

United We Stand

by IFRR President, Jeff Ward



I think everyone who attended the Kootenai County Republican Party Legislative Town Hall Meeting this past Saturday at the Coeur d'Alene Library came to the same conclusion I did. The Republican Party in Kootenai County has never been more unified and willing to fight together as allies. The reason: opposition to the implementation of Obamacare in Idaho through a state healthcare exchange. Although it is disappointing that some of our legislators have yet to see the state exchange as the unilateral surrender to Obamacare that it is, there is no doubt the vast (almost uniform) majority of rank-and-file Republicans in our county intently and vocally oppose the measure.

After years of family squabbles Republicans have put away petty divisions and come together in opposition to this unprecedented federal intrusion into the lives of the people of Idaho. This unity has put to bed many electoral rivalries of the past. Rep. Ron Mendive and his primary rival Jeff Tyler both stand against a state exchange, as do Rep. Vito Barbieri and his 2012 challenger Mark Fisher. Even 2010 rivals for U.S. Congress, Rep. Raul Labrador and Vaughn Ward are actively opposing the creation of a state exchange. The sight at the Town Hall of many members of United Conservatives and Rally Right joining Reagan Republicans holding signs that said "No State Exchange" should demonstrate that Republicans are unified and resolute in our opposition.

Reagan Republicans have pledged to stand with and support the Republican Party and all Republican groups who are joining us in this fight. The KCRR Board has passed a strong resolution to our Governor and our Legislators against the state exchange as has the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee and the Idaho Republican Central Committee. We were honored that the Kootenai County Republican Chairman spoke to KCRR last week and that State Committeewoman Ruthie Johnson and State Committeeman Bjorn Handeen attended. We will continue to ally with them in this fight and work to continue to build a stronger and more effective Party.

It is a critical time for our nation. Our Constitution and our liberty are at risk. Republicans cannot afford to shirk from our principals or refuse to fight together against a very real threat. The first pillar of the Reagan Republican PACT is "Party Building." Let us band together and fight, not on just this issue but for all the common principles we share. Let us gather as Republicans March 8 at the Kootenai County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner to show our community our steadfast unity. Let us work together to elect conservative candidates in the May taxing district elections and the November municipal elections. Let us prove the press, the liberals and the Democrats wrong and finally create that strong and unified "New Republican Party" that Ronald Reagan envisioned so many years ago.