

Idaho Republican Party State Central Committee Submitted Proposed Resolutions

Summer State Central Committee Meeting

June 5 - 6, 2015



2015 Resolutions Committee Members

Idaho Republican Party Chairman: Steve Yates

Resolutions Chair: Steve Millington

Vice Chair: Tyler Hurst

Secretary: Lyndel Anderson

Region 1: Linda Yergler
Carol Rust

Region 2: Madeline McComas
Mark Jennings (substituted by
Marge Arzen)

Region 3: Christy Zito
Sid Freeman

Region 4: Rob McQuade
Joan Callahan

Region 5: Mark Peterson
Justin Baldwin

Region 6: Ann Wheeler
Jeff Hollinsworth

Region 7: Lynda Skujins
Dorothy Moon

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Resolution 2015-P18

A Resolution Supporting Updating the Existing Sunshine Law Concerning the Reporting of Financial Contributions and Expenditures to Political Organizations in the State of Idaho

Submitted by Elaine King, Legislative District 34 Chair; Steve McGary, Madison County Chair; Marsha Bjornn, State Committeewoman; Ron Nate, State Committeeman; Charles Horikami, State Youthperson

WHEREAS, the current Sunshine Law Title 67 Chapter 66 Items 02, 10 and 12 (see references below) originating in 1974 requires reporting by political committees (whose expenditures exceed \$5000 in a calendar year) all individual annual contributions exceeding \$50 and all individual expenditures exceeding \$25; and

WHEREAS, the economy since 1974 has changed dramatically and itemizing all expenditures of \$25 and every donation/contribution exceeding \$50.00 in a calendar year are insignificant amounts today; and

WHEREAS, the 1974 stated amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$5000 according to the inflation calculator today and the U.S. CPI data, would be equal to an average of \$130, \$300, and \$30,000 respectively today; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer treasurers must report all said contributions and expenditures using figures generated over 30 years ago;

WHEREAS, the 2015 Idaho Legislature passed House Bill 155 amending the 1979 civil penalty amounts from \$50 to \$500 and from \$500 to \$2500 to adjust for inflation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we propose that Title 67-6602, 67-6610, and 67-6612 of the Idaho Sunshine Law be amended to more closely reflect today's values recognizing counties, districts and regional committees as political committees if their annual expenditures exceed \$20,000; reporting all individual annual donations/contributions exceeding \$200, and all expenditures exceeding \$100.

Resolution 2015-P19

A Resolution in Support of Proposed 'Pay to Play' Rules Change

Submitted by Doyle Beck, Bonneville County Chairman

WHEREAS, the Idaho Republican Party provides state wide coordination of Republican election activities, statement of Republican Principles through the Platform, represents the State of Idaho at the National Republican Party and provides general election coordination through the state of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the proper funding of the Idaho Republican Party is essential for it to properly carry out its duties; and

WHEREAS, there has been a long standing tradition of local county financial support to the Idaho Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, some counties have failed to provide their fair share of that support; and

WHEREAS, the lack of existing written rules and direction leads to confusion and misunderstanding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bonneville County Republican Central Committee hereby strongly endorses the proposed 'Pay to Play', Article 1, Sections 4 and 13 rules change to the Idaho Republican Party, which are attached.

Resolution 2015-P20

A Resolution Supporting Bible Use in Idaho Public Schools

Submitted by Marge Arnzen, Idaho County Chairman

WHEREAS, the Idaho Constitution Preamble states: "We, the people of the State of Idaho, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom to secure its blessings and promote our common welfare do establish this Constitution"; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Republican Platform states: "We believe the strength of our nation lies with our faith and reliance on God our Creator, the individual and the family..."; "We believe the U.S. Constitution is the greatest and most inspired document to govern a nation..."; and "We believe Idahoans must protect the principles and values that have made us strong"; and

WHEREAS, in 1782, the U.S. Congress voted this resolution: "The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools," and authorized a loan of money to help the printing and distribution of 10,000 copies to be made available to the public primarily for public schools; and

WHEREAS, the use of the Bible for literary and historic value is consistent with the 1st amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1963 case of Abington School District v. Schempp declared that the Bible is worth studying for its literary qualities and its influence on history; and

WHEREAS, the broader based exposure to Biblical literature and history enhances cultural literacy of the individual, and in 1980, the Supreme Court ruling of Stone v. Braham stated that "the Bible can constitutionally be used in an appropriate study of history, civilization, ethics, comparative religion, or the like," and

WHEREAS, the Bible can be utilized in public schools in a non-religious, non-sectarian, and non-denominational manner to inform the study of secular disciplines, consistent with the provisions of the Idaho Constitution, Article 9, Section 6 and Idaho Code 33-1603; and

WHEREAS, Idaho public schools shall not infringe upon students', teachers', staff members', and administrators' freedom of speech, as guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and the Idaho Constitution, Article 1, Section 9;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Idaho County Central Committee encourages the Idaho legislature to draft and support a bill stating that the Bible is expressly permitted to be used in Idaho public schools for reference purposes to further the study of literature, comparative religion, English and foreign languages, U.S. and world history, comparative government, law, philosophy, ethics, astronomy, biology, geology, world geography, archaeology, music, sociology, and other topics of study where an understanding of the Bible may be useful or relevant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Idaho County Republican Central Committee encourages our Idaho legislators to support a bill stating that public schools may offer elective study courses of the Bible for any of the secular discipline study purposes stated above if students, parents, and/or school district electors request such a course within their respective district.

Resolution 2015-P21

A Resolution Supporting Ending the Closed Primary

Submitted by Dennis Turner, Bear Lake County Chair

WHEREAS, the Idaho Republican Party encourages people to come out and vote by having excellent candidates on the ballot, and

WHEREAS, many conservative and republican leaning voters are being discouraged from voting by being asked to sign in as a republican to vote in the primary election, and

WHEREAS, these voters do not want to be affiliated with any one party, and

WHEREAS, primary voter participation in Bear Lake County has dropped from 64% to 29% in the primary election since the closed primary statute was adopted.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the closed primary for Idaho Republicans be dropped and the open primary be reestablished.

Resolution 2015-P22

A Resolution Supporting Top-Two Primary System for the State of Idaho

Submitted by Stephanie Mickelson, Legislative District 30 Chair

WHEREAS, the recent shift of the Idaho Republican Party to close primary elections has not had any noticeable effect on protecting the primary from other political parties, but has instead reduced overall voter participation by excluding all individuals who choose not to or cannot affiliate with a party; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the primary election in Idaho should be to encourage full electoral participation and enfranchisement, in an effort to allow the Idaho people to elect the best candidates for each position; and

WHEREAS, the primary election should be for the people and not the parties to make their electoral decisions about who is best to serve; and

WHEREAS, a “top-two” primary system in Idaho will allow all candidates, regardless of party, to run against each other in a primary election, with the top two vote-getters moving on to the General Election; and

WHEREAS, the top-two system will encourage the greatest facilitation of thoughts, ideas and debate in a primary election, because it will force every candidate to try for every single vote, regardless of political ideology; and

WHEREAS, the top-two system will bring to the General Election the best two candidates for each elected position, making the General Election much more attractive to all voters, thereby increasing voter participation and bringing a more vibrant and active debate of ideas; and

WHEREAS, the top-two system will dull the increasing problematic pattern of hyper-partisanship in government, and will make ideas more important than political party affiliation in Idaho's elections; and

WHEREAS, the top-two system will not, as is feared by some, do away with political parties, as all candidates will still be able to choose to associate with a particular party, and parties will still be able to show their support for their favorite candidates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the official position of the Idaho Republican Party to eliminate the closed primary system and instead support a platform position which supports a top-two primary election system in the State of Idaho; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Legislature is directed and encouraged to amend Idaho Code, Title 34, Chapter 9, to repeal the closed primary and enact a top-two primary system in the State of Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Secretary of State is directed and encouraged to enact rules in the State of Idaho governing the operation of a top-two primary election system in the State of Idaho.

Resolution 2015-P23

A Resolution Supporting an Investigation of the USFS

Submitted by Del Rust, Legislative District 5 Chair; Dick Harwood, Benewah County Chairman; Carole Rust, State Committeewoman; Judd Wilson, Youth Committee Person; Thomas Lawford, Latah County Chairman; Paul Agidius, State Committeeman; Madeline McComas, State Committeewoman; John Freeland, Youth Committee Person; Neil Oliver Kootenai County Chairman; Cornel Rasor, Legislative District 7 Chair; Chuck Reitz, Shoshone County Vice Chairman

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service has recently shown an indifference to comply with Federal Statutes (law) in its revision of the Forest Management Plan for the Panhandle National Forest in North Idaho; and

WHEREAS, those Federal Statutes requires the following:

1. USFS must keep apprised of local land use plans;
2. UFSF must assure consideration is given to local plans when federal plans are being developed;
3. USFS must attempt to resolve inconsistencies between federal and state local plans;
4. USFS must provide "meaningful... involvement" of local government in the development and revision of plans, guidelines and regulations;
5. The Secretary of Agriculture must, finally compare local and federal plans and make sure they are consistent "to the maximum extent... consistent with federal law"; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Panhandle County Commissioners have notified the USFS to coordinate with them to resolve the negative impact of the management plan on the local economy, culture, environment, education, recreation and safety; and

WHEREAS, the USFS neglected to give prior notice to the local governments, counties in this case, the counties had no opportunity for input or check for inconsistencies in the planning process; and

WHEREAS, when the County Commissioners objected to the draft plan moving to the final plan without their coordination; and

WHEREAS, the USFS responded that the Response to Objections is final and that consistency between Forest Service plans or projects and state/county laws and ordinances is not always going to be possible given our mandate by Congress to manage National Forest System lands for the benefit of the citizens of the United States, nor is it required unless specifically provided for by law; and

WHEREAS, at a meeting hosted by one County's Board of Commissioners, the USFS forester for Region One admitted that she did not know if the county's economy was dependent upon timber; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Forester said that the Forest Service "don't have to make decisions to meet your plan"; and

WHEREAS, the law requires that the USFS must comply with Local, County, District and State Regulations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Republican Party strongly urge our Republican Congressional delegation to call for an investigation of USFS actions to determine if they are disregarding the intent of Congressional statutes or if they need more specific guidelines in being consistent with local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor assert their authority and take all necessary measures necessary to protect the citizens and counties of Idaho from federal agency overreach and/or neglect.

Resolution 2015-P24

A Resolution Supporting Exemption of Idaho State Income Tax on Military Retired Pay

Submitted by Jeff Howard, Adams County Chairman

WHEREAS, There are currently 13 States that do not tax Military Retired Pay (Alabama, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin); and

WHEREAS, Idaho currently has only 3% of the National Military Retiree Population; and

WHEREAS, In the State of Idaho, retirement benefits to a retired military member 65 or older, or disabled and age 62 or older are deductible from State Income Tax; and

WHEREAS, The average age of a Military Retiree is 42 years old and has at least 20 more productive years to benefit the community and economy; and

WHEREAS, Upon retirement, quality of life and taxes are major factors as to retirement location; and

WHEREAS, Most military retirees are college educated, and provide a trained and motivated workforce, some who will become entrepreneurs, small business owners and educators. They are solid citizens who have a history of service to their country that will translate into service within their communities; and

WHEREAS, Average Military Retirement Pay based upon 2015 data is \$24,556.00 annually. 2010 Census Data indicates there were 12,967 Military Retirees residing in the State of Idaho. Based upon these numbers this equates to over \$318,000,000 annually into the economy of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Upon retirement Military Retirees bring with them the GI Bill and VA Vocational Rehab Training dollars, those dollars would go directly into Idaho's Educational Institutions. Additionally, the Post 9-11 GI Bill also allows the spouse and children to utilize the retirees unused Educational Benefits; and

WHEREAS, Military Retirees bring their own Health Care through the TRICARE Health Care Program and will not depend upon any State Health Care programs or funding. A percentage will also utilize VA Health Care Facilities, which will translate into additional funding and jobs at Idaho and VA Health Facilities; and

WHEREAS, 2013 Federal Veterans Administration Dollars to the State of Idaho economy thru Disability Payments, Pensions (non-Military Retirement) Educational Benefits and VA facility funding was \$675,229,000;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Republican Party support Legislation that would Exempt Idaho State Income Tax on Military Retired Pay.