

Dog-whistling in the Dark:

A Response to the 2024 Idaho Republican Party Platform

Dave Britton, Beach Precinct Committeeman

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I write this at the request of the Bonner County Republican Central Committee, in compliance with the Resolution introduced on August 16, 2024 requesting the Committee members to “affirm their support for the current Platform or identify areas of disagreement”.

Part of the challenge of this for me was the prevalence of “dog-whistles” in the Platform.

(“In politics, a dog whistle is the use of coded or suggestive language in political messaging to garner support from a particular group without provoking opposition. The concept is named after ultrasonic dog whistles, which are audible to dogs but not humans. Dog whistles use language that appears normal to the majority but communicates specific things to intended audiences. They are generally used to convey messages on issues likely to provoke controversy without attracting negative attention.”

[Wikipedia](#))

Most of the Platform’s assertions have dog-whistle implications, and for some I am not privy to their full or intended meaning, not having been part of the wing of the party that wrote it. That makes me wary of disagreeing or agreeing with statements with implications that I don’t fully understand. I’ll try to spot these and identify them so that I don’t inadvertently misrepresent my positions.

Personal Statement and Background

I ran for election, and was elected by the Republican party voters of the Beach Precinct in Sandpoint, ID, to represent them and their interests, declaring that I would do so as a “rational and responsible Republican.” This representation differentiates me from many of the other Republican Committeemen on the Bonner County Republican Central Committee.

I welcomed the Central Committee’s request, with its opportunity to present this statement of my positions with respect to the current Idaho Republican Party Platform adopted at the state convention in May, 2024, because at this very moment we are quite divided along ideological lines about what it means to be a Republican, let alone one who supports the current platform. My direct clarity in Committee deliberations that I object to much of the platform has led to criticisms of my legitimacy as a Republican. Clearly there is an expectation of loyalty to “my Party, right or wrong” that I cannot provide. My loyalty is to good government.

I will begin by presenting my overall perspective on the current ideological divide. Then I will spell out how the Platform agrees or diverges from that perspective

The current divide

Our whole country is experiencing an ongoing convulsion that appears superficially as if it is a partisan battle of Republicans against Democrats, but I don't believe that description is accurate. The divisions are much more complicated and extend well beyond simple party politics. Two specific trends are particularly significant in my view.

One trend is a shift in the Republican party away from the post-war Eisenhower era of support for industrialization by mobilizing the growing capacities created by the needs of WWII, balanced with support for small business and GI-bill and banking advances that supported family financial security and wealth building through ownership of housing, along with widespread development of public infrastructure (eg. the interstate highways, telecommunications and the television industry) and the continuation and expansion of the Roosevelt post-Depression economic support programs. That was the Republican Party with which I grew up, which is now very different and still changing.

The other trend arises from the Democratic Party, which emerged more strongly with Kennedy's election, addressed important social inequality, enabling Johnson's war on poverty legislation and the passage of human rights and civil rights legislation to protect minorities. This was interrupted by the Vietnam War and led to the Nixon Republican Party period of increasing corporatization and business financialization, neglecting Eisenhower's farewell speech warning to beware of the "military-industrial complex" that was growing very powerful with huge amounts of government money spent on military contracts.

Perhaps led by the Nixon "southern strategy" of pandering to racism and exploiting the growth of evangelical churches in the south, a splinter group of the party led by Grover Nyquist, Newt Gingrich and later, Karl Rove, facilitated the emergence of the Heritage Foundation in 1975, with party leaders proclaiming the intention of getting control of state legislatures to enable gerrymandering districts to have more political control generally, an approach of gaming the Constitution rather than providing genuine leadership.

At the federal level the Reagan Republican Party emerged from this, turning away from small town America and toward big corporations, with "supply side" economics, reduced taxes on business, opposition to labor unions and weakened protection for equal rights. During this period computer technology radically improved, enabling financialization and globalization of business, and the emergence of multinational monopolies able to "offshore" labor costs.

In 1980, in reaction to losing the Presidency to Reagan, the Democratic Party in contrast, turned its back on state and local level elections and backed the global business class over the American middle class in exchange for big business donations. Both parties were failing the American mainstream.

Then came the elections of 1984, 1988 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, with more of the same.

By 2008, the census-based gerrymandered political redistricting underway by the Heritage Foundation Republicans took hold, and the Supreme Court backed George W. Bush to win the Electoral College vote, despite losing the popular vote to Al Gore.

The emergence of Internet technology in the late 1990's enabled reality TV host Donald Trump, building on the style of shock-jock talk radio pioneered by Rush Limbaugh, to persuade many alienated working people to build their resentment of the inattention and neglect from USA political leaders. Using digital social media propaganda to promote false narratives, "dogwhistle" emotional provocation, and hollow exaggerated promises, Trump persuaded an angry and fed up almost half of the voting public to vote for him, and won a majority of the electoral college votes, despite losing the popular vote, to become the new head of the Republican Party (and the U.S.A.) in 2016. With Trump in office the Heritage Foundation's gerrymandering project to gain control of all states' legislative bodies was well under way.

I had personally known about Trump's actual business failures and reprehensible business practices, his lying, cheating and stealing, since moving to New York City in 1991, so I was never under the spell of his organization's propaganda, and of course I never watched his TV show. In NYC I always voted for George Pataki, who won as Republican Governor of New York State and stood as a conservative and conservationist against the developers trying to get at the Adirondack Wilderness.

In the 1990s and early 2000's in New York City, I was a CTO, a chief of technology, building and running several very large websites in the brand new Internet, including NBC.com, and even winning a Webby Award for best streaming music and video on the Internet. I was immersed in the emerging technical and social power of the Internet and public communications, even contributing to its growth as "tech head" of a large "one-click activism" site. Still, I was uncomfortable with the politics of it all, my Quaker perspective annoyed by the phony celebrity culture, the greed and power of unfettered venture capitalism and the loss of political integrity created by the money in politics, even as I helped build its "click here to contribute" systems. I left the industry to get a Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience to study the human brain's neural networks to apply it to artificial intelligence. I taught for 10 years at the City College of New York, where my students were mostly lower income minorities, and all were hard working, trustworthy and bright, and some were undocumented (later to be called "Dreamers").

Although I had liked and supported some Democratic candidates in New York City, I still didn't support the national Democratic Party, which had disappointed and betrayed my ideals for years, so when we moved to Idaho in 2021 I registered in the Idaho Republican Party as I got my new Idaho driver license. My Idaho newbie political consciousness was filled with romanticized images of Idaho as a place where the hippies and loggers had worked things out and from whence several excellent politicians had emerged in the past, and the skinheads and neo-nazis had been booted out of Coeur d'Alene quite some time ago. All seemed pretty great.

I wasn't ready when the postcard attack ads against Jim Woodward started arriving.

But the Heritage Foundation was ready. They had been working for this for 50 years. Their "Project 2025" playbook uses all the tricks, techniques and technology developed over the years. The problem

with this is that it's not a game, it's real life. Winning by sleazing the rules is not good politics, nor does it lead to good policies or good politicians. It hurts us all. Using inaccurate attack ads against honest, well liked politicians, pushing propaganda, lies and distortions instead of offering meaningful alternative policies and credible analysis, they have poisoned the political arena, driving away many potential voters, which is part of the strategy.

When only the true believers are left, they'll have all the votes. In Idaho, this project is being carried out by the Idaho Freedom Foundation (IFF), financed by "dark money" donors whose identities are hidden by political action committee money laundering, all under the background direction of the Heritage Foundation.

By now we're left with a severely polarized and alienated electorate. Here in Idaho the mainstream normal Republicans are hiding out, lest they be discovered as uncomfortable about Trump and what he stands for, and risk being targets of nasty attacks from true believers. People here are afraid to talk openly about politics, and that's bad for America. IFF attacks and successful gerrymandering have driven the Democratic Party into near irrelevance in Idaho, as it has been abandoned entirely by a National Democratic Party organization that doesn't care about our measly four electoral college votes. So only the IFF Republicans are still on the field.

I'm not OK with that, to be blunt.

One of the other BCRCC committeemen challenged me, asking when I became a Republican, presuming apparently that I was a "RINO" (Republican in name only). My official answer is this: Since our party platform proclaims that our human rights begin at conception, I date my allegiance to the Republican Party beginning when I was conceived during the Eisenhower Administration. I think my mom was too young to vote, but I'm sure my dad voted for Ike, as he was a paratrooper corporal in WWII and liked Ike. Sadly, he died young, when I was only eight. I had already made him proud by earning all the prone position target shooting 22 caliber rifle range medals in summer camp. Later, my mom would start taking me to Friends (Quaker) Meeting, and she didn't like Nixon or guns, so I think she voted for Kennedy. He died young, too. I've survived and become an old guy, to whom it seems obvious that the RINO name-calling is just an attempt by the IFF extremists to capture ownership of the Republican brand. Non-IFF smart Republicans know that letting Democrats vote for Republicans is a gateway drug to more votes for Republicans, so why not.

Where I stand

I was raised as a Quaker in rural western Massachusetts, which led to a lifelong commitment to non-violence and a belief and practice of the equality of all people, derived from the common access of each person to personally experience the divine or sacred within themselves, and the benefits of Meeting together in community to bring forth and share this experiential reality. This brings me a political perspective of focus on and service to the local community, and an expectation of and commitment to supporting the integrity, responsibility and accountability of each person, as well as an attitude of reverence for life and ecological awareness, and a preference for simplicity over distractions

and wasted resources. Perhaps it can also lead at times to a tendency to question authority or distrust established institutions. Certainly learning the history of the Quakers taught me about how they were oppressed in the 1600's in England and in the American Colonies, being barred from some places, and jailed or even hanged for their religion, until after the American Revolution, when the Constitutional right to freedom of religion was guaranteed to everyone, including the Quakers. I have to confess to harboring a higher personal significance for my freedom of religion than my freedom to bear arms, although I support both, and all the other constitutional freedoms as well.

As I came of age in the 1960's I was immersed in the liberating emergence of both the Civil Rights and Women's Movements, counterpoised with the disaster of the Vietnam War. After I left college with a degree in psychology and computer programming in 1971, I ran a small town youth center as alternative service, being a conscientious objector to war. Then I ran a newly created city department for youth services in a small city near Boston, setting up delinquency, drug abuse and alcohol treatment and prevention programs, running an anti-poverty agency and starting a community economic development program for low income housing.

As a municipal employee I felt it was important to stay politically neutral, but my fundamental premise was that these social services should not be about repairing damaged people as much as about changing the systems that damaged them in the first place. I learned that government, including at the local level, could be a powerful and very valuable force for positive change, especially when it did not create dependency, but instead enabled resource development, and did not entrench its hired staff into creating bureaucracies that were invested in maintaining the continuation of the existing problems because their jobs depended on the continued existence of the problems.

After the Reagan administration shut down the "War on Poverty" I shifted from social work to computer technology, building a local business programming and selling early personal and business computers to small business owners looking to push a button and make more money. I loved the technology itself, and the satisfaction of creating systems that let local business providers combine their own "special sauce", that made their businesses successful, with the powerful new ability to capture the raw data and process it rapidly and accurately into the information they needed to make good decisions, keep track of their resources and yes, make more money.

I also developed software solutions for local and state government agencies to apply this powerful new technology to government and social service operations, enabling more and better services with less overhead expense, more detailed knowledge of needs and more rapid ability to respond to changes in budgets to effectively and efficiently match needs and resources, doing more with less money and applying the savings where it was most needed.

What I didn't anticipate was how this powerful new technology would get captured by huge multinational corporate monopolies: first Microsoft, then Apple, Google, Facebook, Amazon, etc.

Now we live in a world where the power and promise of early digital tech has been hijacked by the very wealthy to constantly and automatically suck financial value from the working and middle class into the multinational bank accounts of the truly rich, under the supervision of an exorbitantly paid

managerial upper class that employs lawyers to lobby politicians who have come to depend on and become controlled by massive political contributions from the wealthy and their corporations, money used to hire expensive experts from the political consulting world, all enabled by computerized and networked digital technology.

This is undeniably hurting the working middle class, people who work for wages, but it is much more complex than the Platform's simplistic "sold our jobs to the highest bidders overseas..." which just sounds like how capitalism is supposed to work, and doesn't recognize that the Heritage Foundation supported and promoted these policies in the first place because they enriched and still enrich the Foundation's benefactors.

Our national politicians, Democrats and Republicans alike, have removed most of the guard rails that used to protect middle class working people from business excesses. What the newest Idaho Republican Platform calls "globalism" is a reference to the outcome of this process: the world-wide spread of automated extractive monopoly digital surveillance capitalism. The Platform, however, does not seem to understand this, blaming all the sins of the current situation on "our politicians" instead of recognizing the underlying circumstances and forces that got them elected and controls them, and how the IFF-promoted policies seek to maintain and enhance that bad situation.

Living in the New York City for 30 years I discovered the reality of how the early inner city programs to alleviate poverty and its ill effects had evolved into an ongoing process of what sociologist Francis Fox Piven called "managing the poor": housing projects making steady income for management agencies' staff, while cutting services and repairs to the bone; social welfare and medical care services for the low income residents of the area provided by well-paid professionals who lived elsewhere, and every year giving large tax credits to the very wealthy who had ponied up the starting capital for acquisition and construction or renovation of the low-income housing. I do not support replicating that here in Idaho, BUT, it's also clear to me that the local Republican extreme ideological stance against almost all government spending to benefit needy people is derived from lobbyists working hard to keep their clients' taxes lower, even if and when it truly damages people and families.

I do support recognizing that many people here do suffer from lack of resources and necessary community basic services, and indeed this is because of 'our politicians' and government leaders' misunderstanding of how the world works (or their being convinced by highly paid lobbyists, which actually is the way the world works) which results in poor socioeconomic policies that have failed the people who live here who actually have to work for a living, hurting their ability to make a living, reducing their access to quality housing and adequate medical care, keeping their children from access to adequately funded schools, and exiling their poor and elderly to trash heaps of inadequate living circumstances. All unnecessarily. But also conveniently keeping this paradise well operated for the wealthy. The suffering and deprivation is not the fault of the people suffering, and it's not God's Will from Heaven, it's the fault of bad government by the not always well-meaning Republican politicians currently in charge.

I do believe that the real key to successful local human services and effective and efficient government policies is local control and local operation, with substantial government funded support and focused effort for transition to self-sufficiency, and always the inclusion of recipients of services in the policy-making, management and provision of the services. Realistic and adequate financial support from the state is essential, especially at the beginning, and with good program design it is a good investment to prevent long term dependency and a culture of poverty or deprivation.

For Bonner County's year-round resident families, how is it that we can permit our state legislature to keep Idaho at the bottom rung of public school funding? Are we that impoverished? Or that greedy? Or is something else at work? How is it our kids can't come back from good colleges to get a home in Bonner County and make a living while raising their kids with doting grandparents' frequent visits? How is it that surrounded by Nature's bountiful resources we have a government sales tax on food but need private contributions to support a free Food Bank? These aren't real Republican values.

I suspect that the ideology of rugged individualism so visible in North Idaho is exploited by the well-to-do and their bought and paid hireling electeds to shame the less well-to-do into accepting this government neglect, and of course to keeping them ignorant of how badly they are being treated, and how possible it could be to elect representatives who will pass laws that facilitate making good things happen instead of laws that prevent good things from happening (except for the wealthy) as pushed by the IFF-based 2024 Republican Platform.

So let's get back to that Platform, but first, let's notice the many well-off people here who do support the community, who deserve thanks for what they can and do accomplish, often way more than the current crop of Republican electeds. But turning to them for "noblesse oblige" is not a good solution, neither for them nor for us. They are a fairly small demographic minority, only a few votes. They need to be folded into a larger solution, adding yeast to the community's fermenting temperament and rising the dough of the community's self awareness.

And now, to the Platform and the mission tasked of me by the BCRCC. Can I swear fealty to its stated objectives, and if not, then why not?

IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

ADOPTED June 15, 2024 in Coeur d'Alene

(p2) PREAMBLE

The Platform statement begins with a "Preamble" that sets out an essential ideological perspective from which the platform planks presume to emerge.

What is noteworthy about the Preamble is its use of dog-whistles, i.e. words and phrases that have a coded significance to those who adhere to its ideology, but which may not be especially meaningful or significant to others unfamiliar with that perspective. Using dog-whistles supports a cadre of insiders trained or familiarized to recognize and respond to the emotional and conceptual meanings that the

dog-whistle language signifies or references, while confusing or excluding the conventional understanding of the words and their context.

“WE ARE REPUBLICANS BECAUSE:”

This section lists 15 statements, each beginning with “We believe...” This reliance on “belief” is itself a telling indicator that this is a faith-based document, within which we can recognize the essentials of the so-called “Christian Nationalist Constitutionalism” propaganda promoted by the New Apostolic Reformation and the “Wallbuilders” organizations, supported for political gain by the extremist right-wing Heritage Foundation and the IFF. As a faithful and practicing Quaker, I find this dogma to be deeply false, and I agree with the mainstream Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Congregational church leaders who reject it as idolatry.

To be explicitly clear, the 2024 Idaho Republican Platform rests on the so-called “Christian nationalist” religious presumption that their (i.e. the Platform writers’) particular religious orientation and beliefs must be placed above the government, taking priority over all, and the government must be subordinate and subservient to their specific misinterpretations of both religious texts and Federalist-era writings of the so-called “founding fathers”. The latter writings give rise to so-called “constitutionalist” interpretations of the foundations of American government, in which nuggets of writing by Federalist enslavers are cited to override common sense understanding of how our society, our laws and our circumstances have changed since 1789. This stance is fundamentally un-American; the Founders rejected it unequivocally back in 1789, placing freedom **of** religion for all the people, and freedom **from** religion in our government, firmly and unequivocally into the Constitution and the First Amendment.

Now, on to the Platform textual analysis:

PREAMBLE (Preamble text is in boldface)

WE ARE REPUBLICANS BECAUSE: *[Note the dog-whistle of dominance and the claim of ownership over the social definition of the word “Republican”; the insiders claim to own and define the word “Republican”, and an outsider cannot therefor be included unless they meet all these criteria. This could be read as “we chose to become Republicans for these reasons”, but the assertive existential “we are” says no, it is not an arbitrary choice, and it tells the insiders they are on the correct side of a line in the sand, that only the few who fully meet the criteria below may be included. Ignorant or disagreeing outsiders claiming to be Republicans are just “RINOs” (Republicans in name only).]*

We believe the strength of our nation lies with our faith and reliance on God our Creator, the individual, and the family; and that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored. [The dog-whistle “*strength of our nation*” triggers a response to power, both a promise of having it (pride) and a commitment to bowing before it (loyalty).

The dog-whistle “*faith and reliance on God our Creator*” removes the second amendment right of religious freedom from all except those who already agree with the insiders’ belief in, fealty to and understanding of the nature and existence of a supernatural, omniscient, person-like Being who instigated and intervenes in the affairs of humans and who once was “the god of Israel”, but has apparently shifted allegiance to support the nation of the USA.

In addition, the insiders are triggered with the dog-whistles “*the individual*” and “*the family*”, each of which in context is intended to evoke a heightened aura beyond its everyday meaning, expanding it to encompass an emotional power and privilege. ‘The individual’ stands valorized, raised up to greatness, and ‘the family’ freed of squabble, hierarchy and violence. They are people of achievement, mutual support and unconditional love and obedience, at least for the individuals and families of the in-group. Outsiders, unfamiliar with the intended nuances, may wince at the overt religiosity, and if so, they can know by that response that they are not real Republicans.

The remaining dog-whistles in this statement are “*each person’s dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility, which must be honored.*” The insider meaning is almost the reverse of the literal interpretation: the phrase signals a mandatory nod to “D.E.I” inclusivity values, understood to be somewhat politically necessary, and at least in public “must be honored” but in private, yeah whatever. The cynicism of this judgment is warranted by the absence of any other reference to these values in the Platform, and the social and economic negative consequences of many of the Platform-supported policies on people’s lives. That is, the “honoring” is more vague gesture than action.

We believe we are inheritors of a distinct Western Civilization and that our traditional culture safeguards our identity as a free people. This is a complicated sentence, with several layers of embedded insider meaning. The dog-whistle is clear: the “**distinct Western Civilization**” that is referenced is that of white Europeans. Our “**traditional culture**” is that of white male patriarchy, which “**safeguards our identity as a free people**” from being overrun by non-whites, especially descendants of slaves or indigenous people, or immigrants from “failed states.” This statement is included, in context, to provide an implicit justification for government policies that are themselves dog-whistles, especially immigration policy, and to covertly enable racist language and behavior. Our “**traditional culture**” also signals nuclear families, rigid sexual and gender boundaries and implicit subservience of women to men and children to parents.

We believe in American Exceptionalism.

We believe the United States of America is unlike any other country on earth.

These two Preamble statements are linked. The second is actually a restatement of the first, emphasizing both the first statement’s dog-whistle importance and focusing its specific language, with the phrase “**American Exceptionalism**”. This doctrine dog-whistles a version of hyper-patriotism that originated in the 1831 description of America by Alexis de Toqueville: “The position of the Americans is therefore *quite exceptional* [emphasis added], and it may be believed that no democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one.”

This dog-whistle calls insiders to feel extreme tribal or patriotic pride, which then acts as a barrier to accepting any criticism of their idealized imagined version of America as the best and most perfect country. It works to prepare insiders to automatically reject any tendency to consider criticism or any unfavorable critique or analysis as valid or worth thoughtful consideration. Outsiders hear the dog-

whistle as theatrical exaggeration for effect, not expected to be taken literally or without thoughtful contextualization.

Wikipedia notes, *“American exceptionalism has been a plank of the Republican party platform since 2012. The platform adopted in 2016 defines it as “the notion that our ideas and principles as a nation give us a unique place of moral leadership” and affirms that the U.S. therefore must “retake its natural position as leader of the free world.”*

At the national level, the dog-whistle provokes a sense of invulnerability and highest privilege, not just “my country right or wrong”, but “my country, always right!”, that “We are the best!”

This ultimate stance supports a framing of other countries as essentially inferior and by inference undeserving, thus suitable to be dominated and exploited. At the local Idaho level this translates to a permission for insiders to understand that racism, domination, exploitation and ‘othering’ of other countries and their people is appropriate, even reasonable, behavior. The internal psychology of the dog-whistle works as a defense mechanism for feelings of insecurity and inferiority, masking fear and fight-or-flight reactions.

Outsiders tend to find the presumption of American exceptionalism at least questionable, and certainly not a justification for bad manners or worse, overt mistreatment, of people from other places who are different. It overlooks America’s history of slavery of captured Africans and genocidal treatment of indigenous people and cultures that were living here when Europeans arrived.

How this relates to Idaho legislation is hard to figure. In the current moment it seems to explain the otherwise inexplicable fascination with “out of control borders” with Mexico that are in reality not out of control and in any case even if they were as bad as imagined, would present no threat to Idaho. Allegiance to the myth of exceptionalism supports the overall identity of the insider, however.

We believe the United States Constitution is the greatest and most inspired document to govern a nation, and the republican form of government it gives us, (U.S. Const. Art.

IV §4), is the best guarantor of freedom in history. This two-part statement is a dog-whistle message related to the previous “Exceptional” one, in that it also evokes an uncritical hyper-pride that serves to mask the underlying hidden message, in this case raising up the arcane knowledge of the insiders about the founding documents and arguments and various positions taken by the “Founding Fathers”. This arcana serves to strengthen some of the core political positions central to the Heritage Foundation and the IFF, those that rest on a doctrine or justification that older is better, so the more aged and original the political premise, the more valid and powerful it should be.

This ignores the common sense awareness that times have changed since the Constitution was written and things are very different now, and often adaptation is not only appropriate but needful. The dog-whistle justifies the insiders’ process of finding outdated legal and judicial practices that they can use as arguments to support current efforts to dominate and control social and economic practices, trying to use the legal system to effectively make policy, arguing that the older precedent justifies their desired current practice.

We have seen this most clearly in the contemporary abortion debate. The Supreme Court’s ruling in overturning *Roe v. Wade* was roundly criticized by the vast majority of legal scholars for its inaccurate and inappropriate application of antiquated practices and historical prejudices to justify removing the

Federal right to abortion as healthcare. Note that the abortion issue itself is a dog-whistle for insiders who want to assert the right of the government to dominate women by removing their control over their own bodies and healthcare. Many outsiders disagree with this, and call for reviving the Nancy Reagan traditional approach, to “Just say no” to the Supreme Court’s and the many individual states’ assault on women’s right to control their own bodies.

We believe in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability. This is a very interesting statement to find embedded in the Platform. It is a dog-whistle to the insiders signaling the very opposite of what it says! The statement borrows the DEI language of the outsiders, and pretends to quote it, when it is actually mocking the language by imitating it. It signals to the insiders that they do not have to believe in any of this. To the outsiders, it seems great, sensible and unusually in agreement with liberal political thinking, without any awareness of its subtle appropriation and its pretense of conformity.

The problem with the statement is that it makes equal rights the exclusive privilege of the insiders. Their rights are more equal. The outsiders are so familiar with this equality mantra that they miss the subtle inclusion of the problematic term “equal justice” when they read this. Equal justice means there is always a reason to deny the unjust and undeserving outsider. Equal rights and equal opportunity are made contingent on equal justice, and when the outsider is undeserving of justice (perhaps because of skin color or gender identity or religious belief) those rules just don’t apply. Justice is in the eye of the insider.

We believe human life begins at conception and is protected by the unalienable rights endowed by our Creator along with the fundamental right to life and shall not be infringed upon. In this statement the “unalienable rights endowed by the Creator” is a direct allusion to the Declaration of Independence, a dog-whistle to evoke patriotic loyalty as an element in support and justification for oppressing women by removing their right to bodily autonomy, agency in their own health care and control over their own selfhood. The overall dog-whistle message is that women must not have control of their own bodies. The overt religious justification for this oppression is itself a dog-whistle to divert attention away from the Platform’s removal of women’s rights by proclaiming God’s protection for certain unspecified “unalienable” rights as having a higher priority, as does the fundamental right to life itself.

The contradiction implicit in this, that the woman herself has an inalienable right to life and to control of her own body, is overlooked without notice. By allocating the determination of priority to “our Creator”, the dog-whistle shifts power over the woman’s body from her to the religiously-controlled government of the state, under the pretense justified in the previous dog-whistle of older arcane pseudo-law (i.e., the reference to the Declaration) as overriding contemporary rational policy.

Bottom line, this statement is why the First Amendment starts with freedom of religion: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;” The State of Idaho’s abortion prohibition law is based on religious belief, and has no standing, as it is in violation of the Federal Constitution. For the past 50 years women have had freedom of choice, free to choose not to have an abortion, or not to carry the pregnancy to term. Idaho has taken that right away based solely on religious belief.

It is noteworthy that the Platform correctly asserts as a “belief”, not a scientific fact, that “life begins at conception”, without providing any meaningful definition of “life” nor rationale for such a notion, and quite overlooks any scientific definition of “conception”. This is a religious belief, asserted as a dog-whistle, signaling to the insiders that they can use the power of the state’s monopoly on the use of violence to enforce a religious doctrine that radically hurts women.

It is unclear to me why they want to do this, what social good it might provide, but it signals power and male strength, control and domination over women via governance over their reproductive rights and health. As such I personally find it offensive, incorrect and reject it as a valid Platform statement.

We believe free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this Nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity. The dog-whistles of “free enterprise” and “individual initiative” signal the failed trickle-down anti-government theories of the Reagan era that led to uncontrolled globalization and the rise of unaccountable multinational corporations. Of course, local businesses and hard working individuals can find economic success and prosperity for themselves, but government guardrails are necessary to protect people, their common environment and the economy from exploitation and damages caused by corporate greed. This plank seems to be here to undermine needed regulations and oversight that protect communities from unrestrained corporate greed in pursuit of profits over people.

We believe government must practice fiscal responsibility, and that taxpayers shall allow the government only the money necessary to provide Constitutionally specified functions. The dog-whistle of “fiscal responsibility” is a signal all too frequently overused in Idaho legislation. The companion dog-whistle of “Constitutionally specified functions” is a special signal referring to the Heritage Foundation’s “constitutionalism” doctrine that tries to use antiquated legalisms to protect the very wealthy. This is an attempt to rule out legislation that would enable needed state-level services to be properly funded and available to serve the people of Idaho, such as high quality public schools and adequate and readily available medical and health care facilities.

We believe that our Founding Fathers gave us a government that is a servant of the people, not our master. The proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions, which individuals or private organizations cannot perform. The dog-whistle of the government-as-a-servant conflicts here with the language of “only critical functions”. Is the servant to be handicapped so as to fail to be helpful or available when needs arise that are important but not sufficiently “critical”? And what is the state’s role in recruiting, supporting or facilitating the supposed private individuals and organizations to assure that their roles will be performed? We too often look away from crucial social and economic needs such as care for the elderly or homeless, when we assign them to the supposed mercies of community charity.

We believe the most effective, responsible, responsive government is government closest to the people, and the sovereignty of the state must be protected. That government is best that governs least. This is a hodge-podge of dog-whistles. If we want to get rid of the state completely, let’s just say so and do it, but what is this fear about the state’s sovereignty that

needs protection? Are we under attack? The last sentence is a dog-whistle excuse for not taxing the wealthy and their corporations, and contradicts the first sentence, in which the people themselves, governing themselves directly, is the ideal, as in New England town meetings. In Idaho, the local communities, which are closest to the people, need, but do not have, the full power and authority of taxation, which current Idaho law withholds. Does the Platform recommend changing this and giving municipalities increased financial autonomy?

We believe Idahoans must protect the principles and values that have made us strong. This is a weak dog-whistle that does not spell out what those principles and values are, but leaves it to the individuals' ideological imaginations. It valorizes "strength" which does not equate to happiness or well-being, or goodness, or high quality of life. It gives an aura of underlying fear, that our principles and values are in danger and need protection, that we are becoming weak. This is a dog-whistle to attract insecure people to follow authoritarian leadership.

We believe Idahoans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to promote peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world. Sounds high and mighty, but what is the Idaho Republican Party supposed to be doing about it? Interfering in Federal diplomacy? Or is this coded dog-whistling to valorize and promote militarization and warlike aggression in our foreign policy? (Hopefully not, as that would be wasting taxpayers' money)

We believe the protection of individual rights is upheld when personal responsibility for behavior is exercised. This sounds innocuous, but the dog-whistle tone comes from the loaded meaning of the term "individual responsibility". This is often used as an excuse to ignore social problems such as mental illness and drug addiction, or to blame the victims of bad circumstances for their problems. Whose individual rights are being referenced? Who is the responsible person? Responsible for what? It may even be giving coded language for excusing excessive policing and harsh legal punishment.

We believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government. Well, duh. At least if we can get our act together to stop hurting and depriving people and start supporting them so that every Idahoan can reasonably aspire to their highest potentials.

[This is the end of the Preamble. Now the Platform Planks are laid out, and my personal response to each one is bracketed in italics.]

We therefore adopt the following Platform:
Idaho Republican Party Platform
Adopted June 15, 2024

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. *[Why? The second statement does not follow from the first, and the first is not actually true. In actual fact, many functions of government are financed by fees for service, and a large*

amount of government income is from interest payments on government loans. This is a misleading dog-whistle to narrowly focus insiders on “taxes”, which no one likes, without providing any accurate or even useful framework for how best to finance various forms of government functions, thus emotionally casting government as something bad. The “national debt” is also a dog-whistle, again casting government into a bad light, misrepresenting the true nature of government economics and the role of central bank lending, etc. The “national debt” is a figment of the imagination, a simplification of complex international financing, not the same as an individual’s car loan or credit card debt, and it is disingenuous or just truly ignorant to present it as such. Part of this dog-whistle is intended to distract and oversimplify a full understanding of economic theory so as to maintain the status quo supporting exploitative economic practices of the private sector. The government should be an active regulator of private sector business practices, preventing monopolization and financial exploitation, and ensuring equal access to resources.]

B. We believe Social Security must be stabilized, diversified, and privatized to allow expansion of individual retirement options. *[Absolutely no to privatization of SS. This was done under G. W. Bush and resulted in people losing their entire retirement benefits. SS can be stabilized easily by requiring more equalized contributions by the wealthy, among many other appropriate options. This is again a dog-whistle issue, in any case. The Idaho legislature has no jurisdiction with respect to Social Security so why is it in here at all?]*

C. We believe in a balanced budget and support congressional action to pass a balanced budget amendment. *[Again, a dog-whistle, (“balanced budget” signals more money for the rich and less for the poor) and irrelevant to Idaho legislation.]*

D. We believe the 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 where appropriate and workable. Programs which are outside of government's constitutional obligations, not cost effective, or have outlived their usefulness should be terminated. *[What a stupid statement! When the population is growing and when needs become greater due to circumstances, the government must grow to accommodate. Private enterprise is inappropriate for most if not all functions of government because it requires that a profit be made to pay to stockholders, which adds an inherent cost overhead. Routine review of the efficiency, effectiveness and need for government services is a necessary and desirable process, and must be designed to be performed so it cannot be contaminated by outside vested interests involved or affected by the services, regardless of their “constitutional” status, which is just another dog-whistle to cut services that help or protect people.]*

E. We expect the government entity which mandates a program to provide the funding for its implementation. *[This is possible only to the extent that the entity has the capability of raising the necessary funds, which is not the case with some Idaho government entities, eg. counties and municipalities, whose taxing authority is limited. The dog-whistle here is the word “mandates” which suggests excessive government power and implies a distrust of government. It is better to analyze the source of any such distrust case by case, and deal with it as such. What is the source of the distrust or fear of authorities who might mandate expensive programs that cannot be financed?]*

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. *[Another example of the “constitutional” dog-whistle, to provide a barrier to government efforts that the extremists do not like. It’s not about the appropriation of funds, it’s really about the nature and beneficiaries of the programs, functions or activities, if they do not directly benefit or are not controlled by “Christian Nationalists” then they must be “unconstitutional”.]*

Section 2. Taxation

A. We support lower federal, state, and local taxes. High taxes are a burden on businesses, families, and individuals. *[This is stupidly broad, just another anti-government dog-whistle. Taxes are a necessary mechanism for government functions to be financed.]*

B. We believe that tax reductions can be achieved by cutting spending on every level: federal, state, and local. We believe that lower taxes will result in increased revenue to the government as the private sector will thrive. *[Again, dog-whistle stupidity. Lower taxes do not increase revenue to the government, whether the private sector is functioning well or not. Lower taxes reduce government revenue by definition. The dog-whistle is to an imagined and inaccurate misunderstanding of basic economics, like believing in trickle-down economics. The pretended link is that lower tax rates allow more people to have more money to spend which lets the economy grow more so people make more money and thus pay more taxes even at the lower rate. What actually happens is that only rich people make significantly more money when tax rates are lowered, and they don’t spend it in ways that improve the economy for the rest of us who just stay poor while the government gets less money.]*

C. We believe Idaho’s tax structure should be predictable, fair, and balanced; and that the combination of our income, sales, and property taxes will continue to provide a stable, dependable source of income for governmental needs. *[Let’s hope so. Let’s commit to managing things competently.]*

D. We support true government transparency that allows the public to review all local, state, and federal government expenditures, contracts, and audits online. We support uniform accounting systems that allow taxpayers to compare and analyze government spending trends. *[Again, superficially a desirable goal, but what is the underlying concern it addresses? Do we have specific failures in our governmental accounting that need legislative focus? Or is this just for a dog-whistle show of good intentions? It may be a dog-whistle for opposition to current tax policies that the Christian Nationalists oppose, that I don’t know about.]*

E. We believe that Idaho Citizens should not and or shall not be taxed for federally mandated health care. *[This is strange. It sounds like a dog-whistle opposing vaccinations. I do believe people do not have a human right to be a public health hazard (even in the Bible lepers were segregated), so vaccinations and masking when necessary are a good idea to be mandated. How does this relate to the Idaho Legislature, however?*

F. We believe voter’s [sic] approval should be required prior to approval of debt-financed city projects. Municipal laws that allow public dollars to be converted to private use and government entities to compete against the private sector or divert public money to special projects without support of the taxpayer, must be repealed. *[I don’t understand the issue here. I do believe from personal experience that government and private sector partnerships can be effective, and I do not see any problem in principal with government entities engaging in public markets, or in*

G. We support the total abolition of inheritance taxes. *[I disagree, inheritance taxes should be used to reduce the volume of intergeneration wealth transmission, as an equalizing factor.]*

H. We support a comprehensive overhaul of the federal tax system requiring universal participation. *[I don't know what this dog-whistle refers to.]*

I. We support the repeal of the 16th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. *[more nonsensical dog-whistling; the Federal government needs power to levy taxes.]*

Section 3. Reform of Congress *[This entire section is irrelevant to the Idaho legislature, and exists solely to repeat dog-whistles objecting to the Federal government.]*

A. The Idaho Republican Party support an overhaul of the legislative process in congress to allow (1) more time for members to study legislation; (2) more opportunity for citizens to testify at hearings; (3) debate on legislation before the members, rather than speeches in empty chambers for the C-span audience; (4) objections to the inclusion of unrelated subject matter in a single bill, (5) more oversight and transparency in the earmark process, and an end to abuse and use of earmarks for financial gain to a member; (6) and a more orderly process for consideration of legislation, similar to that of the Idaho Legislature.

B. Idaho Republicans will continue to lead the fight to reduce the growth of government bureaucracy and promote private enterprise and individual initiative in the marketplace as the solution to our domestic policy challenges.

C. We support restoration of the constitution's checks and balances that protects the rights and sovereignty of the states by repealing the 17th amendment.

Section 4. Sound Currency *[This entire section is anti-government dog-whistle, irrelevant to Idaho legislation, and included solely to pander to "constitutionalists" with authority issues. I disagree with all of it.]*

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, 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 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.

Section 5. State Legislature

A. We encourage continued strong support for our state legislature, directed by Republicans for more than three decades, as well as our elected constitutional officers, and for the manner in which they work

together to balance the budget and improve Idaho's economy. *[This is inappropriate for the Party Platform as it is just political posturing.]*

B. We support the current move to zero-based budgeting or other appropriate budgeting techniques. We believe growth can be attained in a sound, responsible manner by holding taxes down, granting business incentives, and refusing to grant excessive demands for increased spending.

C. We support reduction of Idaho's income tax rates, and encourage a reduction in property taxes whenever possible. *[This is meaningless and simplistic, and should be removed.]*

D. We believe the State of Idaho should strongly assert its sovereignty under the 10th amendment to the U. S. Constitution. It has now come about that the accumulated usurpations by the Federal Government of Idaho's state sovereignty has reached a point of complete intolerance. The Idaho Republican Party hereby recommends that the Idaho Legislature and Governor nullify any and all existing and future unconstitutional federal mandates, federal court opinions, and laws, funded or unfunded, that infringe on Idaho's 10th Amendment sovereignty. We also recommend that the State of Idaho continue to request funding and assistance from the Federal Government, which complies with the Constitutional provision of the 10th Amendment, and recommend that the State of Idaho resist the withholding of federal funds as a means of forced compliance with the unconstitutional federal mandates and laws. *[This is more nonsensical dog-whistling to appeal to anti-government extremists.]*

E. We support the right of every qualified citizen to seek elective office, affirm the right of voters to vote for the candidate of their choice, recognize the need for experience and institutional memory in elective office, and oppose the imposition of term limits in Idaho. *[I support term limits for state government positions, as it inhibits entrenched corruption and reduces pockets of excessive power.]*

F. We support amending the Idaho Constitution, Article III, § 2 as follows: Strike paragraph (2) and amend as follows:

Whenever there is reason to reapportion the legislature or to provide for new congressional district boundaries in the state, or both, because of a new federal census or because of a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, a commission for reapportionment shall be formed on order of the secretary of state. The commission shall be composed of six members to be appointed as follows:

- a. The leaders of the two largest political parties of each house of the legislature shall each designate one member;
- b. The state chairmen of the two largest political parties, determined by the vote cast for governor in the last gubernatorial election, shall each designate one member;
- c. However, for a political party to be eligible to appoint members to the commission as provided in subparagraphs (a) and (b) the political party must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:
 - i. Average of at least twenty two percent of all the ballots cast in four of the previous primary elections
 - ii. Elected at least two constitutional officers in the preceding ten years
- d. In the event only one political party satisfies a requirement to be eligible to appoint members to the commission the remaining three members shall be appointed by the eligible political party's state central committee;
- e. In the event any appointing authority does not select the members within fifteen calendar days following the secretary of state's order to form the commission, such members shall be appointed by the Supreme Court. No member of the commission may be an elected or appointed official in the

state of Idaho at the time of designation or selection; *[This is unnecessary and favors entrenched party elites, and is therefore also undemocratic. I do not support it.]*

G. We believe the Legislature should present amendments to the people with the ballot language identical to the language of the amendment. *[This is a dog-whistle reference to Proposition 1, and is inappropriate. The text of the ballot language needs only to be a readable and accurate summary of what may necessarily be a more complex and detailed description in the full amendment.]*

Section 6. Honest Elections and the Electoral College *[The popular vote is a better measure of political sentiment than the electoral college, which is rife with gerrymandering, and in any case is largely irrelevant to Idaho with only 4 Electoral College votes.]*

A. We oppose the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and any other scheme to abolish or distort the procedures of the Electoral College. An unconstitutional effort to impose National Popular Vote would be a grave threat to our federal system and a guarantee of corruption, as every ballot box in every state would offer a chance to steal the United States presidency. We urge the Idaho State Legislature to oppose any attempts to modify the Electoral College or adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT *[This section is present to protect party elites' present stranglehold over general public participation in Idaho elections. I oppose it, and favor open primaries with or without ranked choice voting, and I support the right of the citizens to choose this for themselves.]*

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.

Section 5: 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 should be in person 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.

ARTICLE III. EDUCATION *[This section is dog-whistled to support the intrusion of religious education into all state-funded public education, which is unconstitutional and illegal. I disagree with all of it and strongly support keeping religious teaching out of public schools and not funding religious schools or private schools with any form of public funds or vouchers. Private, religious and home schooling all need to be accountable to measurable standards of literacy and numeracy at least equal to those of the public schools.]*

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that the future of this great state lies with our faith and reliance on God our Creator, in our strong efforts to uphold family values, and in the quality of education provided for its citizens. We believe that successful education is a joint responsibility of the individual, the family, and the community. As with government in general, we believe the most effective, responsible and responsive educational system is that system closest to the people.

Section 1: We recognize the importance of early childhood education. We also believe individuals, families and private sector best meet the needs of early childhood education. Only in the rarest of situations should government assume the responsibilities reserved to parents.

A. Our Nation's Founding Documentation in Public Education: The United States of America was founded on legal, political and economic systems based on Judeo-Christian principles. *[This is a dog-whistle for the Christian Nationalist ideology.]* We support curricula whose foundation, text and supplemental documentation are the original founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and Founders' writings.

B. Religious Freedom in Public Schools - We believe that school administrators and officials should not infringe on Idaho school students' and staff's 1st Amendment rights to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property without government interference. We believe the legislature should end censorship of discussion of religion in our founding documents and encourage discussing those documents, including the Bible as their basis. Students and district personnel have the right to display religious items on school property.

Section 2: We believe parents have the right to educate their children at home, that court rulings that undermine these rights devalue the important role of parents and family in a child's education.

Section 3: We believe in improving the quality of education for every child by maximizing parental choice. This will be accomplished through money following students to their parent's school of choice. We support all educational environments desired by parents including public charter schools, public virtual charter schools, homeschools, schooling at home, microschools, learning pods, co-ops, private and parochial schools, and accountable public school systems.

Section 4: We believe all students are entitled to our support, and to fair and equitable funding and therefore strongly support the adoption of a change to Idaho's public school funding formula that includes school choice through an education savings account and more evenly distributes state funds while holding our rural schools harmless. Nothing in this section compels a family to receive in any way government support. *[I strongly oppose this effort to take public money for private education via so-called vouchers or "savings accounts".]*

Section 5: We support efforts to improve our public school system, including introducing market forces to our school system and providing our public school system and its leaders with ample discretion in hiring decisions and how to best spend the funds provided to it by taxpayers to meet local needs. We also recognize that more government spending does not necessarily generate improved schools. *[I disagree that introducing market forces is a good way to improve schools, as they necessarily must generate private profits that siphon value from the school institution at the expense of quality education. Further, sufficient government money is necessary for schools to operate adequately, and Idaho is measurably poor in both funding and educational outcomes, so more government funding is obviously called for.]*

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.

Section 7: We recognize the importance of Idaho's higher education system in continuing the education of our citizens. The education and research that occurs at our institutions of higher learning contributes substantially to a vigorous economy, heightened competition and a vibrant participatory government.

Section 8: We are strongly opposed to any social justice indoctrination that may occur at any level of Idaho's education system and support policy and financial measures to prohibit universities, colleges or public schools from incorporating social justice indoctrination theories (i.e. critical race theory, transformative social emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, replacement theory, queer theory, etc.) into their policies, curriculum and/or course materials. *[The dog-whistle of "social indoctrination" is used here to vilify important and very real social improvements for equality. The Christian Nationalist "family values" position opposing social justice progress is selfish and evil, coming from a place of fear and oppression. It is the Christian Nationalists themselves who need to heal from their urges to hurt and undermine and fear others unlike themselves.]*

Section 9: We are proud of our many dedicated, professional teachers and educators who have committed their lives to educating Idaho's children. We value the contribution our teachers make to our society. We support the efforts to reward great teachers for their hard work. We support incentives for teachers, so that our best educators are willing to remain in the classroom and work with our children. We believe that teachers should be treated like professionals and compensated at a level commensurate with their abilities and in a manner that rewards quality instruction, not time in the profession or amount of education. *[This is a dog-whistle pretending to valorize teaching while undermining actual teacher competency factors, designed to undermine teachers unions and routine objective measures of experience and capability such as teacher training and experience. Shameful!]*

Section 10: We believe that in order for public education to be successful, schools and families should work together with mutual respect and cooperation. We believe parental rights are paramount and that parents have the God given right to direct their child's education. This includes the right to decide what their children are learning, the right to inspect any educational materials used in the education of their child. The right to determine their child's health, safety, and medical treatment including masks and vaccinations, and the right to visit their child's classroom with limited restrictions. These rights should be enumerated in Idaho Code. *[This is a dog-whistle to undermine the right and necessity of the State to protect children from inappropriate parental neglect, hurtfulness or incompetence, including*

succumbing to delusions about government programs. Parental rights do not include neglect or abuse or mistreatment of children, including in the manner and extent of their children's education.]

Section 11: We recognize the increasing role of technology in society. We encourage policymakers and educators to be leaders in promoting such new opportunities, while ensuring data privacy for students and parents. *[This is vague enough to be acceptable, but inadequate to actually facilitate any meaningful standards for data privacy protection, so it seems like mere handwaving, not substantive policy.]*

Section 12: We believe in accountability for those who are making decisions about the public education and higher education system in Idaho and therefore support the direct election of the members of the Idaho State Board of Education on a regional basis thereby providing each of Idaho a voice. *[Accountability for these decisionmakers will not come from direct elections, which can and often do pander to ideological whims and unsavory influences of wealthy elites. Our educational institutions need the protection of appointments of top decision-makers derived from scrutiny, specialized knowledge and recommendations from highly skilled professionals, other high level officials and should incorporate input from appropriate institutional faculty and staff as well. These are not positions that should be politically vulnerable.]*

ARTICLE IV. AGRICULTURE *[This is a nitty-gritty core issue for Idaho, and while it seems noticed, it does not seem adequately protected. The ag industry is prone to monopolization and private equity exploitation, as well as prone to fattening the wallets of the incumbent owners with tax and other benefits. I'd support a stronger consumer-oriented oversight approach to protective regulation of the industry to benefit and protect genuine family farms and supporting optimal farming and production methods, favoring quality over mass volume of production.]*

The Idaho Republican Party believes a strong and viable agricultural industry is one of the most important cornerstones in the foundation of our state, national, and global economy and security.

Section 1: We believe agricultural education and awareness is vital to creating and maintaining a strong and vital agricultural industry.

Section 2: We believe Idaho's farmers and ranchers should be able to compete freely and trade fairly in foreign markets. We recognize that the primary function of government in agriculture should be service, research, and the promotion of markets. We oppose the use of an embargo of agricultural products as an instrument of foreign policy.

Section 3: We recognize that water is vital to Idaho agriculture and other industries. We believe modification of Idaho's historic water laws must be considered with extreme caution. The federal government shall not infringe upon state jurisdiction over Idaho water.

Section 4: We endorse the preservation and strengthening of the family farm unit as the foundation of agriculture and one of the basic strengths of this nation.

ARTICLE V. WATER

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes the critical importance of water to this state. We will aggressively defend Idaho's right to appropriate and manage water within its own borders without interference from the federal government.

Section 1: We support continued federal and state legislation to prevent inter-basin transfer of Idaho's water to other areas.

Section 2: We encourage policies that will more fully use and develop our water while supporting the Idaho state law of prior appropriation, based on the principle of "first in time is first in right" for the benefit of all Idahoans.

Section 3: We believe that safeguards exist to protect Idaho's scenic and recreational rivers without creating more restrictions or regulations on Idaho's river system.

Section 4: ~~We call upon the federal government to cease and desist from calling on further water for flow augmentation for fish conservation until the benefit of this use has been proven by unequivocal, thorough scientific research.~~ Further, Idaho waters can only be approved for out-of-state use by legislative action by the State of Idaho from willing sellers through established rental pools.

Section 5: We support increased retention of Idaho water through recharge and the acquisition of new reservoir sites. *[as well as government support for water conservation and protection initiatives.]*

Section 6: We support the quality of private life and economic stability of Idaho families, communities, and industries, including Indigenous Peoples and ~~oppose~~ support removal or breaching of existing dams *[if the dams are impeding Indigenous People's rights of return and rights of repair and restoration of access to natural resources, including Salmon and other anadromous fish.]*

Section 7: We support all legal opposition to any and all efforts to usurp Idaho's sovereignty over water within Idaho borders. Further, we support the Attorney General in defending the state's position on these and all other water issues, ~~and support the State Legislature in continuing to adequately fund the Idaho Constitutional Defense Fund.~~

ARTICLE VI. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that the beautiful and fruitful land that we have been given by God, our creator, must be properly cared for to ensure that its rich blessings will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Section 1: We believe that it is ultimately the individual's responsibility to act as stewards of their environment. The quality of our natural environment should be protected, and enhanced, while allowing reasonable, orderly growth with emphasis on multiple uses, local control, and minimal government regulation.

Section 2: ~~We believe the administration of federal environmental policy must be modified. These policies must give equal consideration to potential human suffering caused by restriction or elimination of basic human needs such as jobs, energy and overall quality of life. We support federal and state measures to reestablish the primacy of state government for implementation of environmental policy.~~ *[dog-whistling for anti-environmental protection, Who benefits from allowing and enabling industry to damage the environment and pollute the human biome? People are hurt and their governments must pay for expensive cleanups. It is far better to regulate and enforce strict limits against the "externalities", the costs of which industries often try to push off onto the society as a whole while making more money for themselves. Society does not benefit from industrial pollution.]*

~~Section 3: We discourage international regulations on industry which attempt to halt the production of certain industrial byproducts. Instead, w~~ We encourage citizens to adopt buying habits that promote a clean earth. *[What are these “certain industrial byproducts”, and who benefits and who is harmed by their production, and how so? This is a suspicious piece of targetted protectionism. “Citizens adopting good buying habits” is insufficient to compensate for substantive industrial pollution, the costs of which should be borne by the producer, not the society at large.]*

~~Section 4: We recognize Idaho’s need for the utilization of natural resources for Idaho’s economic growth and for the benefit of all Idahoans. The dimensions and boundaries of our wilderness area should be determined by Idahoans. The remaining road less areas should be released for multiple uses. [Another dog-whistle for privatizing the wilderness.]~~

~~Section 5: We advocate congressional action to limit presidential authority in creating or expanding national parks and monuments pursuant to the Antiquities Act. [Let’s not enshittify our priceless natural heritage to enrich private speculators.]~~

Section 6: We support the concept of forest health because it promotes long-term land use including livestock grazing, timber, wildlife, improved air quality, recreation, mining and all other beneficial forest uses for the people of Idaho. *[Does the dog-whistle of “forest health” really include timber and mining?]*

~~Section 7: We encourage the State of Idaho to seek authority to oversee the utilization of natural resources on federal lands within the state. [What is this dog-whistle really about? Who benefits?]~~

ARTICLE VII. ENERGY

Section 1: The Idaho Republican Party believes that the United States shall at all time strives to become energy independent.

Section 2: We strongly support energy policies that encourage research and development of our energy resources, including natural gas, hydroelectric power, petroleum, nuclear energy, and new technologies.

~~Section 3: We support efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We support efforts to increase American exploration and production of American crude oil and natural gas, and support voluntary efforts to improve efficiencies and promote conservation. Congress must end its ban on American energy exploration on U.S. soil and on the Outer Continental Shelf and provide for additional American refining capacity. We must make America’s resources available to U.S. citizens. We should not support any additional production of fossil fuels. The existing known resources are more than sufficient.]~~

Section 4: Idaho has the lowest electrical rates of the fifty states. Nothing should be done in the deregulation process that might raise those rates. *[What is this in reference to? Deregulation of what? When? This duplicates section 6.]*

Section 5: The benefits of hydroelectric power should be retained for the citizens of Idaho.

Section 6: We oppose any mandated deregulation that would negatively impact rate payers.

Section 7: We support the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) and other coordinated efforts in energy research and development, and their applications to the utilities industry within Idaho.

ARTICLE VIII. IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORIES

The Idaho Republican Party believes in the great importance of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) as one of the State's largest private employers, its importance to our nation's defense, and to energy and other technology research and development.

Section 1: We support research and development programs that provide safe, economical nuclear power. We further support new nuclear technology that has greater safety, produces less waste, and resists proliferation.

Section 2: We encourage our congressional delegation, the state, DOE and INL management to assure continued research and development, transfer of technology, new missions, and development of alternative energy treatments and storage methods.

ARTICLE IX. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS *[This is a dog-whistle for provoking anger about property rights. The quoted Amendment does not have any bearing on the people's right to impose appropriate limitations on the use of private property, particularly as it impacts others' use of their property, including using one's property for illegal purposes, eg. growing marijuana, or using one's property in a way that creates a public nuisance, e.g a junkyard or dumping ground. Etc.]*

~~The Republican Party believes in the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution: "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." We oppose any federal, state or local regulation that would diminish a property owner's right to develop his property.~~

ARTICLE X. STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS

~~The Idaho Republican Party believes that due to state and federal governments administering the majority of Idaho lands, we need to limit and reduce the amount of land owned or administered by the federal government. We believe Idaho should manage and administer all state and federal lands. [This is incoherent. Why change the administration, is this a dog-whistle to plunder the National Forests and sell off the wilderness to private interests? Not a good idea.]~~

ARTICLE XI. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes the value of wildlife resources for the state.

Section 1: We encourage the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to manage fish and wildlife to enhance fishing, hunting and hunting opportunities for Idahoans and the tourist industry, while respecting private property rights of landowners. *[Don't they do that now?]*

Section 2: We oppose federal designations which restrict or eliminate hunting, fishing, and recreational access to lands in Idaho. *[If we are unhappy with the federal process we should engage the political and administrative federal officials to negotiate these, and the general public should have input into the process, not just the Idaho officials.]*

Section 3: ~~We oppose the reintroduction of wolves and grizzlies into Idaho.~~ We support managed control of these predators through the Idaho Fish and Game Department. *[Is this dog-whistling for*

taking control away from the Feds? Why would we want to take on expensive costs to manage wild predators if the Feds do it now? If we don't like how the Feds are doing it, we should be bringing them to the table to discuss it, and involving the general public as well.]

ARTICLE XII. ECONOMY

The Idaho Republican Party believes that economic growth is the key to enhancing the quality of life our people so richly deserve. Fiscal responsibility in the form of balanced state and federal budgets is essential to achieve this goal. A competitive market, free of undue governmental competition, restriction, coercion, or interference, is critical to Idaho's economic well-being.

Section 1: Commerce and Industry

A. We encourage the broadening and strengthening of Idaho's commerce and industry, including but not limited to agriculture, timber, mining, manufacturing, processing, technology, tourism and other industries.

B. We encourage the responsible use of our natural resources to broaden and enhance Idaho's economy. We support innovative and responsible programs by industry to reduce pollution in every practical way. Government should intervene only where such efforts fail or must be supplemented by law.

C. We endorse *responsible and appropriate* economic development and expansion in Idaho and pledge to make every effort to provide a business climate that will attract such growth.

Section 2: Support for Small Business

A. We recognize the important role of small businesses in Idaho's economy and that we must maintain a regulatory environment where small business is allowed to thrive. ~~Excessive regulatory requirements must be reduced and eliminated.~~

B. We support a tax code that is simple, fair and equitable.

C. We support a business environment that promotes development and expansion of businesses in Idaho and eliminates all onerous repressive government regulation *while honoring and enforcing effective and necessary government regulations to protect the public, the workforce and the environment.* .

Section 3: Labor

A. We believe that both the employer and employee share a joint responsibility for maintaining a safe work environment without excessive regulation. *[We also understand that effective regulation and enforcement of workplace safety requirements are necessary to protect workers. We support unions and collective bargaining for adequate workforce compensation, conditions, procedures and safety.]*

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.~~ *[and support building partnerships with federal and private resources to enhance our training opportunities.]*

C. We believe that public employees should be hired, retained and promoted based on individual merit, and that they should be fairly and equitably compensated comparable to private industry, *and be given the opportunity for collective bargaining if they should collectively choose that.*

Section 4: Transportation

We believe transportation is an integral part of our commerce and industry, and it must meet the unique needs of Idaho. We believe transportation decisions and funds should be managed at the local and state level. *[What is this about? Are we unhappy taking federal funds to support interstate highways? This sounds either unnecessary or stupid.]*

ARTICLE XIII. HEALTH AND WELFARE *[This whole section is terrible, privatizing health care creates terrible and unequal care, and becomes vulnerable to private equity takeovers that diminish the quality of care to increase private profits at patients' peril.]*

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes the need for effective and accessible health care for all individuals. Regulations that forbid Idahoans from buying insurance across state lines should be eliminated.

~~Section 1: Private Enterprise Health Care Delivery System~~

~~We support a private enterprise health care delivery system that provides cost-effective, quality health care with minimal government regulation.~~

~~Section 2: Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act~~

~~A. We oppose socialized medicine and government mandated health insurance.~~

~~B. We support the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act in its entirety.~~

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

~~A. Conscience Clause—All persons and legal entities have the right of conscience and should be protected under Idaho law if they conscientiously object to participate in practices that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs. This includes, but is not limited to, abortion, the prescription for and dispensing of drugs with abortifacient potential, vaccination, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, euthanasia, assisted suicide, harmful futile procedures, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration.~~

~~B. We believe the primary responsibility for the health and welfare of our citizens resides with the individual and their families.~~

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~~Adopted June 15, 2024C. 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.~~

~~D. We support as supreme the authority of parents in all medical decisions for their children, including providers and treatments.~~

~~E. 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.~~

~~Section 4: Health Savings Accounts and Insurance~~

~~A. We believe that individual responsibility for health care should be encouraged through medical savings accounts and other viable free market alternatives.~~

~~B. We support the rights of individuals to select their health care and insurance provider.~~

C. We believe health and welfare programs should be administered with a minimum of bureaucracy and the goal of helping all recipients return to a self-sustaining and productive life.

Section 5: Child Support

We support enforcement of child support laws to assure the restoration of parental responsibility and the enhancement of financial security for children.

ARTICLE XIV. AMERICAN FAMILY

[This is all-out dog-whistle Christian Nationalism, putting a narrow and biased version of religious views onto everyone, regardless of their beliefs. It is reprehensible and illegal.]

The Idaho Republican Party believes that traditional family values are the foundation of our nation. Families, not government programs, are the best way to properly nurture and protect our children, care for our elderly, preserve and perpetuate our cultural and spiritual heritage, and assure that our traditional values are transmitted to the next generation. Many of the ills of society can be attributed to the breakdown of the family. We believe the traditional family to be the basic unit of society.

Section 1: Government's Role

A. We believe that state and federal social and fiscal programs should reinforce parental responsibility and authority, and not promote or reward the disintegration of the family.

B. We support a tax system that strengthens a family's economic ability to care for and support its members.

Section 2: Traditional Marriage

A. We call upon Idaho government officials and legislators to protect the traditional family and use all means possible to prevent expansion of the definition of marriage beyond that of a bond between one man and one woman. We recognize that the definition of marriage and its administration is not subject to Idaho Republican Party Platform

Adopted June 15, 2024 federal authority and that Idaho is authorized to nullify any federal congressional

act, federal mandate or court opinion that is contrary to traditional marriage.

B. We recognize traditional marriage without the issuance of a marriage license for those who for religious purposes object to the role of the state in licensing traditional marriage.

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. 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 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.~~

~~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.~~

ARTICLE XV. OLDER AMERICANS

Section 1: The Idaho Republican Party has always supported and will continue to support older Americans. The party will work to preserve and promote opportunities in America so that older Americans can provide for themselves. Those unable to care for themselves should have access to all services available in Idaho, whether city, county, state or federal.

Section 2: We oppose policies that penalize older Americans who continue to work.

ARTICLE XVI. LAW AND ORDER WITH JUSTICE

The Idaho Republican Party believes that individuals must be presumed innocent until proven guilty. After a person is convicted of a crime, however, we believe in swift and just punishment for the lawbreaker and timely payment of restitution to victims. Courts and the prosecutors should continue to recognize the substantial rights and interests of crime victims in the judicial process.

Section 1: Gun Rights

A. We support the right of the individual to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and article one section eleven of the Idaho State Constitution.

B. We commend efforts of organizations to preserve and foster that right, including Right-to-Carry laws.

[I find the sections crossed out here to be excessive, not constitutionally protected and undermining of genuine public safety.]

~~C. We believe the federal government should not regulate intrastate ammunition and firearms sales.~~

~~D. We believe in protection of the American firearms industry against harassing lawsuits that blame them for the acts of criminals.~~

~~E. We call for more enforcement of current laws against violent criminals, not more “gun control” aimed at law-abiding citizens.~~

~~F. We strongly oppose the United States entering into any international agreements or treaties which would undermine, limit or interfere with the individual right to own and bear arms and ammunition.~~

~~G. We find that the Congress violated the 2nd amendment’s protections in the 1986 Firearms’ Owners Protection Act when the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) interpreted the Hughes Amendment as a prohibition on the civilian possession of any fully automatic firearm manufactured after May 19, 1986.~~

Section 2: Death Penalty

~~A. We believe the death penalty is an appropriate consequence for the most heinous crimes, and that further reform should be made to the appellate process so the penalty can be carried out in a timely process.~~

Section 3: Drug Use

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Adopted June 15, 2024A. We recognize the dreadful consequences of drug and substance abuse in our society, and we call upon our national, state and local leaders to refocus efforts to discourage drug use and rehabilitate drug users. We encourage all Idaho citizens, and their religious, civic, and community organizations, to be actively engaged in this effort.

B. We support creative alternative sentencing, such as drug courts, and treatment for nonviolent drug offenders.

Section 4: Incarceration of Criminals

~~A. We recognize the enormous financial burden placed upon society by criminals.~~

~~Therefore, we support requiring inmates, to the extent they are capable, to perform labor or otherwise contribute to the cost of their incarceration. [This is slavery. If jails wish to provide work opportunities for inmates to gain skills or earn payment, they should be allowed to do so, provided the inmates are not forced or denied services or privileges if they decline to participate.] On no account should inmate labor be leased or otherwise transferred to private work. Private, for-profit prisons or other penal arrangements should be illegal.]~~

B. We support programming and education in the corrections system to rehabilitate offenders.

Section 5: Juvenile Justice

A. We support accountability for and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

B. We support dealing with youthful offenders early to reduce future impact to the welfare and correction systems.

Section 6: State Sovereignty *[dog-whistle for constitutionalists, we do not need to keep and arm forces to defend against foreign contries, the US federal government does that, and we can trust them to protect us, especially against the viscious Canadians so near on our northern border.*

~~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.~~

ARTICLE XVII. NATIONAL DEFENSE – SECURING THE BORDER

[This is MAGA propaganda nonsense, delete this entire section.]

~~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. We strongly support the Idaho National Guard under the command of Idaho’s governor.~~

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 of protecting Idaho and the nation. We recognize and value the economic contribution that the base makes to our State.

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.

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.”

[More MAGA dog-whistle nonsense, strike it out]

~~Securing 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 I 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.~~

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~~Adopted June 15, 2024 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.~~

~~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.~~

~~Section 7: Command of Forces~~

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

~~Section 8: Non-Interventionism *[I support this section]*~~

~~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.~~

~~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.

ARTICLE XVIII. ELECTION OF JUDGES AND IDAHO SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

The Idaho Republican Party opposes any attempt to undermine the constitutional rights of the people to select judges and justices in an open and competitive election process.

~~We support the election of judges in a partisan election process.~~ *[Judges should not be partisan, they should be objective and grounded in the law, which is not partisan as it applies equally to all.]*

[below is explicit constitutionalism, strike it out, because it refuses to acknowledge that times have changed from the past, so whatever statutory terms meant in the past is no longer relevant to their contemporary meaning, significance and interpretation. Science, knowledge, culture and human relations have advanced since the Constitution was signed, and it is unwise to demand that we be bound to a past that has been long gone beyond.]

~~We oppose any interpretation of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Idaho that is not rooted in principles of textualism and originalism. We emphatically affirm that judges have a “duty to interpret statutory terms to ‘mean what they conveyed to reasonable people at the time they were written.’” (Bostock v. Clayton County, 590 U.S. ____ (2020) (Alito, J., dissenting))~~

ARTICLE XIX. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Idaho Republican Party believes religious freedom is a fundamental human right and essential for any society or community to flourish, we oppose any efforts, state or federal, legislative, executive, or judicial, to limit the “free exercise of religion” by its citizens at home, their place of employment, or venues otherwise publicly available.

We oppose any efforts by the Congress of the United States to limit the scope or applicability of the bipartisan Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

[We also oppose imposing religious beliefs or their consequences or implications onto others, particularly in matters of law, as this imposition itself would restrict the others’ freedom of religion.]

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