special interest groups who provide support for or against any Idaho candidate.

Section 3: We believe Primary elections in the Idaho Republican Party should be open to all people who have affiliated as Republicans at least one year prior to the primary election and who support a vast majority of the Idaho Republican Platform. To allow those who have no loyalty or allegiance to the Idaho Republican Party or its platform and Resolutions to select our candidates is simply not proper.

Section 4: The Idaho Republican Party opposes ranked-choice voting and any other iterations of ranked-choice voting such as Star voting, ballot exhaustion, and instant run-off.

## TITLE: DEFINING HUMAN PERSONHOOD

**Platform Amendment #:** 2024-7

**Submitted By:** Colton Bennett, Latah County

**Presented by:** Colton Bennett, Latah County

### Proposal Text:

Amend Article XIV, Section 3: Right to Life

- A. We affirm that human personhood begins at the moment of conception and ought to be protected and cherished from that moment on. We affirm that the intentional taking of human life through the act of abortion is murder from the moment of fertilization. All children should be protected regardless of the circumstances of conception, including persons conceived in rape and incest. The federal judiciary played the tyrant in dozens of Supreme Court pro-abortion opinions since Roe v. Wade up to the Dobbs decision, and Idaho has the sovereign authority to defy the federal judiciary should they once again propose the fiction that abortion is a federal constitutional right. We support the criminalization of all murders by abortion within the state's jurisdiction. We also support strengthening the Idaho Constitution's declaration of the right to life for preborn children.
- B. We reaffirm our support for the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, and for the rights of the unborn child. We oppose abortion based on sex selection, convenience, or as a method of birth control.
- C. We oppose partial birth abortion and we support legislation to abolish this practice.
- D. We oppose all ~~abortion~~ actions which intentionally end an innocent human life, including abortion, the destruction of human embryos, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.
- E. We oppose the expenditure of any Idaho taxpayer funds by any unit of government, including federal, state, county, and municipal government, to any provider of abortion and strongly support legislation to enact the same.
- F. We strongly encourage adoption as an alternative to abortion and support legislation that expands opportunities and provides assistance to the adoptive process.

**TITLE: OPPOSE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

**Platform Amendment #:** 2024-8

**Submitted By:** Nina Beesley, Kootenai County Delegate

**Presented by:** Nina Beesley, Kootenai County Delegate

**Proposal Text:** It is proposed to add the following text that is underlined to Article XIV, American Family, Section 4: Children

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that children are a heritage of the Lord.

We believe parents, not the state, have a sacred duty and a legal right to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their temporal and spiritual needs, and to teach them to be law abiding citizens.

We believe biological gender to be an essential characteristic of a child's identity and purpose. We call upon parents, responsible citizens, and officers of government to promote measures that respect and protect the biological gender of children. We strongly oppose any person, entity, or policy that attempts to confuse minors regarding their biological gender.

The Idaho Republican Party opposes the sexual exploitation of minors in ANY form.

**TITLE: ARTICLE XVI. LAW AND ORDER WITH JUSTICE**

**Platform Amendment #: 2024-09**

**Submitted by:** Jo Dee Arnold, Canyon County Delegate

**Presented by:** Jo Dee Arnold, Canyon County Delegate

ARTICLE XVI. LAW AND ORDER WITH JUSTICE

Add a section:

**Section 6: State Sovereignty**

We recognize Idaho is a sovereign state; therefore we have the right to defend against foreign invasions. We believe that Idaho has the right and obligation to remove from our State any and all people that are unlawfully present within our borders.

## **TITLE: PLATFORM INTEGRITY**

**Platform Amendment #: 2024-14**

**Submitted By:** Michael Wilcox, Bonner County Delegate

**Presented by:** Michael Wilcox, Bonner County Delegate

The 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution states that the right of the citizens to vote shall not be denied.

We believe that this includes the right to have your vote counted and not diluted or manipulated by non-citizens vote or voting machines that can corrupt the vote.

We believe there in person should be same day voting, early voting, and excuse only absentee ballots with paper ballots.

We believe it is important not to legitimize or support any practice that would diminish and/or disenfranchise the voting citizens of Idaho.

## TITLE: PLATFORM VERBIAGE CLARIFICATION ADDITIONS

**Platform Amendment #:** 2024-16

**Submitted by:** Scott Tilmaint, Canyon County Delegate

**Presented by:** Scott Tilmaint, Canyon County Delegate

[Editing Note: The original submission emailed to committee members for this proposal contained five pages from the platform document with changes inserted. The extraneous material has been removed for clarity and printing costs. Remaining text is only sections with amendments proposed.]

Amend the following sections by inserting the new language un underlined italics.

### ARTICLE III. EDUCATION

**Section 6:** We strongly support professional technical and continuing education programs that provide career readiness and college preparation, *but do not support using taxpayer funding for programs beyond high school.*

### ARTICLE XII. ECONOMY

#### Section 3: Labor

- B. We support education and professional technical education to develop a well- trained workforce, *but do not support funding education with taxpayer money beyond high school.*

### ARTICLE XIII. HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### Section 3: General Principles for Health Care

- C. We support freedom of choice and personal responsibility *of legal adults* in all medical decisions, including providers and treatments.  
Medicine should have a “level playing field” for all treatment and branches of medicine.
- E. ~~All persons,~~ *All legal adults* receiving healthcare should have legal capacity to give informed consent and should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion.

## TITLE: NATIONAL DEFENSE – SECURING THE BORDER

**Platform Amendment #: 2024-17**

**Submitted by:** Nina Beesley, David Stoltz, Kootenai County Delegates, and Dan McKnight, Ada County Delegate

**Presented by:** Dan McKnight

### **ARTICLE XVII. NATIONAL DEFENSE – SECURING THE BORDER**

The Idaho Republican Party believes in peace through strength and that having and keeping the strongest military in the world is essential to preserving our liberties. We believe we should never sacrifice liberty for security and oppose any limitations or incursions on the constitutional freedoms, rights, and liberties of American citizens.

#### **Section 1: Veterans**

We believe that America owes her continued freedom to the service of military veterans. We reinforce our commitment to providing for their needs and honoring them with the highest degree of respect and appreciation.

#### **Section 2: National Missile Defense**

We support an effective National Missile Defense System to protect American citizens. We oppose efforts to re-enter the ABM Treaty or any other treaty restricting America's ability to protect itself from attack.

#### **Section 3: Mountain Home Air Force Base**

We support the Mountain Home Air Force Base in its vital mission ~~in~~ of protecting Idaho and the nation. We recognize and value the economic contribution that the base makes to our State.

Insert new Section 4

#### **Section 4: Idaho Army and Air National Guard**

The Governor is the Commander-In-Chief of the Idaho National Guard and is responsible for protecting the safety of Idaho residents by maintaining the Guard's readiness and ability to deploy. The Governor is also responsible for the Guardsmen who volunteer to serve the State of Idaho.

Beyond readiness and training, Federal use of the National Guard should be for the purposes identified in the Constitution: to enforce the laws of the union, to put down an insurrection, and to repel an invasion.

The Idaho Army and Air National Guard should only be deployed for active combat operations outside the United States with authority from Title 10 USC after Congress has exercised its enumerated power "to declare war."

We oppose any attempt to transfer Idaho National Guard elements to the Space Force, the

Reserves, or any other state without regard to our Governor’s authority. We call on the Congressmen and Senators from the State of Idaho to defend our Idaho National Guard elements, equipment, personnel, units, and funding from the federal government's overreach or any punitive actions for honoring, obeying, and sustaining the law.

Re-number Section 4 to 5

### **Section 5: Securing the Border**

The Constitution of the United States guarantees to every State in this Union “a Republican form of government and shall protect each of them against invasion.” We believe that sSecuring the national border must be a top priority for our country. We support the construction of a border wall along the entire southern border of the United States.

When the federal government fails to protect the natural rights of life, liberty, and property of Idaho citizens, the State must intervene. To this end, the US Constitution (Article 1 Section 10 Clause 3 “State Self Defense Clause”, and Article IV Section 4 “Guarantee Clause”) allows for the Governor, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Idaho National Guard, to use the active militia and the Idaho National Guard and its assets to repel an invasion.

We now have an unsustainable crisis at our nation’s border due to the federal government’s dereliction of duty in allowing an overwhelming invasion of illegal aliens into the US. These illegal aliens commit a crime by entering our nation without authorization, documentation, or vetting, and with enmity violate the clear language and intent of the laws of our Republic. These illegal aliens should be deported.

Crime is not the basis of good citizenship. We oppose supporting illegal aliens by way of free access to housing, healthcare, technology, voting rights, or an unearned path to amnesty and citizenship as a reward for entering the United States illegally.

We support the detainment and prosecution of any person or organization aiding and abetting such individuals described above.

The Governor shall use the active militia and the Idaho National Guard and its assets to repel this de facto invasion that threatens the safety and security of Idaho citizens.

Re-number Section 5 to 6

### **Section 6: Combating Terrorism**

We support efforts to combat terrorism within the scope of the constitution, including the use of military force, when authorized by Congress.

Re-number Section 6 to 7

### **Section 7: Command of Forces**

We believe American ~~combat~~ troops should not be used as “world policemen.” UN ~~combat~~ operations should be supported by a ~~multi~~multi-national coalition, and ~~when~~ if U.S. forces are committed ~~in to~~ UN ~~combat~~ operations by Congress, the United States should retain ultimate command and control of its forces.



Add new Section 8

**Section 8: Non-Interventionism**

We see w War is a last resort and is for the defense of America's borders, her territory, her citizens, and their liberty. We reject the desire to militarily police the world and dictate relations between foreign and faraway countries with histories and conflicts not our own. We desire for the American people complete and unconditional sovereign control over their government, contravening any supranational organization or foreign lobby. We maintain that war powers granted by the United States Constitution rest in the legislative branch, and this nation can only enter armed conflict through a declaration of war by Congress. In foreign relations, we must be guided by the wise and humble principle of "America First." We will not wittingly sacrifice our children and their future prosperity to dictate how other countries govern themselves. Meddling in the affairs of other countries with military aid and influence furthers neither our American way of life nor our future security interests.

Add new Section 9

**Section 9: Declarations of War**

We believe Congress ought not abdicate war powers to the executive branch except when under imminent threat. Offensive, preemptive, first-strike military use must be authorized with the people's consent through an Article 1 Section 8 Constitutional Declaration of War.