

Idaho Republican Party State Convention

Proposed Platform Changes

Friday, June 13th



2014 Platform Committee

Co-Chair: Sen. Bob Nonini

Co-Chair: Viki Purdy

Secretary: Cathyanne Nonini

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Platform 2014-P1

Various Articles

Submitted by Sen. Jeff Siddoway, LD 35

See Appendix A

Platform 2014-P2

Article I, Section C-3

Submitted by Dan Cravens, Bingham County

It is proposed that Section 3-C be deleted from the 2014 Idaho Republican Platform.

The section being considered for deletion reads as follows: “We support restoration of the United States Constitution’s checks and balances that protect the rights and sovereignty of the states by repealing the 17th amendment.”

Background and Rational:

The Seventeenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides that the voters in each state are able to directly elect their state’s delegation to the U.S. Senate. If the Seventeenth Amendment were to be repealed our U.S. Senators from Idaho would be selected by the Idaho State Legislature thus removing for the voters the opportunity to re-elect Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch.

The need for the direct election of U.S. Senators by the voters became clear during the turn of the last century. In 1899 William Clark was selected by the Montana State Legislature to serve as a U.S. Senator. However, Clark was later discovered to have bought the votes of several Montana state legislators in order to gain his U.S. Senate seat.

The system of the selection of Senators before the Seventeenth Amendment promoted the culture of political appointments being made in secret, and promoted the appearance, if not reality that seats in the U.S. Senate could be bought and sold by the powerbrokers of the land. The Seventeenth Amendment promotes openness and fairness in the selection of U.S. Senators.

A second problem which occurred due to the selection of Senators by state legislatures was the issue of deadlocks. In several cases one house of the state legislature would select an individual to serve as senator, and the other chamber a different individual. The result was often a long stalemate between to the two-houses of the state legislature, which caused several states’ U.S. Senate seat to go unfilled for years.

The adoption of the language advocating the repeal of the Seventeenth Amendment has placed a burden on Republican candidates throughout Idaho. Candidates that agree to accept the tenants of the Idaho Republican Platform are forced to accept and defend the notion that the voters of Idaho, or any other state, should not have the right to elect their U.S. Senators.

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)

Platform 2014-P3

Article 2, Sec. 12 (new)

Submitted by Sean Borzea, Ada County- Alternate

We believe that quality education provides the underpinnings for a free society. As such, we regard any attempts to control Idaho's education by any entity, including cooperative schemes, as detrimental to Idaho's education.

Platform 2014-P4

New Section

Submitted by Sean Borzea, Ada County- Alternate

Another new section to be added somewhere:

We declare that the 4th Amendment as specified in the U.S. Constitution applies to all modern forms of communication, including email, telephone, and other forms of electronic and non-electronic communication, declaring that: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated..." Therefore, no government agency has been delegated any authority to spy en mass or on a targeted basis on the citizens of the State of Idaho.

Platform 2014-P5

Article I, Various Sections

Submitted by Mary Adler, LD 7

Article I, Sec. 1

Revision/replace with – We believe that parents are best suited to train their children in the early development and oppose mandatory preschool. We urge Congress to repeal government sponsored programs that deal with early childhood development.

Article I, Sec. 4

Revise - We support efforts to improve our public school system with the use of proven and time tested methods. We recognize more government spending and involvement does not necessarily generate improved schools.

Article I, Sec. 8

Revise to include – “and increased accountability “to the parents and taxpayers” from our public school system.

Article I, Sec. 12

Addition – We support local control of public schools through cooperative collaboration between local school boards and parent. We oppose all federal control or influence within the Idaho Public School system. We support Parental rights to have full access to all information reaching their child.

Article I, Sec. 13

Addition – We support the privacy of the student and family and believe full disclosure of all data collected, for whatever purpose, should be made available to the parents and require a signature of parental consent.

Platform 2014-P6

Article VI

Submitted by Evalyn Bennett, Lemhi County

The Idaho Republican Party asserts that God created the natural resources within our state's borders and has entrusted the stewardship of those lands to the citizens of Idaho.

Where those lands are privately owned, the Constitutions of the United States and of Idaho require fair compensation to private property owners for land taken from them by government for a public purpose (eminent domain). We believe these constitutional mandates must be strictly observed.

In order to protect state sovereignty and national security, public lands (state or federally managed) within Idaho shall not be disposed of to foreign corporations or nations.

The Idaho Republican Party supports the action of the American Lands Council and the 2014 resolutions of the Idaho legislature to acquire state ownership and management of federal lands within Idaho's borders. Those federal lands should be relinquished to the State of Idaho so her citizens can manage and benefit from those resources. The Idaho Republican Party disagrees that Congress, through the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, had the right to enact a policy to retain these lands in federal ownership.

Multiple use resource management practices may be appropriate on some acres of state- or federally-managed lands. But in some instances, it may be most beneficial to the people of the State for some acres of those lands to be managed for specific, single purposes.

The Idaho Republican Party believes that citizens have the fundamental right to use their own property in the manner of their choice, free of unreasonable governmental regulation and taxation. If a government agency attempts to restrict the owner's use of his property, the matter is adjudicated, and the property owner prevails in court, the losing governmental agency should be required to pay the legal expenses of the prevailing property owner.

We oppose Federal road closure actions that limit public access to National Forests within Idaho.