

Idaho Republican Party

Accepted Resolutions

2019 State Central Committee Winter Meeting
January 4 – 5, 2019



2019 Standing Resolutions Committee Members

Idaho Republican Party Chairman: Jonathan Parker

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Resolution 2019 – 1

Resolution Opposing the Construction of Wildlife Overpasses in Fremont County

In the matter wildlife overpasses, wildlife underpasses, and the required very tall mesh wire fences in Fremont County, Idaho.

Whereas, the State of Idaho road and bridge maintenance backlog is several hundred million dollars; and,

Whereas, the cost of a wildlife overpass and required fencing is millions of dollars of taxpayer road and bridge money; and,

Whereas, the Idaho gas tax was raised recently with the specific purpose of reducing the maintenance backlog; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses and required fencing may have a negative effect on the fragile economy in Fremont County and specifically Island Park; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses and required fencing will desecrate wide open spaces, vistas, and the inherent and natural beauty of Fremont County; and,

Whereas, construction of wildlife overpasses and underpasses will require massive earth disturbance which result in destruction of sensitive environmental areas during construction; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing will threaten and destroy wetlands in many areas of Fremont County; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses, and underpasses, and the required fencing may damage streams in Fremont County and specifically Howard Creek, at Targhee Pass, in Island Park; and,

Whereas, construction of wildlife overpasses in the Targhee Pass area of Island Park, in Fremont County, could result in the closing of the iconic Howard Creek Wayside; and,

Whereas, the many miles of tall, mesh, wildlife fencing will result in the death of many birds, including the threatened sage grouse and many raptors; and,

Whereas, wildlife fencing will severely limit access to public and private lands; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses will limit human activity in the vicinity of the overpasses; and,

Whereas, hunting will be restricted or eliminated in the area (maybe miles) of wildlife overpasses and underpasses; and,

Whereas, connectivity to wildlife overpasses and underpasses for will lead to land and public use restrictions; and,

Whereas, wildlife fencing will disrupt the historical movement of wildlife from and to their winter and summer feeding areas; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses and fencing will disrupt access to fishing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses and underpasses and associated fencing will invite disease and increased predation and depredation when concentrating wild ungulates in a relatively small area; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpass construction expense, questionable effectiveness, impact on individual property rights and the potential unintended consequences of property damage are possible; and,

Whereas, livestock grazing will be curtailed or eliminated in the vicinity of wildlife overpasses,

Whereas, human recreational activity, included but not limited to hiking, camping, trail riding, or any type of summer or winter recreation may be curtailed or eliminated; and,

Whereas, wildlife overpasses, underpasses and the required fencing will “funnel” wildlife to choke points where predators will establish kill zones; and,

Whereas, the establishment of wildlife overpasses and underpasses will result in the closure of ATV trails, biking trails, and hiking trails in the vicinity; and,

Whereas, the establishment of wildlife overpasses and underpasses will result in the closure of snowmobile trails during seasonal wildlife movement; and,

Whereas, wildlife fences will trap wildlife during wildfire and lead to their death; and,

Whereas, electric power line maintenance may be curtailed in the vicinity of wildlife overpasses and underpasses; and,

Whereas, the Island Park Chamber of Commerce opposes wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, the Mayors in Fremont County oppose wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, the Fremont County Commissioners oppose wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, the Idaho District 35 Legislators oppose wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, Lt. Governor Brad Little does not support wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County because of the multi-million dollar road and bridge maintenance backlog; and,

Whereas, the Fremont County Farm Bureau (1500 members) opposes wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, 4000 signatures of citizens opposing wildlife, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County, have been collected; and,

Whereas, the Island Park Preservation Coalition opposes wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, the Island Park Chamber of Commerce opposes wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, there is over whelming opposition to wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required fencing in Fremont County; and,

Whereas, no road in Fremont County is in the top 15 for wildlife vehicle collisions in Idaho; and,

Whereas, many animals, especially elk, avoid wildlife overpasses; and,

Whereas, common sense solutions, such as reduced speed limits and active warning signs, significantly reduce wildlife vehicle collisions; and,

Whereas, speed limit reduction in Teton National Park has greatly reduced wildlife vehicle collisions; and,

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Idaho Republican Party opposes the construction of wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and the required, tall, wire mesh fencing in Fremont County, Idaho.

Resolution 2019 – 2

Resolution Calling for the Reform of Birthright Citizenship

Whereas, The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) has estimated that nearly 200,000 children are born annually "to foreign women admitted as visitors, that is, tourists, students, guest workers, and other non-immigrant categories."; and,

Whereas, The Birthright Citizenship Act proposed in past sessions by Rep. Steve King would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act - not the Constitution - to consider a person born in the United States "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States for citizenship at birth purposes if the person is born in the United States of parents, one of whom is: (1) a U.S. citizen or national; (2) a lawful permanent resident alien whose residence is in the United States; or (3) an alien performing active service in the U.S. Armed Forces;

Therefore be it Resolved, The Idaho State Republican Central Committee urges Representatives Russ Fulcher and Mike Simpson to work with Representative Steve King to re-introduce the Birthright Citizenship Act; and,

Be it further Resolved, The Idaho State Republican Central Committee urges Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo to propose a companion bill in the Senate.

Resolution 2019 – 3

Resolution in Support of Life at Conception Act

Whereas, Because we Republicans believe in the sanctity of human life and we have formally declared Republicans are the “Right to Life” party; and,

Whereas, Because of Roe v Wade, more than 61 million unborn children have died by abortion; and
Whereas: In Roe v Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court declared it could not resolve “the difficult question of when life begins” - and on that basis of this unresolved question, declared a new “right to abortion” based on a “right of privacy”; and,

Whereas, The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states: “nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law; and,

Whereas, In Roe, the Supreme Court admitted: “If...personhood {for the unborn} is established, the appellant's case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life is then guaranteed specifically by the Fourteenth Amendment...” (Roe v. Wade [410 US 113 at 156-7]); and,

Whereas, Science is clear that human life begins at conception, when a new human being is formed; and,

Whereas, The American people oppose abortion-on-demand and want innocent human life to be protected especially when it is most defenseless; and,

Whereas, It belongs to Congress to resolve the question the Supreme Court said IT cannot resolve; and,

Whereas, Passage of a Life at Conception Act into federal law, by declaring that unborn children are persons legally entitled to constitutional protection, will rescue millions of un-born children from dying by abortion-on-demand;

Therefore be it Resolved, the Idaho State Central Committee to fully supports by and will actively campaign for, publicly promote in the news and social media, as well as urge our elected U.S. Senators and Representatives to cast every vote for a, Life at Conception Act, and do everything necessary to win its ultimate passage in the United States Congress.

Resolution 2019 – 4

Resolution Condemning C.L. “Butch” Otter and Thomas Loertscher

Whereas, Chad Christensen and Representative Thomas Loertscher competed for the Party’s nomination for Idaho House of Representatives District 32B in the Republican primary election held on May 15, 2018; and,

Whereas, Chad Christensen defeated Thomas Loertscher by winning a majority of the votes cast in both the primary election and general, despite Loertscher’s incumbency, and the results were certified by the Idaho Secretary of State; and,

Whereas, Chad Christensen’s victory, in both the primary election and general, largely can be attributed to voter dissatisfaction with Thomas Loertscher’s use of his position to block popular bills from receiving a hearing in the House; especially, bills related to firearms laws; and,

Whereas, Rep. Thomas Loertscher filed a declaration of write-in candidacy for the seat, and Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter chose to endorse that campaign; and,

Whereas, This endorsement by one of the Party’s most visible figures caused great confusion among Republicans and others about where the Party stands with respect to its nominee in the general election; and,

Whereas, In fact, during the last election cycle, Chad Christensen received the unequivocal endorsement of Brad Little, Janice McGeachin, Jonathan Parker, Brent Crane, and numerous other Idaho Republican Party staff members, officeholders, candidates, and committees; and,

Whereas, Butch Otter’s endorsement of an independent write-in candidate over the Party’s duly-nominated candidate is wholly inappropriate, casts a dark shadow on Governor Otter’s tenure of service, and is not in keeping with our values as a Party; and,

Whereas, after being rightly called out and condemned for such behavior, Butch Otter continued his insults to Republican voters and workers by donating a substantial amount of resources to the decidedly un-Republican write-in campaign of Thomas Loertscher;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Idaho Republican Party condemns and censures Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter for his endorsement of Thomas Loertscher's write-in candidacy; and,

Therefore be it further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the 2019 Winter State Central Committee meeting for consideration.

Resolution 2019 – 5

Resolution Reaffirming the Need for and Importance of Better Stand-Your-Ground Legislation

Whereas, the Idaho Republican Party not only recognizes and holds dear the right to life, it indeed holds dear that citizens have a right to preserve life; and,

Whereas, it has been recognized by the Idaho Republican Party that one should not have to defend oneself all over again in court for the right and just actions defending life; and,

Whereas, in the consequences of defending oneself, it should not matter which weapon is used; and,

Whereas, while helpful and a step in the right direction, current Stand-Your-Ground law merely codifies current case law, and does not improve upon the correct and properly judicious recognition of the right to defend one's life and situation; and,

Whereas, with proper legislation passed in the Idaho Legislature, being able to properly Stand Your Ground could be a bulwark against some threats to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and,

Whereas, assuming law has been broken in the course of defending oneself is dangerously close to being guilty until proven innocent, and is unamerican and antithetical to the concepts of due process and being secure in your own person; and,

Whereas, with the new coming 2019 Legislative Session, lawmakers have the opportunity to stand their own ground against the bad situation citizens who might find themselves defending their just and right actions in court; and,

Whereas, under its own rules, the Idaho Republican Party is bound by actions taken at and resolutions passed by the 2018 Convention of the Idaho Republican Party;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Idaho Republican Party exhorts its members in the Idaho Legislature to do whatever they can in supporting the passage of real and more effective Stand-Your-Ground legislation, like that of no duty to retreat from a place a person has a lawful right to be and reimbursement of costs for when a person is found not guilty by reason of self defense in 2019; and,

Therefore be it further Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all Republican legislators in the state of Idaho; and,

Therefore be it further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the 2019 Winter State Central Committee meeting for consideration.

Resolution 2019 – 6

Resolution Supporting Republican Candidates

Whereas, Idaho Republican legislators have a sworn duty to uphold both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the state of Idaho; and,

Whereas, Idaho Republican legislators have campaigned in a manner commensurate with the ideals of the Idaho Republican platform; and,

Whereas, grassroots support of the Idaho Republican candidates is predicated upon their allegiance and fidelity to the above-mentioned documents;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Idaho Republican State Central Committee proudly and fully endorses the Republican slate of candidates for the State and Federal elected offices and strongly urges our neighbors to vote Republican with us in the general election; and,

Therefore be it further Resolved, that the Idaho Republican State Central Committee fully intends to hold our legislators responsible to the documents they have taken an oath to uphold as well as to the Idaho Republican Platform.

Resolution 2019 – 7

A Resolution in opposition and rejection of “Gun Confiscation Orders” or “Red Flag Laws”

Whereas, when any law is to be considered by any legislature in the Union, it must clear the United States Constitution as a hurdle; and,

Whereas, government overreach does not come as a boot on your neck and a hand in your wallet, rather, it comes disguised as all of the safety you would ever ask for; and,

Whereas, under the United States Constitution, the right to due process is sacrosanct, not only that, but it was also amended specifically to include, among other rights, recognition of the God-given right to bear arms; and,

Whereas, Gun Confiscation Orders, commonly called “Red Flag” laws, “Gun Violence Restraining Orders,” or “Extreme Risk Protection Orders,” attempt to remove a citizen’s right to keep and bear arms without due process; and,

Whereas, any such Gun Confiscation Orders bill clearly fails the constitutionality test as all citizens have the right to due process under the law as well as the right to bear arms; and,

Whereas, Gun Confiscation Orders can only lead to massive abuses by different parts of the government, and if left unchecked, an ultimate confiscation of all firearms by the government at every level; and,

Whereas, not only is the Idaho Republican Party the party of rights, but it also holds dear the right to KEEP and bear arms;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Idaho Republican Party pleads with its members in Legislative and related roles to do whatever they can to stop passage of any Gun Confiscation Orders or “Red Flag” bill; and,

Therefore be it further Resolved, that the Idaho Republican Party reaffirms its support of, as well as its love for, the Bill of Rights; and,

Therefore be it further Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all Republican legislators in the state of Idaho; and,

Therefore be it further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the 2019 Winter State Central Committee meeting for consideration.