

# 2024 IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM (ANNOTATED)

*Adopted June 15, 2024 in Coeur d'Alene*

*Annotations provided by 2026 Idaho Republican federal, statewide, and legislative candidates.*

## PREAMBLE

### **WE ARE REPUBLICANS BECAUSE:**

**We believe** the strength of our nation lies with our faith and reliance on God our Creator, the individual, and the family; and that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.

**We believe** we are inheritors of a distinct Western Civilization and that our traditional culture safeguards our identity as a free people.

**We believe** in American Exceptionalism.

**We believe** the United States of America is unlike any other country on earth.

**We believe** the United States Constitution is the greatest and most inspired document to govern a nation, and the republican form of government it gives us, (U.S. Const. Art. IV §4), is the best guarantor of freedom in history.

**We believe** in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.

**We believe** human life begins at conception and is protected by the unalienable rights endowed by our Creator along with the fundamental right to life and shall not be infringed upon.

**We believe** free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this Nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

**We believe** government must practice fiscal responsibility, and that taxpayers shall allow the government only the money necessary to provide Constitutionally specified functions.

**We believe** that our Founding Fathers gave us a government that is a servant of the people, not our master. The proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions, which individuals or private organizations cannot perform.

**We believe** the most effective, responsible, responsive government is government closest to the people, and the sovereignty of the state must be protected. That government is best that governs least.

***Barbara Ehardt:** This “we believe” needs clarification. Colleagues continue to misunderstand this in purporting to advocate for the city or local governments being preeminent. This is not the intent of our founders. The people created the State, the State created the Federal Government, and the State created the counties and cities. It’s about the “state.” I believe this should be clarified.*

**We believe** Idahoans must protect the principles and values that have made us strong.

**We believe** Idahoans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to promote peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

***Barbara Ehardt:** I actually believe and adhere to the Monroe Doctrine – friendly with all, entangling alliances with none. America is involved in too many foreign affairs. We are not the world’s police, but we are being used as such. We have bankrolled too many nations and in doing so, we are bankrupting ourselves. I agree with Ron Paul on most things. He said we shouldn’t send any money to any country. I thought, well what about Israel? He then responded, if America didn’t fund Israel’s enemy’s, we wouldn’t have to send Israel any money. Interesting concept indeed. I still believe we should stand with Israel, but we cannot continue to be involved in the world’s affairs.*

**We believe** the protection of individual rights is upheld when personal responsibility for behavior is exercised.

**We believe** the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

*We therefore adopt the following Platform:*

# ARTICLE I. RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT

## Section 1. Fiscal Responsibility

- A. The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that all government is financed by taxing its citizens. We believe the size and cost of government, as well as the national debt, must be reduced.
- B. We believe Social Security must be stabilized, diversified, and privatized to allow expansion of individual retirement options.

**Brian Lenney:** *I support stabilizing Social Security. Privatization? No. Working Idahoans paid into this system for 40 years on a specific promise. Handing that over to the same Wall Street that collapsed in 2008 isn't "reform."*

- C. We believe in a balanced budget and support congressional action to pass a balanced budget amendment.
- D. We believe the growth of government is unnecessary and has a negative impact on both the conduct of business and our individual lives. We endorse the review of all government programs and encourage their assumption by private enterprise where appropriate and workable.

**Barbara Ehardt:** *Once again, the nod to local government is made, thus creating the impression that the power Constitutionally rests in "local government" as in cities. This is not the case and is confusing. Also, at this point, I believe the state has proven to be a much better defender of our monies than most local governments.*

- E. We expect the government entity which mandates a program to provide the funding for its implementation
- F. We believe the state legislature should appropriate funds only for purposes and to the extent required to meet government's constitutional obligations. Any current programs, functions, or activities of government that are not required by the constitution should be repealed, defunded, and left to the private sector.

**Mark Harris**

## Section 2: Taxation

- A. We support lower federal, state, and local taxes. High taxes are a burden on businesses, families, and individuals.
- B. We believe that tax reductions can be achieved by cutting spending on every level: federal, state, and local. We believe that lower taxes will result in increased revenue to the government as the private sector will thrive.

- C. We believe Idaho's tax structure should be predictable, fair, and balanced; and that the combination of our income, sales, and property taxes will continue to provide a stable, dependable source of income for governmental needs.
- D. We support true government transparency that allows the public to review all local, state, and federal government expenditures, contracts, and audits online. We support uniform accounting systems that allow taxpayers to compare and analyze government spending trends.
- E. We believe that Idaho Citizens should not and or shall not be taxed for federally mandated health care.
- F. We believe voter's approval should be required prior to approval of debt-financed city projects. Municipal laws that allow public dollars to be converted to private use and government entities to compete against the private sector or divert public money to special projects without support of the taxpayer, must be repealed.
- G. We support the total abolition of inheritance taxes.
- H. We support a comprehensive overhaul of the federal tax system requiring universal participation.
- I. We support the repeal of the 16th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

### Section 3. Reform of Congress

- A. The Idaho Republican Party support an overhaul of the legislative process in congress to allow (1) more time for members to study legislation; (2) more opportunity for citizens to testify at hearings; (3) debate on legislation before the members, rather than speeches in empty chambers for the C-span audience; (4) objections to the inclusion of unrelated subject matter in a single bill, (5) more oversight and transparency in the earmark process, and an end to abuse and use of earmarks for financial gain to a member; (6) and a more orderly process for consideration of legislation, similar to that of the Idaho Legislature.
- B. Idaho Republicans will continue to lead the fight to reduce the growth of government bureaucracy and promote private enterprise and individual initiative in the marketplace as the solution to our domestic policy challenges.
- C. We support restoration of the constitution's checks and balances that protects the rights and sovereignty of the states by repealing the 17th amendment.

**Brian Beckley:** *I believe Idaho Voters should select their U.S. Senators and not State Legislators.*

**John Shirts:** *I support the right of the people to directly elect their U.S. Senators.*

**Camille Blaylock:** *I do not support repealing the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Direct election of U.S. Senators ensures accountability to the people, and I believe that transparency and voter control should remain central to our system of government.*

**Debbie Geyer:** *This item advocates for repealing the 17th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. I support continuing the democratic participation process, thereby allowing Idaho citizens to elect the candidate(s) of their choice to represent them in Congress as our U.S. Senators.*

**Jeff Ehlers:** *Prefer not to repeal the 17th Amendment.*

**Todd Lakey:** *I still don't support repeal of the 17th amendment. I think the people of Idaho should elect their United States Senators and Congressman.*

**Chance Requa:** *I do not support repealing the 17th Amendment. Removing Idahoans' rights to elect their U.S. Senators feel like more Government oversight, not less.*

**Grayson Stone:** *I believe Senators should be elected directly from the populace.*

**Kelly Anthon:** *I also support the election of U.S. Senators directly by our citizens.*

**Rod Furniss:** *Prefer not to repeal the 17th Amendment.*

**Mark Harris**

**Brad Little**

**Scott Bedke:** *I don't support repeal of the 17th Amendment. I believe Idahoans should have the right to elect their United States Senators in lawful state elections.*

**Phil McGrane**

**Brandon Woolf:** *I disagree with the eliminating the 17th amendment*

**Jim Risch:** *I believe the qualified voters of Idaho should choose our senators.*

**Mike Simpson:** *I don't support repeal of the 17th Amendment. I believe Idahoans should have the right to elect their United States Senators in lawful State elections.*

## Section 4. Sound Currency

- A. We recognize the failure of the Federal Reserve System to maintain a sound U.S. dollar and the danger of mercantile banks controlling the issuance of our currency. We believe the Federal Reserve Bank should be abolished and the issuing power restored to the people with the stipulation that the U.S. dollar be backed by gold, silver, or other stores of value. We believe Idahoans need to protect their savings from the ravages of inflation,

which is hidden taxation, and encourage citizens to participate in a systematic acquisition of precious metals or other assets which represent real value as opposed to fiat currencies.

**Brian Beckley:** *I question why we would abolish the federal reserve and move to the gold standard.*

**Jeff Ehlers:** *I do not support returning to the gold standard.*

**Todd Lakey:** *Although a worthy sentiment I think it is no longer possible or realistic to go back to the gold standard.*

**Chance Requa:** *I do not support Idaho's return to the Gold & Silver standard. While I encourage Idahoans to secure and acquire precious metals and other assets to secure value and equity, a full return to gold and silver is impractical and expensive.*

**Casey Swensen:** *It is likely impractical and too expensive to use the gold and silver standard.*

**Doug Pickett:** *I disagree with the fiscal policies as laid out in this section.*

**Rod Furniss:** *I do not support returning to the gold standard.*

**Barbara Ehardt:** *I have twice brought legislation to address storing gold & silver in through the Treasurer and the idle monies. This year, though it passed the Senate strongly, it barely passed the House, leading to the Governor's veto.*

**Mark Harris**

**Brad Little**

**Scott Bedke:** *I don't support a return to the gold & silver standard.*

**Phil McGrane**

**Brandon Woolf:** *I... have questions about the sound currency section #4.*

**Mike Simpson:** *I don't support a return to the Gold & Silver standard. I do, however, support auditing the Federal Reserve.*

- B. We oppose the creation of a Central Bank Digital Currency, the regulation and/or excessive taxation of decentralized digital currency such as Bitcoin, and we affirm the right of individuals to engage in commerce and exchange with cash, barter, precious metals, and decentralized digital currencies.

## Section 5. State Legislature

- A. We encourage continued strong support for our state legislature, directed by Republicans for more than three decades, as well as our elected constitutional officers, and for the manner in which they work together to balance the budget and improve Idaho's economy.
- B. We support the current move to zero-based budgeting or other appropriate budgeting techniques. We believe growth can be attained in a sound, responsible manner by holding taxes down, granting business incentives, and refusing to grant excessive demands for increased spending.
- C. We support reduction of Idaho's income tax rates, and encourage a reduction in property taxes whenever possible.

**Barbara Ehardt:** *This does NOT go far enough. I support the complete and total abolishment of the property taxes, at least for the person's main residence. Property taxes are the most egregious tax there is. As Glenn Beck says, we should listen to what "they" say. If the World Economic Forum is to be believed, we will own nothing and be happy. How do you own nothing? Property tax! I will reveal plans on this as things move along.*

- D. We believe the State of Idaho should strongly assert its sovereignty under the 10th amendment to the U. S. Constitution. It has now come about that the accumulated usurpations by the Federal Government of Idaho's state sovereignty has reached a point of complete intolerance. The Idaho Republican Party hereby recommends that the Idaho Legislature and Governor nullify any and all existing and future unconstitutional federal mandates, federal court opinions, and laws, funded or unfunded, that infringe on Idaho's 10th Amendment sovereignty. We also recommend that the State of Idaho continue to request funding and assistance from the Federal Government, which complies with the Constitutional provision of the 10th Amendment, and recommend that the State of Idaho resist the withholding of federal funds as a means of forced compliance with the unconstitutional federal mandates and laws.

**Todd Lakey:** *I support the 10th amendment. I don't think nullification is the lawful approach. We have better alternatives in the US Constitution and our system of three separate but equal branches of government.*

**Chance Requa:** *This is impractical. If we stop all federal funds from coming into the state, we would have to raise taxes substantially to pick up the slack of required programs, particularly with Medicaid expansion voted on by Idahoans. Federal dollars are also the dollars of Idahoans and we should be able to utilize such for the benefit of Idahoans.*

**Casey Swensen:** *As long as the Federal government is collecting any type of taxes from Idahoans we should receive those tax dollars back in federal funding while working to have a balanced budget requirement.*

- E. We support the right of every qualified citizen to seek elective office, affirm the right of voters to vote for the candidate of their choice, recognize the need for experience and institutional memory in elective office, and oppose the imposition of term limits in Idaho.

**Marco Erickson:** *I believe in term limits.*

- F. We support amending the Idaho Constitution, Article III, § 2 as follows: Strike paragraph (2) and amend as follows:

Whenever there is reason to reapportion the legislature or to provide for new congressional district boundaries in the state, or both, because of a new federal census or because of a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, a commission for reapportionment shall be formed on order of the secretary of state. The commission shall be composed of six members to be appointed as follows:

- a. The leaders of the two largest political parties of each house of the legislature shall each designate one member;
- b. The state chairmen of the two largest political parties, determined by the vote cast for governor in the last gubernatorial election, shall each designate one member;
- c. However, for a political party to be eligible to appoint members to the commission as provided in subparagraphs (a) and (b) the political party must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:
  - i. Average of at least twenty two percent of all the ballots cast in four of the previous primary elections
  - ii. Elected at least two constitutional officers in the preceding ten years
- d. In the event only one political party satisfies a requirement to be eligible to appoint members to the commission the remaining three members shall be appointed by the eligible political party's state central committee;
- e. In the event any appointing authority does not select the members within fifteen calendar days following the secretary of state's order to form the commission, such members shall be appointed by the Supreme Court. No member of the commission may be an elected or appointed official in the state of Idaho at the time of designation or selection;

**Todd Lakey:** *I support majority party (Republican) control of the reapportionment or redistricting process. The detailed approach in the platform may work or there may be other simpler and better ways to approach the issue.*

**Barbara Ehardt:** *I'm not sure how I feel about this. I have been voicing my concerns that the Legislative body needs to take back its power and oversee redistricting – though there is some question as to whether our*

*State Constitution gave us that authority. Short of that, this should be fine.*

**Doug Ricks:** *I believe the current Idaho constitution does need to be changed on this, but I don't think the wording in the IDGOP platform is quite right.*

**Phil McGrane:** *I support alternative amendments*

- G. We believe the Legislature should present amendments to the people with the ballot language identical to the language of the amendment.

## ARTICLE II. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT

The Idaho Republican Party believes that government works best when its citizens become actively involved. The Party encourages all citizens to engage in healthy debate on all issues that will increase citizen control of government.

### Section 1.

We encourage all citizens to educate themselves in constitutional government and to be full participants in the political process.

### Section 2.

We seek to heighten the level of discourse by encouraging all office holders, candidates and citizens to be civil, dignified, honest and forthright in their discussions, actions, statements and political processes. This includes the actions of special interest groups who provide support for or against any Idaho candidate.

### Section 3.

We believe Primary elections in the Idaho Republican Party should be open to all people who have affiliated as Republicans at least one year prior to the primary election and who support a vast majority of the Idaho Republican Platform. To allow those who have no loyalty or allegiance to the Idaho Republican Party or its platform and Resolutions to select our candidates is simply not proper.

***Casey Swensen:*** *The Party should also prohibit any candidate that has taken a pledge or oath to any group, PAC or political body from running as a Republican. Too many candidates are pledging their support to groups that are not the Republican Party and are not the Idaho and United States Constitution. These candidates are then being highly influenced and even controlled by these pledges and oaths when elected if they vote contrary to their pledge.*

### Section 4.

The Idaho Republican Party opposes ranked-choice voting and any other iterations of ranked-choice voting such as STAR voting, ballot exhaustion, and instant Run-off.

## Section 5.

The 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution states that the right of the citizens to vote shall not be denied.

We believe that this includes the right to have your vote counted and not diluted or manipulated by non-citizens vote or voting machines that can corrupt the vote.

We believe there should be in person same day voting, early voting, and excuse only absentee ballots with paper ballots.

We believe it is important not to legitimize or support any practice that would diminish and/or disenfranchise the voting citizens of Idaho.

***Phil McGrane: I support with absentee ballots***

## ARTICLE III. EDUCATION

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that the future of this great state lies with our faith and reliance on God our Creator, in our strong efforts to uphold family values, and in the quality of education provided for its citizens. We believe that successful education is a joint responsibility of the individual, the family, and the community. As with government in general, we believe the most effective, responsible and responsive educational system is that system closest to the people.

### Section 1.

We recognize the importance of early childhood education. We also believe individuals, families and private sector best meet the needs of early childhood education. Only in the rarest of situations should government assume the responsibilities reserved to parents.

- A. Our Nation's Founding Documentation in Public Education - The United States of America was founded on legal, political and economic systems based on Judeo-Christian principles. We support curricula whose foundation, text and supplemental documentation are the original founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and Founders' writings.

***Brian Lenney:** The platform calls America's founding principles "Judeo-Christian." That's not the accurate historical description. The founders drew specifically on Christian natural law and Christian political theology. The broader Western civilization they inherited was Christian civilization. "Judeo-Christian" got coined and popularized in the late 1940s and 1950s as Cold War coalition-building language, not as a description of what the founders actually believed or wrote. Using it now means uncritically accepting a revision of our own history that the postwar liberal establishment wrote for its own purposes. That whole postwar consensus is something I reject, and this particular piece of it belongs in the same category. The platform should say Christian where it means Christian.*

- B. Religious Freedom in Public Schools - We believe that school administrators and officials should not infringe on Idaho school students' and staff's 1st Amendment rights to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property without government interference. We believe the legislature should end censorship of discussion of religion in our founding documents and encourage discussing those documents, including the Bible as their basis. Students and district personnel have the right to display religious items on school property.

***Barbara Ehardt:** I certainly did my part to strengthen this and return our religious liberties in our schools in 2023 with my "Coach Kennedy's Law, HB182" patterned after the Supreme Court Ruling in 2022 which ended the "Lemon Test,"*

*an unlawful suppression of our religious freedoms. Now the ability to pray in school, by either a student or a teacher, is allowed!!!*

## Section 2.

We believe parents have the right to educate their children at home, that court rulings that undermine these rights devalue the important role of parents and family in a child's education.

## Section 3.

We believe in improving the quality of education for every child by maximizing parental choice. This will be accomplished through money following students to their parent's school of choice. We support all educational environments desired by parents including public charter schools, public virtual charter schools, homeschools, schooling at home, microschools, learning pods, co-ops, private and parochial schools, and accountable public school systems.

***Chance Requa:*** *I disagree that public tax dollars mandated by the Idaho Constitution should be diverted to pay for private schools. Sending public tax dollars to private schools is not fiscally responsible, especially without oversight. Public tax dollars should be allocated to enhancing and improving public schools to national standards before allocating them to private schools*

## Section 4.

We believe all students are entitled to our support, and to fair and equitable funding and therefore strongly support the adoption of a change to Idaho's public school funding formula that includes school choice through an education savings account and more evenly distributes state funds while holding our rural schools harmless. Nothing in this section compels a family to receive in any way government support.

***Colton Bennett:*** *I am not convinced an ESA is the correct program for school choice.*

***Barbara Ehardt:*** *Without going through the entire paragraph, I would remove the word "equitable" and replace it with something else. Currently, equity equals Marxism.*

## Section 5

We support efforts to improve our public school system, including introducing market forces to our school system and providing our public school system and its leaders with ample discretion in hiring decisions and how to best spend the funds provided to it by

taxpayers to meet local needs. We also recognize that more government spending does not necessarily generate improved schools.

## Section 6.

We strongly support professional technical and continuing education programs that provide career readiness and college preparation, but do not support using taxpayer funding for programs beyond high school.

**Brian Lenney:** *“Workforce development” is what corporate lobbyists say right before the guest worker ask lands on the table. Instead, we need to train Idahoans for Idaho jobs instead of a pipeline importing cheaper labor while Idaho workers sit on waitlists.*

**Kelly Walton:** *Tech schools beyond High School. I support Launch. It’s keeping many Idaho kids in-state, an objective that is honorable and just. High School is an arbitrary number when it comes to an individual’s earning power.*

**Brent Reinke**

**Chance Requa:** *Supporting technical certifications, trades, and continued education programs means we must understand that many schools, especially rural schools, lack the capacity and capability to provide these avenues of education. Allocating taxpayer funds when needed to post secondary institutions that provide this type of education in high schools will continue to build the future of Idaho.*

**Casey Swensen:** *There are funding mechanisms that may be appropriate to support different types of secondary education that will enable citizens to have higher earning capacity creating a greater ROI for industry and tax base.*

**Brad Little**

**Scott Bedke:** *I support funding education programs beyond high school to ensure we have a highly qualified and skilled workforce, and all Idahoans have opportunities to advance.*

**Phil McGrane**

## Section 7.

We recognize the importance of Idaho's higher education system in continuing the education of our citizens. The education and research that occurs at our institutions of higher learning contributes substantially to a vigorous economy, heightened competition and a vibrant participatory government.

## Section 8.

We are strongly opposed to any social justice indoctrination that may occur at any level of Idaho's education system and support policy and financial measures to prohibit universities, colleges or public schools from incorporating social justice indoctrination theories (i.e. critical race theory, transformative social emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, replacement theory, queer theory, etc.) into their policies, curriculum and/or course materials.

## Section 9.

We are proud of our many dedicated, professional teachers and educators who have committed their lives to educating Idaho's children. We value the contribution our teachers make to our society. We support the efforts to reward great teachers for their hard work. We support incentives for teachers, so that our best educators are willing to remain in the classroom and work with our children. We believe that teachers should be treated like professionals and compensated at a level commensurate with their abilities and in a manner that rewards quality instruction, not time in the profession or amount of education.

## Section 10.

We believe that in order for public education to be successful, schools and families should work together with mutual respect and cooperation. We believe parental rights are paramount and that parents have the God given right to direct their child's education. This includes the right to decide what their children are learning, the right to inspect any educational materials used in the education of their child. The right to determine their child's health, safety, and medical treatment including masks and vaccinations, and the right to visit their child's classroom with limited restrictions. These rights should be enumerated in Idaho Code.

***Colton Bennett: I believe parental rights should be enumerated in our State Constitution, not merely "State Code". As is the rightful case of all rights, they should be enshrined in the Constitution. Parental Rights are just that, "rights" and should not be treated as "privileges" granted by the legislature.***

## Section 11.

We recognize the increasing role of technology in society. We encourage policymakers and educators to be leaders in promoting such new opportunities, while ensuring data privacy for students and parents.

## Section 12.

We believe in accountability for those who are making decisions about the public education and higher education system in Idaho and therefore support the direct election of the members of the Idaho State Board of Education on a regional basis thereby providing each of Idaho a voice.

***Chance Requa:*** *The State Board members are selected to represent all regions of our State.*

***Mark Harris***

## **ARTICLE IV. AGRICULTURE**

The Idaho Republican Party believes a strong and viable agricultural industry is one of the most important cornerstones in the foundation of our state, national, and global economy and security.

### **Section 1.**

We believe agricultural education and awareness is vital to creating and maintaining a strong and vital agricultural industry.

### **Section 2.**

We believe Idaho's farmers and ranchers should be able to compete freely and trade fairly in foreign markets. We recognize that the primary function of government in agriculture should be service, research, and the promotion of markets. We oppose the use of an embargo of agricultural products as an instrument of foreign policy.

### **Section 3.**

We recognize that water is vital to Idaho agriculture and other industries. We believe modification of Idaho's historic water laws must be considered with extreme caution. The federal government shall not infringe upon state jurisdiction over Idaho water.

### **Section 4.**

We endorse the preservation and strengthening of the family farm unit as the foundation of agriculture and one of the basic strengths of this nation.

## **ARTICLE V. WATER**

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes the critical importance of water to this state. We will aggressively defend Idaho's right to appropriate and manage water within its own borders without interference from the federal government.

### **Section 1.**

We support continued federal and state legislation to prevent inter-basin transfer of Idaho's water to other areas.

### **Section 2.**

We encourage policies that will more fully use and develop our water while supporting the Idaho state law of prior appropriation, based on the principle of "first in time is first in right" for the benefit of all Idahoans.

### **Section 3.**

We believe that safeguards exist to protect Idaho's scenic and recreational rivers without creating more restrictions or regulations on Idaho's river system.

### **Section 4.**

We call upon the federal government to cease and desist from calling on further water for flow augmentation for fish conservation until the benefit of this use has been proven by unequivocal, thorough scientific research. Further, Idaho waters can only be approved for out-of-state use by legislative action by the State of Idaho from willing sellers through established rental pools.

### **Section 5.**

We support increased retention of Idaho water through recharge and the acquisition of new reservoir sites.

### **Section 6.**

We support the quality of private life and economic stability of Idaho families, communities, and industries, and oppose removal or breaching of existing dams.

### **Section 7.**

We support all legal opposition to any and all efforts to usurp Idaho's sovereignty over water within Idaho borders. Further, we support the Attorney General in defending the

state's position on these and all other water issues, and support the State Legislature in continuing to adequately fund the Idaho Constitutional Defense Fund.

## **ARTICLE VI. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that the beautiful and fruitful land that we have been given by God, our creator, must be properly cared for to ensure that its rich blessings will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

### **Section 1.**

We believe that it is ultimately the individual's responsibility to act as stewards of their environment. The quality of our natural environment should be protected, and enhanced, while allowing reasonable, orderly growth with emphasis on multiple uses, local control, and minimal government regulation.

### **Section 2.**

We believe the administration of federal environmental policy must be modified. These policies must give equal consideration to potential human suffering caused by restriction or elimination of basic human needs such as jobs, energy and overall quality of life. We support federal and state measures to reestablish the primacy of state government for implementation of environmental policy.

### **Section 3.**

We discourage international regulations on industry which attempt to halt the production of certain industrial byproducts. Instead, we encourage citizens to adopt buying habits that promote a clean earth.

### **Section 4.**

We recognize Idaho's need for the utilization of natural resources for Idaho's economic growth and for the benefit of all Idahoans. The dimensions and boundaries of our wilderness area should be determined by Idahoans. The remaining road less areas should be released for multiple uses.

### **Section 5.**

We advocate congressional action to limit presidential authority in creating or expanding national parks and monuments pursuant to the Antiquities Act.

## Section 6.

We support the concept of forest health because it promotes long-term land use including livestock grazing, timber, wildlife, improved air quality, recreation, mining and all other beneficial forest uses for the people of Idaho.

## Section 7.

We encourage the State of Idaho to seek authority to oversee the utilization of natural resources on federal lands within the state.

**Jane Sauter:** *The last five words should be replaced with, 'Idaho land controlled by the Federal Government.'*

**Barbara Ehardt:** *The ESG legislation on which I have worked (as well as the great coalition we formed), since first bringing Glenn Beck to Idaho during the 2022 session, has done a ton to address and protect many of the issues in this section.*

## ARTICLE VII. ENERGY

### Section 1.

The Idaho Republican Party believes that the United States shall at all time strives to become energy independent.

### Section 2.

We strongly support energy policies that encourage research and development of our energy resources, including natural gas, hydroelectric power, petroleum, nuclear energy, and new technologies.

### Section 3.

We support efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We support efforts to increase American exploration and production of American crude oil and natural gas, and support voluntary efforts to improve efficiencies and promote conservation. Congress must end its ban on American energy exploration on U.S. soil and on the Outer Continental Shelf and provide for additional American refining capacity. We must make America's resources available to U.S. citizens.

### Section 4.

Idaho has the lowest electrical rates of the fifty states. Nothing should be done in the deregulation process that might raise those rates.

***Colton Bennett:*** *Idaho no longer has the lowest rate, we have one of the lowest. This statement is incorrect.*

### Section 5.

The benefits of hydroelectric power should be retained for the citizens of Idaho.

### Section 6.

We oppose any mandated deregulation that would negatively impact rate payers.

***Colton Bennett:*** *I generally favor this, however I am opposed to unjust regulation on small scale crypto endeavors and my support for this article should not be construed to support anti-crypto measures.*

## Section 7.

We support the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) and other coordinated efforts in energy research and development, and their applications to the utilities industry within Idaho.

***Barbara Ehardt:*** *The above ESG legislation also helped tons in protecting Idaho's energy resources.*

## **ARTICLE VIII. IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORIES**

The Idaho Republican Party believes in the great importance of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) as one of the State's largest private employers, its importance to our nation's defense, and to energy and other technology research and development.

### **Section 1.**

We support research and development programs that provide safe, economical nuclear power. We further support new nuclear technology that has greater safety, produces less waste, and resists proliferation.

### **Section 2.**

We encourage our congressional delegation, the state, DOE and INL management to assure continued research and development, transfer of technology, new missions, and development of alternative energy treatments and storage methods.

## **ARTICLE IX. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS**

The Republican Party believes in the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution: "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." We oppose any federal, state or local regulation that would diminish a property owner's right to develop his property.

***Barbara Ehardt:** Again, we need to abolish the egregious property tax!*

## **ARTICLE X. STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS**

The Idaho Republican Party believes that due to state and federal governments administering the majority of Idaho lands, we need to limit and reduce the amount of land owned or administered by the federal government. We believe Idaho should manage and administer all state and federal lands.

***Jane Sauter:** The last five words should be replaced with, 'Idaho land controlled by the Federal Government.'*

***Brian Beckley:** I currently do not think ALL Federal land should be turned over to the state to hold Title but I do think that the State of Idaho should have more control over the land.*

***Ben Adams:** The State of Idaho should manage and administer ALL state and federal land.*

*While I am confident in Idaho's ability to manage land better than the federal government, there is currently no provision restricting the sale of public land if it were to be under state management. Preservation of public land for multiple use is critical to keeping the rugged culture of Idaho alive for future generations.*

***Brent Reinke***

## ARTICLE XI. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes the value of wildlife resources for the state.

### Section 1.

We encourage the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to manage fish and wildlife to enhance fishing, hunting and hunting opportunities for Idahoans and the tourist industry, while respecting private property rights of landowners.

### Section 2.

We oppose federal designations which restrict or eliminate hunting, fishing, and recreational access to lands in Idaho.

### Section 3.

We oppose the reintroduction of wolves and grizzlies into Idaho. We support managed control of these predators through the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

***Barbara Ehardt:*** *I actually do not support the wolves being in Idaho at all. It's time that we called to have the complete and total abolishment of this predatory animal that hunts and kills for the fun of it. The wolves are populating at a rate that far exceeds that which we were told would happen. Now landowners can't even access all of their land for fear that a wolf may be around.*

## ARTICLE XII. ECONOMY

The Idaho Republican Party believes that economic growth is the key to enhancing the quality of life our people so richly deserve. Fiscal responsibility in the form of balanced state and federal budgets is essential to achieve this goal. A competitive market, free of undue governmental competition, restriction, coercion, or interference, is critical to Idaho's economic well-being.

### Section 1. Commerce and Industry

- A. We encourage the broadening and strengthening of Idaho's commerce and industry, including but not limited to agriculture, timber, mining, manufacturing, processing, technology, tourism and other industries.
- B. We encourage the responsible use of our natural resources to broaden and enhance Idaho's economy. We Support innovative and responsible programs by industry to reduce pollution in every practical way. Government should intervene only where such efforts fail or must be supplemented by law.
- C. We endorse economic development and expansion in Idaho and pledge to make every effort to provide a business climate that will attract such growth.

***Brian Lenney:** "Attract growth" doesn't tell me anything. Who exactly are we attracting? This language ends up justifying tax incentives for foreign-owned and or woke corporations planting flags on Idaho soil while family farms sell off next door. Growth should mean Idahoans actually getting hired and local businesses actually expanding.*

### Section 2. Support for Small Business

- A. We recognize the important role of small businesses in Idaho's economy and that we must maintain a regulatory environment where small business is allowed to thrive. Excessive regulatory requirements must be reduced and eliminated.
- B. We support a tax code that is simple, fair and equitable.
- C. We support a business environment that promotes development and expansion of businesses in Idaho and eliminates all onerous repressive government regulation.

### Section 3. Labor

- A. We believe that both the employer and employee share a joint responsibility for maintaining a safe work environment without excessive regulation.
- B. We support education and professional technical education to develop a well-trained workforce, but do not support funding education with taxpayer money beyond high school.

**Brad Little**

**Scott Bedke:** *I support funding education programs beyond high school to ensure we have a highly qualified and skilled workforce, and all Idahoans have opportunities to advance.*

- C. We believe that public employees should be hired, retained and promoted based on individual merit, and that they should be fairly and equitably compensated comparable to private industry.

**Brian Lenney:** *“Workforce development” is what corporate lobbyists say right before the guest worker ask lands on the table. Instead, we need to train Idahoans for Idaho jobs instead of a pipeline importing cheaper labor while Idaho workers sit on waitlists.*

#### Section 4. Transportation

We believe transportation is an integral part of our commerce and industry, and it must meet the unique needs of Idaho. We believe transportation decisions and funds should be managed at the local and state level.

**Barbara Ehardt:** *ESG once again would apply to parts of this section.*

## ARTICLE XIII. HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes the need for effective and accessible health care for all individuals. Regulations that forbid Idahoans from buying insurance across state lines should be eliminated.

### Section 1. Private Enterprise Health Care Delivery System

We support a private enterprise health care delivery system that provides cost-effective, quality health care with minimal government regulation.

### Section 2. Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act

- A. We oppose socialized medicine and government mandated health insurance.
- B. We support the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act in its entirety.

### Section 3. General Principles for Health Care

- A. Conscience Clause- All persons and legal entities have the right of conscience and should be protected under Idaho law if they conscientiously object to participate in practices that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs. This includes, but is not limited to, abortion, the prescription for and dispensing of drugs with abortifacient potential, vaccination, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, euthanasia, assisted suicide, harmful futile procedures, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration.

#### **Mark Harris**

- B. We believe the primary responsibility for the health and welfare of our citizens resides with the individual and their families.
- C. We support freedom of choice and personal responsibility of legal adults in all medical decisions, including providers and treatments. Medicine should have a “level playing field” for all treatment and branches of medicine.
- D. We support as supreme the authority of parents in all medical decisions for their children, including providers and treatments.

**Barbara Ehardt:** *I spent the past year successfully working on a Medical Parental Bill of Rights, SB1329, with Alliance Defending Freedom. This returns all power to the parents, both physical and mental health. This includes doctors, health care providers, psychologists and school counselors who might want to transition our kids. Except now they can't. Parents now have control of their children until they turn 18 years old.*

- E. All legal adults receiving healthcare should have legal capacity to give informed consent and should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion.

#### Section 4. Health Savings Accounts and Insurance

- A. We believe that individual responsibility for health care should be encouraged through medical savings accounts and other viable free market alternatives.
- B. We support the rights of individuals to select their health care and insurance provider.
- C. We believe health and welfare programs should be administered with a minimum of bureaucracy and the goal of helping all recipients return to a self-sustaining and productive life.

#### Section 5. Child Support

We support enforcement of child support laws to assure the restoration of parental responsibility and the enhancement of financial security for children.

## ARTICLE XIV. AMERICAN FAMILY

The Idaho Republican Party believes that traditional family values are the foundation of our nation. Families, not government programs, are the best way to properly nurture and protect our children, care for our elderly, preserve and perpetuate our cultural and spiritual heritage, and assure that our traditional values are transmitted to the next generation. Many of the ills of society can be attributed to the breakdown of the family. We believe the traditional family to be the basic unit of society.

### Section 1. Government's Role

- A. We believe that state and federal social and fiscal programs should reinforce parental responsibility and authority, and not promote or reward the disintegration of the family.
- B. We support a tax system that strengthens a family's economic ability to care for and support its members.

### Section 2. Traditional Marriage

- A. We call upon Idaho government officials and legislators to protect the traditional family and use all means possible to prevent expansion of the definition of marriage beyond that of a bond between one man and one woman. We recognize that the definition of marriage and its administration is not subject to federal authority and that Idaho is authorized to nullify any federal congressional act, federal mandate or court opinion that is contrary to traditional marriage.
- B. We recognize traditional marriage without the issuance of a marriage license for those who for religious purposes object to the role of the state in licensing traditional marriage.

***Doug Ricks: I believe a state license is needed.***

### Section 3. Right to Life

- A. We affirm that human personhood begins at the moment of conception and ought to be protected and cherished from that moment on. We affirm that the intentional taking of human life through the act of abortion is murder. All children should be protected regardless of the circumstances of conception, including persons conceived in rape and incest. The federal judiciary played the tyrant in dozens of Supreme Court pro-abortion opinions since Roe v. Wade up to the Dobbs decision, and Idaho has the sovereign authority to defy the federal judiciary should they once again propose the fiction that abortion is a federal constitutional right. We support the criminalization of all murders by abortion within the state's jurisdiction. We also support strengthening the Idaho Constitution's declaration of the right to life for preborn children.

***John Shirts: I support Idaho's pro-life laws and fostering a culture of life. My views align with current Idaho law, including the Defense of Life Act.***

**Jaron Crane:** *I support Idaho's current abortion law that has limited exemptions for, rape, incest and life of the mother.*

*Since the passage of Idaho's abortion law, there have been no reported abortions in Idaho. Prior to Roe v Wade being overturned Idaho was averaging 1,600 abortions per year.*

*Current Idaho law criminalizes the doctor for performing the abortion, and I am in favor of that, but not criminalizing the mother.*

**Brent Crane:** *I support Idaho's current abortion law that has limited exemptions for, rape, incest and life of the mother.*

*Since the passage of Idaho's abortion law, there have been no reported abortions in Idaho. Prior to Roe v Wade being overturned Idaho was averaging 1,600 abortions per year.*

*Current Idaho law criminalizes the doctor for performing the abortion, and I am in favor of that, but not criminalizing the mother.*

*I have sponsored or co-sponsored more anti-abortion legislation than any other current member of the Idaho House or Senate.*

**Jeff Ehlers:** *I support current state law on abortion.*

**Todd Lakey:** *I carried the current trigger law that came into effect when the Supreme Court returned authority to the states and which I believe makes Idaho the strongest pro-life state in the Union. I support our current pro-life laws and don't want to see them diminished. Exceptions need to be minimal and carefully considered. I don't want to lose what we have and there are current efforts including a ballot initiative to substantially roll back our current pro-life laws. I would carry legislation to repeal such a proposed law if it were to pass on the ballot.*

**Grayson Stone:** *I disagree with abortion – except in cases of rape, incest, or the health of the Mother.*

**Barbara Ehardt:** *My stance on abortion has not changed. I support life. I also support our law which allows for the life of the mother (of course, this is not in question as all life is important), and rape & incest. I support the exceptions of rape and incest for two reasons:*

1. *Those who experience rape and incest are also victims. I believe that possibly requiring a 16- or 17-year-old child and an adult might be permissible because they are in a better position age wise to be able to handle the carrying of a child if they have been raped. But if the victims*

*are minors under the age of 16, I do not believe it is the government's decision to force a child to carry a child. This must be a decision that a family comes to. I do not believe that the government should force this on someone.*

2. *I believe that Idaho is in a very delicate position. Every state that has put this issue on the ballot has lost. Idaho needs to solidify this stance and continue to gain the trust of all Idahoans and answer the questions that the "left" and Planned Parenthood have created in claiming that somehow, we are jeopardizing the life of the mothers. We are not. We need to help show that Idaho's prolife laws do NOT put the health of the mother in jeopardy. Our law will work for families, mothers and babies.*

**Mark Harris**

**Brad Little**

**Scott Bedke:** *I am pro-life and very strongly believe in the sanctity of human life. I have always had a strong record with Idaho Chooses Life and support limited exemptions for rape, incest, and life of the mother.*

**Mike Simpson:** *I support the position of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) on abortion issues. I have a 100% voting record with NRLC and an A+ rating from the Susan B. Anthony List, a pro-life group that opposes abortion.*

- B. We reaffirm our support for the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, and for the rights of the unborn child. We oppose abortion based on sex selection, convenience, or as a method of birth control.

**Brent Reinke**

- C. We oppose partial birth abortion and we support legislation to abolish this practice.
- D. We oppose all actions which intentionally end an innocent human life, including abortion, the destruction of human embryos, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.
- E. We oppose the expenditure of any Idaho taxpayer funds by any unit of government, including federal, state, county, and municipal government, to any provider of abortion and strongly support legislation to enact the same.
- F. We strongly encourage adoption as an alternative to abortion and support legislation that expands opportunities and provides assistance to the adoptive process.

**Camille Blaylock:** *I am pro-life and believe in protecting life, while also recognizing very limited exceptions in cases of rape or incest. Those exceptions should require clear due process to ensure the claim is legitimate.*

**Chance Requa:** *I am avidly Prolife, but I believe that we need the exemptions that currently exist in the law regarding rape, and incest, and need to include for the health and the life of the mother.*

**Kelly Anthon:** *I believe in the sanctity of human life. Therefore, I oppose elective abortion for personal or social convenience, and believe no one should to submit to, perform, encourage, pay for, or arrange for such abortions.*

*I believe there can be possible exceptions when:*

*Pregnancy results from rape or incest, or*

*A competent physician determines that the life or health of the mother is in serious jeopardy, or*

*A competent physician determines that the fetus has severe defects that will not allow the baby to survive beyond birth.*

*Even these exceptions do not automatically justify abortion. Abortion is a most serious matter. It should be considered only after the persons responsible have received confirmation through prayer.*

**Doug Pickett:** *I disagree with abortion except in cases if rape, incest, or health of the mother.*

**Rod Furniss:** *I support current state law on abortion.*

## Section 4. Children

The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that children are a heritage of the Lord.

We believe parents, not the state, have a sacred duty and a legal right to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their temporal and spiritual needs, and to teach them to be law-abiding citizens.

We believe biological gender to be an essential characteristic of a child's identity and purpose. We call upon parents, responsible citizens, and officers of government to promote measures that respect and protect the biological gender of children. We strongly oppose any person, entity, or policy that attempts to confuse minors regarding their biological gender.

The Idaho Republican Party opposes the sexual exploitation of minors in ANY form.

## **ARTICLE XV. OLDER AMERICANS**

### Section 1.

The Idaho Republican Party has always supported and will continue to support older Americans. The party will work to preserve and promote opportunities in America so that older Americans can provide for themselves. Those unable to care for themselves should have access to all services available in Idaho, whether city, county, state or federal.

### Section 2.

We oppose policies that penalize older Americans who continue to work.

## ARTICLE XVI. LAW AND ORDER WITH JUSTICE

The Idaho Republican Party believes that individuals must be presumed innocent until proven guilty. After a person is convicted of a crime, however, we believe in swift and just punishment for the lawbreaker and timely payment of restitution to victims. Courts and the prosecutors should continue to recognize the substantial rights and interests of crime victims in the judicial process.

### Section 1. Gun Rights

- A. We support the right of the individual to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and article one section eleven of the Idaho State Constitution.
- B. We commend efforts of organizations to preserve and foster that right, including Right-to-Carry laws.
- C. We believe the federal government should not regulate intrastate ammunition and firearms sales.
- D. We believe in protection of the American firearms industry against harassing lawsuits that blame them for the acts of criminals.

**Barbara Ehardt:** *I supported this with my ESG legislation, SB1291.*

- E. We call for more enforcement of current laws against violent criminals, not more “gun control” aimed at law-abiding citizens.
- F. We strongly oppose the United States entering into any international agreements or treaties which would undermine, limit or interfere with the individual right to own and bear arms and ammunition.
- G. We find that the Congress violated the 2nd amendment’s protections in the 1986 Firearms’ Owners Protection Act when the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) interpreted the Hughes Amendment as a prohibition on the civilian possession of any fully-automatic firearm manufactured after May 19, 1986.

**Colton Bennett:** *This article doesn’t go far enough. I support the abolition of the ATF not the mere changes the platform calls for. Idaho’s Constitution is significantly weaker than the 2nd Amendment and ought to be amended to strengthen it. Finally I do not support enforcement of “current laws” on guns, I support the enforcement of “just laws”. Many of these “current” gun laws need to be repealed.*

### Section 2. Death Penalty

- A. We believe the death penalty is an appropriate consequence for the most heinous crimes, and that further reform should be made to the appellate process so the penalty can be carried out in a timely process.

**Colton Bennett:** *Given the wording of this plank, I must take exception.*

*I do support the death penalty in a military context (both for federal troops and the national guard) under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.*

*I do believe that the death penalty is justly deserved in the most heinous of circumstances.*

*I do believe that the civil government has the right to wield the sword, including the death penalty, and this privilege is entrusted to the government by God (Romans 13).*

*I do believe that a death sentence should only be imposed by a unanimous jury of one's peers as opposed to a partial jury decision or a judge.*

*However:*

*I do not believe that the current system perpetuates justice. 1 in 8 death row inmates is ultimately exonerated, inmates spend decades on death row at an enormous cost to the taxpayer.*

*I do not believe in the execution of juveniles of the severely mentally disabled, both of which are permitted under Idaho law.*

*I am opposed to holding inmates on Idaho death row which are also facing the death penalty in other states. Why must we bear the expense of a death row inmate sentenced to die in Ohio?*

*I am opposed to gruesome or corporal methods of execution.*

*I am opposed to Idaho secrecy laws that allow the state to obtain lethal execution drugs from undisclosed and possibly disreputable sources hidden from the public, the defense team, and the medical personnel who will be administering them.*

*Governor Little has described the process of overseeing an execution as "trying your soul". I take this issue very seriously and I do not believe the current plank adequately addresses the nuance and gravity of Idaho's death penalty.*

### Section 3. Drug Use

- A. We recognize the dreadful consequences of drug and substance abuse in our society, and we call upon our national, state and local leaders to refocus efforts to discourage drug use and rehabilitate drug users. We encourage all Idaho citizens, and their religious, civic, and community organizations, to be actively engaged in this effort.

- B. We support creative alternative sentencing, such as drug courts, and treatment for nonviolent drug offenders.

## Section 4. Incarceration of Criminals

- A. We recognize the enormous financial burden placed upon society by criminals. Therefore, we support requiring inmates, to the extent they are capable, to perform labor or otherwise contribute to the cost of their incarceration.
- B. We support programming and education in the corrections system to rehabilitate offenders.

## Section 5. Juvenile Justice

- A. We support accountability for and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.
- B. We support dealing with youthful offenders early to reduce future impact to the welfare and correction systems.

***Barbara Ehardt:*** *This section seems to be in direct conflict with the GOP position on fentanyl during the 2024 legislative session.*

## Section 6. State Sovereignty

We recognize Idaho is a sovereign state; therefore we have the right to defend against foreign invasions. We believe that Idaho has the right and obligation to remove from our State any and all people that are unlawfully present within our borders.

## **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. We strongly support the Idaho National Guard under the command of Idaho's governor.

### 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 of protecting Idaho and the nation. We recognize and value the economic contribution that the base makes to our State.

### 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.

## 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.” Securing 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.

## 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.

## Section 7. Command of Forces

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

***Barbara Ehardt:** I completely agree and this seems to contradict my understanding of that which is mentioned in the Preamble and which I had responded that I disagreed with. But I agree with this section so maybe the preamble needs some clarification.*

## Section 8. Non-Interventionism

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.

## 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.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. ELECTION OF JUDGES AND IDAHO SUPREME COURT JUDGES**

The Idaho Republican Party opposes any attempt to undermine the constitutional rights of the people to select judges and justices in an open and competitive election process. We support the election of judges in a partisan election process.

We oppose any interpretation of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Idaho that is not rooted in principles of textualism and originalism. We emphatically affirm that judges have a “duty to interpret statutory terms to ‘mean what they conveyed to reasonable people at the time they were written.’” (Bostock v. Clayton County, 590 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2020) (Alito, J., dissenting))

*Phil McGrane: I support Idaho's election of judges.*

## **ARTICLE XIX. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

The Idaho Republican Party believes religious freedom is a fundamental human right and essential for any society or community to flourish, we oppose any efforts, state or federal, legislative, executive, or judicial, to limit the “free exercise of religion” by its citizens at home, their place of employment, or venues otherwise publicly available.

We oppose any efforts by the Congress of the United States to limit the scope or applicability of the bipartisan Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.