

Idaho Republican Party

Submitted Resolutions

2018 Idaho Republican State Convention
June 28 – 30, 2018



Idaho Republican Party Chairman: Jonathan Parker

Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs:
Machele Hamilton and Brent Regan

Friday, June 29th
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Lecture Center, Building 67, Room 10

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Proposed Resolution 2018 – 2

Resolution in Opposition to an Initiative to Provide that the State shall Amend its Tax Plan to expand Medicaid Eligibility to Certain Persons

Submitted by: Bonneville County Republican Central Committee, Janice McGeachin – Delegate, Bonneville County

WHEREAS, an initiative to expand MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY TO ADULTS UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS of age is expected to be on the general election ballot of November 6, 2018 and;

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature having rejected the expansion of Medicaid to able-bodied adults through its rejection of bills to expand Medicaid and;

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion to able-bodied adults would be an expansion of Idaho's participation in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and;

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is in contravention to Article XIII, Section 2.B of the Idaho GOP Platform which calls for the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and;

WHEREAS, the current Medicaid program is already cannibalizing dollars for schools and roads by growing at a faster rate than other major programs and expansion will further erode support for other critical spending needs and;

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is predicated on funding that requires 90 percent federal support dollars through an expected Federal Medical Assistance Percentage rate of 90 percent federal and 10 percent state dollars and;

WHEREAS, the federal government is more than \$21 trillion in debt with annual deficits adding over \$1 trillion in additional debt each year, an unsustainable level of borrowing that cannot go indefinitely and;

WHEREAS, other states that have expanded Medicaid have experienced higher than projected enrollments and costs and have raised taxes to pay for expansion, now;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Idaho Republican Party formally opposes the initiative to expand Medicaid eligibility as detailed in the Initiative Petition dated November 20, 2017 as submitted to the Idaho Secretary of State.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 4

Resolution to Support an Alternate Solution to Medicaid Expansion

Submitted by: Dr. Jud Miller, M.D. – Alternate, LD 35; Elaine King – Delegate, Madison County

Presented by: Dr. Jud Miller, M.D. – Alternate, LD 35; Elaine King – Delegate, Madison County

Whereas, the Idaho GOP Platform in Article XIII Sec.1 under the Private Enterprise Health Care Delivery System states, “ We support a private enterprise health care delivery system that provides cost-effective, quality health care with minimal government regulation, and

WHEREAS, Article XIII Sec. 2A of the Republican Platform states under the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act, “We oppose socialized medicine and government mandated health insurance”, and

WHEREAS, turning to solutions to “medigap” problems through the private sector follows the principles of the Republican Party, and

WHEREAS, keeping patients out of the emergency room means better patient care and savings for taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, most businesses who hire more than 50 full time employees provide good health benefits, and businesses with fewer than 50 full time employees are benefitted by the Small Business Health Options Program (as of January 1, 2018) in providing affordable private insurance, and

WHEREAS, neighboring states who have accepted Medicaid Expansion have discovered that:

- 100% of the time enrollment exceed projections, at least by 110%, and often
- much more;
- 100% of the time the cost goes over budget;
- 100% of the time emergency room usage increases.

(see recent Foundation for Government Accountability Report and article by Nicholas Horton, National Review, February 21, 2018), and

WHEREAS, many uninsured workers with part time jobs cut their hours to become eligible for the Medicaid expansion, saving them more money by not working, which increased the state’s share of the cost to the federal government for the expansion program causing some states to increase taxes to pay for the unintended escalations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party opposes Medicaid expansion but supports legislation to encourage and incentivize health providers and other businesses to create nonprofit private health care clinics for the uninsured to receive basic health care without relying on taxpayer money and federal government control.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 5

Resolution to Ensure Children and School Safety

Submitted by: Julia Morgan – Delegate, Ada County

WHEREAS, as Idahoans and as Republicans, we value all life with the utmost respect and hold the lives of our children as especially precious, and

WHEREAS school shootings, bullying, mental health, and other issues of safety are of concern, and

WHEREAS, there is a debate as to what needs done to protect and safeguard our state's children, and

WHEREAS, we hold firmly to the 2nd amendment rights granted us as US Citizens, and

WHEREAS, heinous acts have been carried out in “gun-free” zones in schools and open public locations, resulting in multiple injuries and high loss of lives of defenseless victims, and

WHEREAS, the well-meaning but ultimate lack of defense in a designated “gun free zone” is also known by perpetrators, and

WHEREAS, this issue is worthy of our attention and needing a sensible and responsible solution,

BE IT RESOLVED, it is imperative we preserve our 2nd amendment rights and that we render no citizen defenseless, and no child unprotected, in an active shooter situation.

BE IT RESOLVED, that laws, rules and protocol be consistent, statewide.

BE IT RESOLVED we urge Idaho lawmakers and school officials to ban any and all “gun-free zone” proclamations, visible or otherwise, for any of our publicly funded schools or public places.

BE IT RESOLVED, we believe it is vital that in Idaho we empower qualified, law-abiding individuals, such as Veterans and retired Police and other trained adult individuals to carry concealed firearms, including in our public places and schools.

BE IT RESOLVED, we deem it vital that all students in Idaho schools receive age-appropriate opportunity for firearm familiarity and safety training, and that emergency drills include well-advised shooter-response protocols.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 6

Resolution to Commemorate Israel's 70th Anniversary

Submitted by: Chris Strow – Delegate, LD 21

WHEREAS, the year of 2018 marks the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel in the ancestral home of the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine, and through that vote, to create the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, Israel was officially declared an independent nation on May 14, 1948, in fulfillment of the eternal desire of the Jewish people to return to the land of the historic Kingdom of Israel established 3,000 years ago and to the holy city of Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, The modern State of Israel was born out of the ashes of the Holocaust and World War II where the death of six million Jews did not eliminate the will of a people to seek dignity in life and a place of respect and recognition among the people of the civilized world; and

WHEREAS, The people of Israel have established a vibrant political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; and a fully independent judiciary; and

WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the leading universities in the world, and twelve Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize; and

WHEREAS, Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, is among the world's leaders in the high-tech industry, and is at the forefront of research and development in the field of renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search-and-rescue teams, mobile hospitals, and other emergency supplies, to help victims of disasters around the world, including the 1994 Rwandan civil war, the 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya, the 1999 earthquakes in Turkey, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 hurricanes along the southern coast of the United States, the 2007 fires in Greece, the 2008 China earthquake, the 2009 & 2013 typhoons in the Philippines, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the 2011 Turkey earthquake, 2011 Japanese Tsunami, 2015 Nepal earthquake, and most recently, 2017 Houston's Hurricane Harvey; and

WHEREAS, Israel continues to strive for peace with security and dignity for itself, its neighbors and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Successive leaders of Israel have sought to achieve peace with Israel's Arab neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan and has made its desire to establish peaceful relations with all Arab states abundantly clear; and

WHEREAS, For seven decades, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually respected Judeo-Christian values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, Idaho and Israel share a dynamic and growing trade relationship upon which the economies of Israel and Idaho rely; and

WHEREAS, The people of Idaho share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Idaho Republican Party congratulates the State of Israel upon the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of its independence and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Idaho and Israel; and

RESOLVED, That the Idaho Republican Party commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a rule of law for everyone; and

RESOLVED, That the Idaho Republican Party extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 7

A Resolution on SBAC/ISAT Opt-Out

Submitted by: Elaine King – Delegate, Madison County

WHEREAS, providing quality education for Idaho’s children remains a top priority among constituents, and

WHEREAS, unnecessary time spent in the classroom is not in the best interest of the students; and

WHEREAS, the SBAC test, now referred to as the ISAT test, according to the Idaho State Department of Education and the SBAC representatives have estimated that it takes each student 6-8 ½ hours on average to complete the test; and

WHEREAS, over one million hours of instruction time in grades 3-10 is lost every year in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, proctors are hired and trained to administer the test making it more expensive; and

WHEREAS, other states have shown that especially in younger aged students, this test is causing unnecessary stress and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, the ISAT/ SBAC causes a disruption in classroom learning and computer lab availability; and

WHEREAS, the test scores are rarely seen by the teachers of the students, reducing their ability to assess their students; and

WHEREAS, there is little evidence that students statewide have improved their test scores over the past couple of years (see 2017-2018 EdTrends in Idaho Public Education);

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Idaho State Republican Party support legislation to require the Idaho School Board Association work with the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Legislature, and the Idaho State Department of Education to:

- a) Allow school districts the choice to opt out of the SBAC test, enabling their teachers to decide which requirements of the Idaho (Common) Core Standards would be most beneficial and developmentally appropriate for their students.
- b) Any federal money that may be lost due to the ISAT (SBAC) opt out would be compensated as needed through the new Internet Sales Tax passed into law in 2018.

Voluntary opt out would free teachers to educate students without the stress of teaching to a test that is not only expensive and time consuming but also fails to deliver results in a timely manner to help improve teaching skills and student achievement.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 8

A Resolution in support of Stand-Your-Ground and Castle Doctrine laws in Idaho

Submitted by: Matthew Jensen – Delegate, LD17

WHEREAS, under current law in Idaho, when using deadly force even if a citizen survives a violent attack on life, they have no criminal immunity protections, which can result in having to spend tens of thousands of dollars to defend themselves all over again in the courtroom; and,

WHEREAS, law-abiding gun owners should be able to exercise their God-given rights to self-defense, especially without fear of facing prosecution or bankruptcy; and,

WHEREAS, Stand-Your-Ground and Castle Doctrine laws should allow law-abiding gun owners in Idaho the right to defend themselves and their loved ones against criminal invasion without facing prosecution; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of law-abiding gun owners across the State of Idaho, Republicans in this state should do whatever they can in their various positions to support and/or enact Stand-Your-Ground and Castle Doctrine bills with no weakening amendments; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution should be forwarded to ALL Republican legislators in the State of Idaho; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the State Central Committee Resolutions Committee for consideration.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 9

A Resolution in support of reconsidering visual representations

Submitted by: Matthew Jensen – Delegate, LD17

WHEREAS, with any political party, image is key; and,

WHEREAS, symbolic representation is important when selecting and continuing to use a logo; and,

WHEREAS, for a very long time in the context of politics in this country, the Republican Party has been represented with a depiction of an elephant and has been represented more simply with the color red with another party represented by blue; and,

WHEREAS, the powers that be while well-intentioned, did not choose a logo that fit this organization well; and,

WHEREAS, that very logo is of a blue elephant wearing red clothes, which has been often taken to mean a Democrat wearing Republican clothes, being a seriously bad look for the dominant party in this state; and,

WHEREAS, whether right or wrong, such an interpretation should be corrected, and just simply offering a more complimentary interpretation will not work in the course of good public relations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Republican Party directs its State Central Committee to discuss coming up with a replacement of the Idaho GOP logo; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a replacement logo can be discussed as soon as the next State Central Committee meeting but selected no later than the adjournment of the Summer 2019 State Central Committee meeting.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 10

Resolution Concerning the Election of Idaho State Party Officers

Submitted by: Region VI, Trent Clark – Delegate, Caribou County

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Republican Central Committee has delegated to the Idaho State Republican Convention the election of its officers, and

WHEREAS, the officers of the Idaho State Republican Central Committee are entrusted with significant decisions affecting the electoral success of Republicans at all levels of government, with the building and maintenance of the Republican brand and reputation in Idaho, and with fiduciary care over the finances of the Party, and

WHEREAS, the delegates and alternates who may vote on Idaho State Central Committee officers should have an opportunity to evaluate and verify the candidate's credentials, consider candidate resumes, evaluate candidate-proposed platforms and initiatives, and discuss among themselves the known qualification, reputation and integrity of those seeking office, and

WHEREAS, the time allowed within a single Convention of the Party is limited such that it may provide inadequate vetting and thoughtful consideration of each candidate prior to the casting of votes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Idaho Republican Party in Convention assembled that the Chair of the Idaho State Republican Central Committee shall develop and propose for adoption by vote before the full Idaho State Republican Central Committee a procedure to place potential candidates for statewide Republican Party office before potential delegates and alternates in advance of the Convention, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such procedure should, at a minimum, include the following:

- a. A mechanism by which any person meeting the criteria to serve as a delegate or alternate to the Convention may announce their intent to seek election at least 30 days prior to the opening day of the Convention,
- b. A list of contact information allowing announced candidates to be invited to county, district and regional meetings of the Party in advance of the Convention, and
- c. An on-line resource allowing a limited amount of information, provided by and solely at the discretion of announced candidates, to be posted publicly, on the condition that the Chairman of the Central Committee shall ensure posted content is respectful and makes a positive statement as to the qualifications and character traits of each candidate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that the procedure called for in this resolution shall be established and in effect 30 days prior to the opening day of the 2020 Idaho State Republican Party Convention.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 11

Resolution to condemn racial crimes, theft of property, and violence including murder of White South Africans condoned and codified by the Parliament of South Africa.

Submitted by: Nicholas Henderson – Delegate, Kootenai County; Clark Albritton – Delegate, Kootenai County; Roger Garlock – Delegate, Kootenai County; Bjorn Handeen – Delegate, Kootenai County; Seraiah Chatfield – Delegate, Legislative District 3

Whereas, the Republican Party of the great State of Idaho unwaveringly believes in the inalienable rights of man as granted by God and applicable to all mankind, regardless of Nation of origin; and,

Whereas, the United States has, and continues, to serve as a beacon of hope and example for other nations regarding human rights; and,

Whereas, the United Nations has adopted a Universal Human Rights code of laws written with considerable input and guidance from the United States of America and have been adopted into the Charter of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and,

Whereas, United Nations Universal Human Rights Laws seek to protect economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups from discrimination; and,

Whereas, the preamble of the International Bill of Human Rights states “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.”; and,

Whereas, the International Bill of Human Rights goes on to state that “disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind.”; and,

Whereas, the Parliament of South Africa voted in 2018 to amend section 25 of the South African Constitution to allow for expropriation of white-owned land without financial recompense.

Whereas, violence against white South African farmers, including hundreds of murders and land raids, have been perpetrated in South Africa in the past 12 months, and have been emboldened by the recent passage of the amendment to section 25 of the South African Constitution; and,

Whereas, three separate human rights commission investigations revealed widespread human rights violations against South African farmers including assaults, rapes, murders, and torture; and,

Whereas, South Africa currently receives approximately \$600 million US Dollars of Foreign Aid from the United States despite these verifiable human rights violations; therefore,

Be it Resolved the Idaho Republican Party petitions Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo, together with Representatives Raul Labrador and Mike Simpson, to draft a compelling resolution for the United States Congress calling for the immediate cessation of economic support for the country of South Africa until a verifiable end is brought to the South African ruling majority’s racism and human rights violations; and,

Be it further Resolved, That, by moving forward with this legislation the Parliament of South Africa is hereby recognized by the Idaho Republican Party as being in direct violation of the United Nations proclamation on race and racial prejudice and as such has rendered forfeit any protections afforded by United States economic aid programs.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 12

Resolution calling on the State of Idaho to Review its Budgeting Practices

Submitted by: Steve Pugmire – Delegate, LD 22

Whereas, the economy of the State of Idaho has recently gained a reputation as one of the fastest growing and robust economies of the nation; and,

Whereas, it is the desire of the Republican Party to enhance the prospects of a continuation of this prosperity into the future, and while it is now a fact that the State of Idaho receives “grants” from the Federal government in the form of subsidies to an amount approaching 39% of the State Budget in order to balance the budget; and,

Whereas, presently the government of the United States of America requires a serious yearly deficit in order to facilitate the policies, programs and habits of the “entitlement culture” of the nation;

Therefore, it is recommended by the Republican State Party to acknowledge the terms of the present employee contract of the de facto government, but freeze further hiring with zero based budgets and thereby create an economic environment to be admired, envied and duplicated by other States of the American union. Once the budget of the State of Idaho no longer requires constant infusion by the Federal government, it has the potential to serve as an example of our Sister States.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 14

Resolution to Maintain Republican Platform Principles and Defend the Voice of the People in the Idaho Legislature

Submitted by: Marilyn Giddings – Delegate, Idaho County

WHEREAS, Idaho Republicans “believe that our Founding Fathers gave us a government that is a servant of the people not our master”, and having set forth the significance of the people’s voice throughout the Idaho Republican Platform; and

WHEREAS, Republicans “believe the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people”; and

WHEREAS, “the Idaho Republican Party believes that government works best when its citizens become actively involved” and “the Party encourages all citizens to engage in healthy debate on all issues that will increase citizen control of government”; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Republicans call for the U S Congress to allow “more time for members to study legislation”, “more opportunity for citizens to testify at hearings”, “debate on legislation before the members”, and expect the same of our state legislators as representatives of the people; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho legislature is predominately composed of Republicans who willingly ran for public office as Republicans because of the Party’s good reputation and clearly established principles; and

WHEREAS, citizens can reasonably assume by common sense that all elected Republicans should predominately guide their performance of duty by the Republican Platform, which is a valid reflection of the Republican people throughout the state who deserve to be honestly represented by their clearly stated platform of principles; and

WHEREAS, legislation supporting principles of the Republican platform like personal self-defense, the right to bear arms, tax reduction, fiscal responsibility, and parental rights has been intentionally opposed and suppressed by “Republican” legislators who have withheld this legislation from healthy, open debate and the customary legislative process; and

WHEREAS, some Idaho Republican legislators have prevented engagement of citizens, denied certain bills a full hearing in committee, withheld Republican-friendly bills entirely from debate or vote, ignored proposed bills even when signed by thousands of Idaho citizens, forced last minute bills through the legislature by suspending rules leaving no time for citizen testimony all of which have intentionally opposed core principles of the Republican platform which specifically encourages “citizens (to) engage in healthy debate on all issues that will increase citizen control of government”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho State Republican Central Committee, encourages and in fact relies on the Republicans of the Idaho House of Representatives and Senate to support the principles of the Idaho Republican Party Platform established by the Republican people of this state

and also to honor and respect the voice, rightful participation, and supremacy of the people who legitimately have established these party principles.

FINALLY LET IT BE RESOLVED that any Idaho legislator registered to be Republican thereby professing to agree with and be associated with the overall Idaho Republican Platform principles who then intentionally and regularly opposes the basic principles of the platform (1) may be given an authorized letter from the Idaho Republican State Central Committee specifically listing the alleged behaviors to be in opposition to the platform which have occurred while carrying out the duties of office. After having been offered the opportunity to justify such behaviors before a meeting of the Republican State Central Committee, (2) the legislator may be subject to reprimand by a majority vote of the state committee, which will be delivered to the legislator via authorized and certified letter listing the specific behaviors determined to be in opposition to the platform. Thereafter, (3) if opposition behaviors continue, the Republican State Central Committee, again through majority vote of its members, will endeavor to defend and maintain the principles of the Republican Party by withdrawing Republican endorsement of said legislator.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 15

Resolution to condemn the unjust incarceration of Journalist Tommy Robinson by British Authorities

Submitted by: Ryan Davidson – Delegate, Ada County

WHEREAS, Tommy Robinson is a British citizen activist and journalist, best known for chronicling the effects of mass-Muslim immigration to the United Kingdom; and,

WHEREAS, the United Kingdom has seemed to succumb to radical left wing immigration policies implemented to the detriment of its own citizenry, as has also been witnessed in several other European countries; and,

WHEREAS, as Tommy Robinson has reported, the effects of mass Muslim migration include a failure to assimilate to British culture, and an unwillingness to respect British law and custom; and,

WHEREAS, one of the most serious consequences has been the formation of Muslim adult male grooming gangs which are formed to rape young girls. Several members of such a gang have recently been placed on trial; and,

WHEREAS, outside the courthouse of one of these trials, Tommy Robinson was arrested for recording the comings-and-goings with his cell phone; and,

WHEREAS, Tommy Robinson was charged with “breach of the peace” and unjustly sentenced to 13 months in prison; and,

WHEREAS, this arrest was a politically motivated attempt to hide a pattern of systematic child rape by Muslim migrants in Western countries; and,

WHEREAS, Republican Congressman Paul Gosar of Arizona has recently expressed his desire that the United States intervene in the violation of Tommy Robinson's human rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho State Republican Convention petitions Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo, together with Representatives Raul Labrador and Mike Simpson, to follow Rep. Gosar's lead and assist in the release of political prisoner Tommy Robinson.

Proposed Resolution 2018 – 16

Resolution in Support of making Municipal Elections Partisan

Submitted by: Ryan Davidson – Delegate, Ada County

WHEREAS, in the state of Idaho, elections for Mayor and City Council -- held in odd-numbered years -- are mandated by law to be non-partisan, in that candidates appear on the ballot without a party designation; and,

WHEREAS, this has led to the Republican party of Idaho largely ignoring municipal elections, and failing to officially endorse or fund municipal candidates who happen to be party members; and,

WHEREAS, voter turnout in municipal elections is substantially lower than turnout in even-year partisan elections; and,

WHEREAS, city council offices are legislative in nature, in that they pass policies that are influenced by political ideology; and,

WHEREAS, Idaho law states that no individual may hold two or more elected offices at once, but failed to include municipal offices in the definition, meaning that an individual may be both -- for instance -- a city councilman and a legislator at the same time, a situation which has occurred more than once in Idaho; and,

WHEREAS, this “blindspot” has been exploited by the Democrat party, an unpopular political party in Idaho making up only 16% of the Idaho legislature; and,

WHEREAS, Democrats have recently bragged in an Idaho Statesman story dated November 2, 2017 that they *do in fact* exploit non-partisan races to elect liberal candidates, to-wit:

“As losses for governor and other statewide offices mount, Democrats have intensified their focus on local races, where they believe they can win.

“...City council elections in Idaho are nonpartisan, so voters ostensibly don’t pick candidates based on nationwide platforms. That gives Democrats here an edge they don’t have in most races, said Rep. Mat Erpelding, Idaho's House minority leader and one of Idaho’s most prominent Democrats.

“In nonpartisan races, when we’re not saddled with the ‘D,’ when we are able to run on our values, we have tremendous success in elections,” he said.” and,

WHEREAS, recent victories in the 2017 election by far-left candidates running in conservative legislative districts demonstrate conclusively that the Democrat party is exploiting the non-partisan loophole, taking advantage of low-turnout elections, and deceiving voters; and

WHEREAS, indicating a candidate's party affiliation next to their name on the ballot is disclosure, and the Republican Party believes in transparent elections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Republican Convention believes that municipal elections by their nature are, and should be, partisan affairs; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Republican Convention respectfully requests that the Idaho Legislature amend state code to allow for a partisan system of primaries to be implemented at the municipal level; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Republican members of the Idaho legislature and the Secretary of State.