

To: Idaho Republican Party,  
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Boise, ID 83702

From: Shauna Hillman, Candidate, House Dist. 7A  
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As a lifelong Republican, I cherish GOP values, especially as they uphold the Constitution of the United States, the State of Idaho and the rights and liberties of the People. As a life-long Idahoan and realist who has spent her 59 years in farming, mining and timber country, I hereby amend my blanket endorsement of the current Idaho GOP party platform.

One of the first things that happen when you declare for public office the first time is, you receive dozens of questionnaires asking for a quick turnaround requiring hasty answers, including this one. I apologize for not giving some of the questions posed more consideration. I work for a living and I will try not make this neophyte's mistake again.

I support the platform's preamble in general, but upon further consideration I disagree with the lack of distinction drawn between what this state party platform would like our Federal Government and U.S. Supreme Court to do, versus what can legitimately be accomplished by the Idaho Legislature as desired by the constituents of House District 7A. If we want to "take our state back" from an overbearing Federal Government, let's start with a conversation about issues we can affect and come up with solutions instead of slogans.

However abhorrent we find abortion, Idaho alone cannot repeal Roe v. Wade. Nor can Idahoans single-handedly repair Social Security or repeal the Great Society of the LBJ era. We have elected Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, and Congressmen Mike Simpson and Raul Labrador to capably represent us in these matters, and I commend Gov. Butch Otter and others for returning "federal" lands back to state control whenever Idaho can. And, it's important for us to provide our federal leaders with input from the legislature.

Repeal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment (another thing Idaho cannot accomplish on its own), while an interesting concept, begs historical context. The selection of U.S. Senators by State Legislatures had become so corrupted that it was decided in 1913 by the People that they could be better represented with direct elections. Repeal of the 17th is a popular Tea Party idea but shouldn't we be more concerned with how we can encourage more people to become involved in their government rather than limiting their participation?

As a resident of Shoshone County, I feel the platform does not directly address the many issues faced by our mining industry an industry that historically has been a major source of revenue for Shoshone County and Idaho. Perhaps the drafters of the platform are unaware that Idaho has a viable and vital mining industry with many specific state-level issues.

Lastly, as a Republican, I am opposed to any effort to limit the Peoples' right to vote and participate in our entire political and electoral processes. And, I strongly oppose litmus tests from special interest groups seeking 100% agreement on every issue.

I believe military men and women serving our country were not allowed to vote in the Republican Presidential Primary in Idaho in 2012 unless they were present and physically able to attend the caucus. Men and women in uniform protect our freedom so that we may have free elections and we must protect their right to participate as well.

With these qualifications, and with the promise of comity and conversation instead of rigidity, I endorse the Republican Party preamble.

s/s/Shaulna Hillman

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