

While I am in the high 90% agreement, I do have a few comments that I think warrant consideration with to the current platform.

- 1) In the preamble and Section 1. Fiscal Responsibility, the platform talks about limiting government to constitutionally specified functions. This creates an issue for a number of traditional society needs like fire, police, roads etc.
- 2) In Section 2. Taxation, the platform calls for the repeal of the 16th amendment. While a fiscal responsible government is needed and does not currently exist, repealing the 16th amendment and eliminating income tax is simply not practical.
- 3) In Section 3. Reform of Congress the platform calls for the repeal of the 17th amendment. Direct election of U.S. Senators allows the voters voice to determine who represents Idaho in Washington. I am a strong believer in the voter's voice and support continued direct election of U.S. Senators.
- 4) In Section 4. Sound Currency the platform calls for gold, silver, or other stores of value to back our currency. While a fiscally responsible government should not be printing unlimited currency, rolling back to a gold or silver standard is not a practical path forward at this point and would result in chaos.
- 5) In Section 5. State Legislature, the platform opposes imposition of term limits in Idaho. While I agree experienced representatives become more effective there is a practical limit, and some sort of term limits needs to be considered to eliminate career politicians whose only goal is to stay in power.
- 6) In Article II Citizen Involvement in Government, section 3 opposes open primaries and Section 4 opposes ranked choice voting (and other iterations). Proposition 1 is on the ballot this November. While I understand why the party is in opposition, this is a valid citizens initiative that was properly placed on the ballot for voter consideration (in spite of numerous attempts by the attorney general to get it off). As I have stated elsewhere, I am a strong believer in listening to the votes voice, it's time to let the voter speak.
- 7) In Article III Education, Section 6, the platform states it is opposed to taxpayer funding beyond high school. Idaho has a real challenge with keeping its residents in state throughout their adulthood. A big part of this is due to early career wage earners being forced to leave the state to make a living. Having in state college options for early adults will help retain our Idaho families and provide programs that can shape and supply needed skill sets for Idahoans. Restricting tax dollars beyond high school is short sighted. This shows up again in Article XII. Economy, Section 3: Labor B.
- 8) Article XIII. Health and Welfare, Section 2, the platform calls for the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act in its Entirety. While I agree an overhaul is warranted, I do not believe a complete repeal is an appropriate solution to our health care issues.
- 9) Article XIV. American Family, Section 3: Right to Life, the platform calls for criminalization of all murders by abortion within the state's jurisdiction. While I agree and truly believe in the role of God in the creation of life, that life begins at conception, and the need for society to respect and preserve the sanctity of life; the criminalization text has resulted in a loss of doctors in the state of Idaho. Doctors who have provided care to both mothers and children at a critical time of development and childbirth. I would like to see that particular section of text be evaluated and adjusted to preserve our mothers and children's access to health care givers.

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