

Idaho Republican State Convention

Proposed Rule Changes

June 13th, 2014



2014 Rules Committee

Co-Chair: Sen. Steve Vick

Co-Chair: Ron Nate

Secretary: Julie Yamamoto

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Proposed Rule Change 2014 – P1

Proposed Rule Addition to: RULES OF THE CONVENTION, Article III: Preparations for State Convention

Submitted by Elaine King, Madison County

Section 1A

State conventions shall be held no sooner than 30 days after the Primary Election.

Section 1B

Locations for state conventions shall be rotated among districts such that no district hosts a convention more than once in four years, or more than once in six years if the district also is host to a state central committee meeting during that time.

Proposed Rule Change 2014 – P2

Proposed Rule Addition to: RULES OF THE IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY, Article IX: Central Committee Endorsement and Republican Party Registration Required to Vote in a Republican Primary Election

Submitted by Dan Cravens, Bingham County

It is proposed that Article IX: Section 4 of the Idaho State Republican Party's Rule, which reads: *"Only persons who have registered as Republican prior to the Primary Election will be allowed to vote on an Idaho Republican Party ballot in that Primary Election"* be deleted and replaced with the following language:

"Only persons who are willing to publically declare, and have recorded on their voting record, the desire to vote in the Republican Primary or Presidential Caucus will be allowed to participate. "

Background and Rational:

The intention of the drafters of Article IX: Section 4 of the Idaho Republican Party State Rules was to eliminate the participation of members of other political party's into the candidate selection progress of the Republican Party here in Idaho. Despite the passage of Article IX: Section 4 individuals closely associated with other political parties in the state are continuing to participate in Idaho Republican Primaries.

It is unlikely that any measure that is passed by the Republican State Convention could eliminate totally the phenomenon of cross over voting in the primary election.

However, there has been an unfortunate effect due to Article IX: Section 4. In several of the counties and legislative districts in Idaho there is no other candidate on the ballot than the Republican nominee. Many voters in counties where the Republican Party is dominant feel disenfranchised.

As written presently Article IX: Section 4 eliminates the ability of voters not affiliated with any political party are prohibited from participating in Republican Primary's unless they registered as a Republican prior to the day of that election. While non-affiliated voters were allowed to participate as a matter of practice in the past 2014 primary if they registered as Republicans on the day of the election, there is no guarantee that this will continue to be allowed as Article IX: Section 4 is currently written.

Many voters who are not affiliated with the Republican Party, but share many of the views of the party, are expressing resentment and outrage due to their exclusion from the political process. The net effect of this outrage will likely lead to: an increase in successful Independent, Democratic, and third-party candidates challenging Republican nominees in the general election.

A system where ballot preference had to be expressed, and recorded, would have the same positive effect as requiring voters to formally register as Republicans before the election in order to vote in this party's primary. Similar primary voting systems are used in other states with the effect of eliminating to a large degree cross-over voting from members of other parties while allowing conservative leaning independents to participate in primary elections.

The current system of requiring registration has served to alienate voters from the Republican Party and its candidates. The current system of primary voting needs to be overhauled so that the party and its candidates can continue to enjoy the broad support of the electorate at large.

Proposed: Dan Cravens, Chairman – Bingham County Republican Central Committee and Delegate to the State Convention (Approved and Sponsored unanimously by the Bingham County Republican Central Committee and the District 31 Legislative Central Committee on May 29th, 2014)