

IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

PREAMBLE

WE ARE REPUBLICANS BECAUSE:

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.

We believe we are inheritors of a distinct Western Civilization and that our traditional culture safeguards our identity as a free people.

We believe in American Exceptionalism.

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

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.

We believe in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.

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.

We believe free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this Nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

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

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.

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.

We believe Idahoans must protect the principles and values that have made us strong.

We believe Idahoans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to promote peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

We believe the protection of individual rights is upheld when personal responsibility for behavior is exercised.

We believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

I am a Republican because the PREAMBLE to the Idaho Republican Party Platform correctly and succinctly reflects who I am as a Republican.

Areas of disagreement with the platform.

ARTICLE I. RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Fiscal Responsibility

B We believe Social Security must be stabilized, diversified, and privatized to allow expansion of individual retirement options.

OPPOSITION (for now)

Any transition to a private system must overcome major financial hurdles. Social Security has accumulated trillions of dollars in liabilities to workers who are already retired or who will retire soon. To make room for a new private system, policymakers must find funds to pay for these liabilities while still leaving young workers enough money to deposit in new private accounts. This requires scaling back past liabilities – by cutting benefits – or increasing contributions from current workers. Most large-scale privatization plans also involve major new federal borrowing. Additionally, the cost in private accounts by way of commissions and fees would lessen the proposed upside gain. Consequently, if a balanced budget amendment becomes part of the constitution, it would torpedo any attempt to replace most of Social Security with a private retirement system. A thoughtful well thought out, bi-partisan approach and not caving to special interests and wall street might work. We'll have to see.

Section 2. Taxation

We support the repeal of the 16th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

OPPOSITION

Much of our taxes pay for numerous departments and agencies whose powers are not delegated to the Federal Government anywhere in the U.S. Constitution. They include but are not limited to The Federal Reserve (Regulating banking) Department of Agriculture, The Department of Education, The Social Security Administration (Regulating income), Department of Health and Human Services (Regulating health), CDC (Regulating Health), FDA (Regulating food and drugs) etc. Abolish them, introduce tax cuts to the middle class and our taxes will be dramatically lower, and the economy will boom. Better to introduce and pass a balanced budget amendment. Stop the spending our money like drunken sailors on leave in Singapore.

Section 5. State Legislature

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.~~

STRIKE

“ affirm the right of voters to vote for the candidate of their choice ”

so long as the choice is one the Idaho Republican Party agrees with, or to be more to the point, the BCRCC

OPPOSITION

Term limits are supported by large majorities of most American demographic groups; they are opposed primarily by incumbent politicians and the special interest groups which depend on them. Term limits would ameliorate many of America's most serious political problems by counterbalancing incumbent advantages, ensuring congressional turnover, securing independent congressional judgment, and reducing election-related incentives for wasteful government spending. Perhaps most important, Congress would acquire a sense of its own fragility and temporariness, possibly even coming to learn that it would acquire more legitimacy as an institution by doing better work on fewer tasks.

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.

G. We believe the Legislature should present amendments to the people with the ballot language identical to the language of the amendment.

OPPOSITION:

Strike C thru D, IF THE POLITICAL TIDE TURNS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL BE THE FIRST TO SEEK CHANGE REGARDING THIS.

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT

~~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.~~

STRIKE

ALTHOUGH I AM IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH ARTICLE II, WE ARE JUDGED BY WHAT WE DO, NOT WHAT WE SAY WE STAND FOR.

ARTICLE III. 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.

AMEND; strike accountable

Why must only public education be accountable? All schooling should be accountable. Education should teach our children foundational skills such as to think logically, read critically, and communicate confidently and articulately. Math, grammar, and logic accomplish this.

ARTICLE VI. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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.

AMEND

Strike mining for section 6. It is inconsistent with the spirit of the section.

ARTICLE XVI. LAW AND ORDER WITH JUSTICE

Section 3: Drug Use

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

AMEND:

The selling and or distribution of drugs is considered by present law as a non-violent drug offense. The countless lives that have been destroyed is as violent and obscene as any capital offense. It should be reconsidered and identified in another section.

Signed this day Tuesday October 22, 2024

Tommy "Butch" Horton