

**Explanation:** *Over the years, the Idaho GOP Platform has grown substantially, while increasingly being used as a litmus test for Republican candidates, party officers, precinct committeemen, and volunteers. I believe the purpose of a platform is to provide a high-level statement of the principles upon which we agree, along with a more limited set of priorities for the immediate future.*

*This revision takes the principles inherent in the existing platform and codifies them in the preamble, creating a document intended to unite Republicans around shared beliefs while allowing room for reasonable differences on specific policy questions.*

*The purpose of this revision is not to change what Idaho Republicans believe, but to express those beliefs through a concise statement of enduring principles rather than an extensive list of specific policy prescriptions.*

*Strike the entirety of the Idaho GOP Platform replace with the following:*

## **WE ARE REPUBLICANS BECAUSE:**

We believe the strength of our nation and of our state rests on faith in God our Creator, the dignity, freedom, and responsibility of the individual, and the family as the first institution of ordered liberty.

We believe human life is sacred from conception to natural death, that the traditional family founded upon the union of one man and one woman is the basic unit of society, and that religious liberty and freedom of conscience are among the first rights of a free people.

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

We believe that America is a unique nation founded upon enduring truths and that the United States Constitution and its republican form of government are the greatest guarantors of liberty in human history.

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

We believe government is the servant of the people, not their master; that its powers should be limited to constitutionally authorized functions; that it must be fiscally responsible and tax only as necessary; that government closest to the people is generally the most accountable and effective; and that Idaho's sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment must be protected against federal overreach.

We believe in free enterprise, private property, individual initiative, sound money, and the right of citizens to acquire, use, and exchange the fruits of their labor free from unnecessary government interference.

We believe elections must be secure, transparent, and trustworthy; that every lawful vote should be counted without dilution or fraud; that the constitutional electoral process, including the Electoral College, must be preserved; and that Republican nominees should be chosen by Republicans loyal to the party and its principles.

We believe parents hold the primary authority over the upbringing and education of their children, that educational opportunities and public support should follow the child, and that schools should teach America's founding principles rather than ideological indoctrination.

We believe individuals and families have the freedom and responsibility to direct their own medical decisions, and that healthcare is best delivered through private enterprise rather than government command.

We believe Idaho's land, water, energy, and natural resources should be responsibly developed and stewarded by Idahoans for the benefit of Idahoans, with respect for private property, local control, and established water rights.

We believe government has a duty to secure our borders, defend our citizens, and maintain a military second to none; that America should seek peace and commerce with all nations; and that war should be undertaken only as a last resort in defense of our nation and pursuant to constitutional authority.

We believe the right of the individual to keep and bear arms is guaranteed and shall not be infringed.

We believe judges should faithfully interpret the law according to its original public meaning rather than legislate from the bench.

We believe in the presumption of innocence, in swift and just punishment for the guilty, in full restitution to victims, and in the genuine rehabilitation of those who will return to society.

We believe self-government depends on an informed, engaged, and civil citizenry, and we call every Idahoan to take an honest and active part in it.

We believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government at the federal, state, and local levels.

We therefore adopt the following Platform for the 2026-2028 term.

# Priorities for the 69th Idaho Legislature

## **Income Tax**

We support reducing and eventually eliminating Idaho's income tax burden so that individuals, families, and businesses may keep more of the fruits of their labor and exercise greater freedom over their own resources.

## **Property Tax**

We support meaningful property tax relief and the eventual elimination of taxes that place an ongoing burden on the ownership of private property and family homes.

## **School Choice**

We support the Parental Choice Tax Credit and other policies that allow education funding to follow the student. We encourage the continued growth and expansion of educational choice opportunities as demand and available resources allow, ensuring that parents remain the primary decision-makers in their children's education.

## **Medicaid Reform**

We support reforms that preserve care for the truly needy while promoting personal responsibility, protecting taxpayers, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Idaho's healthcare programs. We support the repeal of Medicaid Expansion, which has expanded government dependency, weakened incentives for self-sufficiency, and increased the long-term fiscal obligations of the state.

## **Immigration Enforcement**

We support the enforcement of immigration laws and cooperation among all levels of government to protect public safety, uphold the rule of law, and discourage unlawful entry and residence. We support mandatory use of the federal E-Verify system to help prevent unlawful employment and ensure that jobs are filled by those legally authorized to work in the United States.

## **Long-Term Water Storage**

We support the development and maintenance of long-term water storage infrastructure to secure Idaho's water future, protect existing water rights, and support agriculture, communities, and economic growth.

## **Defend the Guard**

We support preserving the Idaho National Guard's primary mission of defending our state and nation and oppose its use in ways that undermine constitutional limits or state sovereignty. We

support legislation ensuring that the men and women of the Idaho National Guard are only deployed abroad following a congressional declaration of war.

### **Reduce Spending**

We support reducing the size, scope, and cost of government by prioritizing constitutionally authorized functions and returning responsibility whenever possible to individuals, families, communities, and local government.