

TITLE: NATIONAL DEFENSE – SECURING THE BORDER

Platform Amendment #: 2024-17

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ARTICLE XVII. NATIONAL DEFENSE – SECURING THE BORDER

The Idaho Republican Party believes in peace through strength and that having and keeping the strongest military in the world is essential to preserving our liberties. We believe we should never sacrifice liberty for security and oppose any limitations or incursions on the constitutional freedoms, rights, and liberties of American citizens.

Section 1: Veterans

We believe that America owes her continued freedom to the service of military veterans. We reinforce our commitment to providing for their needs and honoring them with the highest degree of respect and appreciation.

Section 2: National Missile Defense

We support an effective National Missile Defense System to protect American citizens. We oppose efforts to re-enter the ABM Treaty or any other treaty restricting America’s ability to protect itself from attack.

Section 3: Mountain Home Air Force Base

We support the Mountain Home Air Force Base in its vital mission ~~in~~ of protecting Idaho and the nation. We recognize and value the economic contribution that the base makes to our State.

Insert new Section 4

Section 4: Idaho Army and Air National Guard

The Governor is the Commander-In-Chief of the Idaho National Guard and is responsible for protecting the safety of Idaho residents by maintaining the Guard's readiness and ability to deploy. The Governor is also responsible for the Guardsmen who volunteer to serve the State of Idaho.

Beyond readiness and training, Federal use of the National Guard should be for the purposes identified in the Constitution: to enforce the laws of the union, to put down an insurrection, and to repel an invasion.

The Idaho Army and Air National Guard should only be deployed for active combat operations outside the United States with authority from Title 10 USC after Congress has exercised its enumerated power “to declare war.”

We oppose any attempt to transfer Idaho National Guard elements to the Space Force, the

Reserves, or any other state without regard to our Governor's authority. We call on the Congressmen and Senators from the State of Idaho to defend our Idaho National Guard elements, equipment, personnel, units, and funding from the federal government's overreach or any punitive actions for honoring, obeying, and sustaining the law.

Re-number Section 4 to 5

Section 5: Securing the Border

The Constitution of the United States guarantees to every State in this Union "a Republican form of government and shall protect each of them against invasion." We believe that sSecuring the national border must be a top priority for our country. We support the construction of a border wall along the entire southern border of the United States.

When the federal government fails to protect the natural rights of life, liberty, and property of Idaho citizens, the State must intervene. To this end, the US Constitution (Article 1 Section 10 Clause 3 "State Self Defense Clause", and Article IV Section 4 "Guarantee Clause") allows for the Governor, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Idaho National Guard, to use the active militia and the Idaho National Guard and its assets to repel an invasion.

We now have an unsustainable crisis at our nation's border due to the federal government's dereliction of duty in allowing an overwhelming invasion of illegal aliens into the US. These illegal aliens commit a crime by entering our nation without authorization, documentation, or vetting, and with enmity violate the clear language and intent of the laws of our Republic. These illegal aliens should be deported.

Crime is not the basis of good citizenship. We oppose supporting illegal aliens by way of free access to housing, healthcare, technology, voting rights, or an unearned path to amnesty and citizenship as a reward for entering the United States illegally.

We support the detainment and prosecution of any person or organization aiding and abetting such individuals described above.

The Governor shall use the active militia and the Idaho National Guard and its assets to repel this de facto invasion that threatens the safety and security of Idaho citizens.

Re-number Section 5 to 6

Section 6: Combating Terrorism

We support efforts to combat terrorism within the scope of the constitution, including the use of military force, when authorized by Congress.

Re-number Section 6 to 7

Section 7: Command of Forces

We believe American ~~combat~~ troops should not be used as "world policemen." UN ~~combat~~ operations should be supported by a ~~multi~~multi-national coalition, and ~~when~~ if U.S. forces are committed ~~in to~~ UN ~~combat~~ operations by Congress, the United States should retain ultimate command and control of its forces.

Add new Section 8

Section 8: Non-Interventionism

We see w War is a last resort and is for the defense of America's borders, her territory, her citizens, and their liberty. We reject the desire to militarily police the world and dictate relations between foreign and faraway countries with histories and conflicts not our own. We desire for the American people complete and unconditional sovereign control over their government, contravening any supranational organization or foreign lobby. We maintain that war powers granted by the United States Constitution rest in the legislative branch, and this nation can only enter armed conflict through a declaration of war by Congress. In foreign relations, we must be guided by the wise and humble principle of "America First." We will not wittingly sacrifice our children and their future prosperity to dictate how other countries govern themselves. Meddling in the affairs of other countries with military aid and influence furthers neither our American way of life nor our future security interests.

Add new Section 9

Section 9: Declarations of War

We believe Congress ought not abdicate war powers to the executive branch except when under imminent threat. Offensive, preemptive, first-strike military use must be authorized with the people's consent through an Article 1 Section 8 Constitutional Declaration of War.