

Idaho Republican Party
Accepted Resolutions
2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention
June 27, 2020



Idaho Republican Party Chairman: Raúl R. Labrador

Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs:
Machele Hamilton & Brent Regan

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Resolution 2020 – 1

Resolution to oppose any future effort in the State of Idaho to decriminalize or legalize polygamy

Submitted by: Dan Cravens, Delegate - Bingham County

WHEREAS, this past legislative session the Utah Legislature decriminalized practice of polygamy in that state;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention is opposed to any future effort in the State of Idaho to decriminalize or legalize polygamy, and the party convention calls upon the members of the Idaho Legislature to oppose any effort to enact a legislative change of this nature.

Resolution 2020 – 2

A Resolution in support of an amendment to the Idaho Constitution regarding Representative Governance

Submitted by: Rep. Gayann Demourdant, Delegate – Legislative District 14

WHEREAS securing the rights and voice of the people through representative governance, is essential and has been and always should be among our highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 1889 the Idaho Territorial Governor, Edward A. Stevenson, called for a constitutional convention to begin on July 4; and

WHEREAS, 72 delegates were selected by their county central committees throughout the territory representing disparate interests, from mining to logging to farming, counties small and large, with drastically different topography, economics, politics, and faiths; and

WHEREAS, the delegates drafted a constitution that bound the uniquely diverse territory into a unified state with three equal branches of government; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Idaho each guarantee the People a republican form of government; and

WHEREAS, a republican form of government is essential to restrict the expansion of government and ensure the preservation of liberty; and

WHEREAS, the checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government are crucial safeguards protecting individual liberties, countering government overreach, and repelling threats to republican principles; and

WHEREAS, the interrelationship between the Idaho Legislature and the Governor is designed to ensure limited government, accountability, transparency and fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature collectively represents the unique interests and challenges of Idahoans from all areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Idaho only allows the Legislature to convene itself at its annual regular session; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Idaho only permits a special session of the legislature at the call of the Governor or under limited extreme circumstances related to an enemy attack; and

WHEREAS, unanticipated exigent circumstances may arise after the Legislature has adjourned its regular session that call for the Legislature to provide accountability to its coordinate branches of government; and

WHEREAS, at these times there is little incentive for the executive branch of government to choose to assemble the legislature for the purposes of being accountable to it; and

WHEREAS, during exigent circumstances it is necessary that the voices of Idahoans from across the state be represented in policymaking as accomplished by legislators representing their various and diverse districts:

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention notify the members of the Idaho Senate and the Idaho House of Representatives that it should adopt and place on the general election ballot for public approval a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to convene itself under appropriate circumstances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention endorse said constitutional amendment once placed on the ballot and encourage its adoption.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention requests that the Idaho Legislature adopt statutes to restore a balance of power and representation at its earliest convening.

Resolution 2020 – 3

Resolution to Change the Delivery of Ballots

Submitted by: Ann Seddon, Delegate – Kootenai County

WHEREAS, in the state of Idaho any person can submit completed ballots for an unlimited number of registered voters by taking them to a designated election office or by mailing them and,

WHEREAS, this process is known as “ballot harvesting,” which is the practice of allowing political operatives and others to collect voters’ ballots and turn them in en mass to polling stations and,

WHEREAS, according to the Idaho Attorney General’s Office, this practice of ballot collecting is legal because there is no law prohibiting it from occurring and,

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has opposed “ballot harvesting” as described in the first whereas and,

WHEREAS, there is a great likelihood that ballots can “go missing” or be subject to tampering; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: The 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention strongly urges the Idaho Legislature to write and pass a bill restricting the practice of ballot harvesting and that this bill permit a specific category of people such as members of a household, members of a family, or a verifiable caregiver to submit another person’s ballot and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention urges the Idaho State Legislators to study the laws of other states to help facilitate a bill to effectively control what is commonly known as “ballot harvesting” and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention urges the Idaho State Legislature pass such a bill and the Governor sign into law a bill defining who can legally submit another person’s ballot beginning with the 2021 voting cycle.

Resolution 2020 – 4

Resolution Reaffirming Support for the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act (H.B. 500)

Submitted by: Jess Sumpter, Delegate – Latah County

WHEREAS the Idaho Republican party platform says “We believe in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.”

And, WHEREAS Idaho Congress passed the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act (H.B. 500) on March 18, 2020 and signed into law by Gov. Brad Little on March 30, 2020.

And, WHEREAS Fairness in Women’s Sports Act (H.B. 500) says, “The legislature finds that there are "inherent differences between men and women," and that these differences "remain cause for celebration, but not for denigration of the members of either sex or for artificial constraints on an individual's opportunity," United States v. Virginia, 518 U.S. 515, 533 (1996).”

And the same also says, “The biological differences between females and males, especially as it relates to natural levels of testosterone, "explain the male and female secondary sex characteristics which develop during puberty and have lifelong effects,

including those most important for success in sport: categorically different strength, speed, and endurance," Doriane Lambelet Coleman and Wickliffe Shreve, "Comparing Athletic Performances: The Best Elite Women to Boys and Men," Duke Law Center for Sports Law and Policy."

And, "While classifications based on sex are generally disfavored, the Supreme Court has recognized that "sex classifications may be used to compensate women for particular economic disabilities [they have] suffered, to promote equal employment opportunity, [and] to advance full development of the talent and capacities of our Nation's people," United States v. Virginia, 518 U.S. 515, 533 (1996)."

And, "Having separate sex-specific teams furthers efforts to promote sex equality. Sex-specific teams accomplish this by providing opportunities for female athletes to demonstrate their skill, strength, and athletic abilities while also providing them with opportunities to obtain recognition and accolades, college scholarships, and the numerous other long-term benefits that flow from success in athletic endeavors."

And, WHEREAS Alliance Defending Freedom says, "Title IX already protects female athletes from unfair gender identity policies that deny biological reality. Idaho's new law simply reinforces that protection."

And the same also says, "When Title IX was passed several decades ago, the universal meaning of the word "sex" was clearly biological sex."

And, "Men have numerous athletic advantages over women, such as larger lung size, greater bone size and density, and greater muscle mass. No amount of surgeries [sic] or hormone blockers can erase these advantages. In fact, published scientific studies have found that cross-sex hormones have little or no effect on the competitive advantage of men who want to identify as women."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention reaffirms support for the Fairness in Women's Sports Act (H.B. 500).

Resolution 2020 – 5

Resolution Regarding Mandatory Statewide Contact Tracing: Scientific Data Shows No Compelling State-wide Interest

Submitted by: Caleb Bouma, Delegate – Latah County

(Note: All numbers referenced below come from the government's own websites, with the exception of an IdahoPress.com article about the initial \$7M funding of the program.)

WHEREAS, Idaho's Governor Brad Little has initiated and intends to implement a mandatory statewide "test, trace and isolate" program ("THE PROGRAM"); and

WHEREAS, the fact that the Governor has funded THE PROGRAM using \$7 Million federal tax dollars from the CARES ACT, received as a result of the Governor declaring a state of “extreme” emergency, does not in itself provide the sufficient justification for THE PROGRAM; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this writing, the State of Idaho reports 86 Covid-RELATED deaths, but does not delineate between Covid-RELATED deaths (deaths caused by comorbidity factors in a person who happened to have Covid-19) and Covid-CAUSED deaths, and

WHEREAS, the state reports that there have only been 33 total deaths in the State that were not associated with Long-term Care Facilities, and

WHEREAS, 18 out of 19 Covid-RELATED deaths in Lewiston, ID in Nez Perce County (20% of the state total) occurred at a SINGLE long-term care facility (the *Life Care Center of Lewiston*), and at least 23 of 26 Covid-RELATED deaths occurring in Twin Falls County (27% of the state total) were associated with just three long-term care facilities in that county, and

WHEREAS, such facilities have implemented their own additional advanced processes for tracing, testing, and protecting their elderly residents from outside contact since initial outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho reports that:

- 81.3% of all Covid-RELATED deaths in the state occurred in people over the age of 70; and
- ZERO Idaho residents under the age of 50 have died or were assumed to have died of Covid-RELATED issues; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the Governor’s “extreme emergency declaration” was to “*slow* the spread of coronavirus to protect our most vulnerable citizens and *preserve capacity* in our healthcare system,” and

WHEREAS, 33 of Idaho’s 44 counties (75%) experienced ZERO Covid-RELATED deaths, and at NO time during the peak of novel coronavirus infections were ANY of Idaho’s healthcare systems near, at, or overrun past their capacity to treat patients, and

WHEREAS, no sufficient accountability mechanism has been identified which would prevent bad actors within the PROGRAM from use tracing and quarantining requirements to harass or restrict the movement of individuals or families based on personal prejudices such as religion, race, or political affiliation (as the IRS was found to have done through excessive monitoring and reporting requirements under the Obama Administration), and

WHEREAS, Amendment 5 to the US Constitution states that, “No person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law ... without just compensation.”

WHEREAS, Amendment 14 to the US Constitution states that, “No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law,”

WHEREAS, THE PROGRAM, if implemented, can be used to deprive Idaho citizens of liberty and property without due process of law, and

WHEREAS, Article 1 Section 2 of the Idaho Constitution states that “All political power is inherent in the people,” and that “no special privileges or immunities shall ever be granted [to the Government] that may not be altered, revoked, or repealed by the legislature,” and

WHEREAS, Governor Little is preparing to implement this unprecedented PROGRAM without input from Idaho’s State Representatives and without input from the Idaho Senate, nor has the Idaho Legislature had opportunity to debate the merits of this PROGRAM,

NOW, THEREFORE, the following be resolved at the 2020 Idaho GOP State Convention:

- *Based on the evidence, no compelling state interest exists to implement statewide contact tracing across the State of Idaho;*
- *We therefore strongly oppose any statewide contract tracing programs like THE PROGRAM, regardless of funding;*
- *We also strongly oppose the use of cellphone tracking data by State or Federal agencies for surveillance or tracing purposes without express individual consent;*
- *Based on the data, we fully support and recommend that Covid-19 screening measures continue to be implemented and maintained by nursing homes and other health care facilities that serve those already ailing or aged;*
- *We demand that all work to implement the Governor’s statewide test, trace and isolate program be immediately halted until the Idaho Legislature can meet and hear arguments and evidence on the matter, and that no tracing programs be implemented beyond elder care facilities without approval of the Idaho Legislature.*

Resolution 2020 – 6

Proposed Resolution Establishing Idaho’s Unequivocal Support for Israel

Submitted by: Mark Fuller, Delegate - Bonneville County; Anthony Tirino, Delegate – LD30; Lisa Keller, Delegate – LD30

WHEREAS, the modern state of Israel, like the USA, is a country born from the aspiration for freedom and stands out among the nations as a beacon of democracy and humanity. Beyond our mutual strategic interests, Israel is likewise an exceptional country that shares our most essential values. It is the only country in the Middle East where freedom of speech and freedom of religion are found; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state, and support the decision of President Donald J Trump to move the American embassy to Jerusalem in fulfillment of U.S. law; and

WHEREAS, we affirm America's commitment to Israel's security and to ensure that Israel maintains a qualitative military edge over any and all adversaries, we support Israel's right and obligation to defend itself against terror attacks upon its people and against alternative forms of warfare being waged upon it legally, economically, culturally and otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the United States seeks to assist in the establishment of comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, to be negotiated among those living in the region;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention calls upon Senator Mike Crapo, Senator James Risch, Congressman Mike Simpson and Congressman Russ Fulcher to take all necessary actions to provide financial and military support to the state of Israel in order to maintain its sovereignty rights, and its ability to defend itself against terror attacks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention is proud to stand with the state of Israel, its sovereignty, rights and its ability to defend itself against terror attacks.

Resolution 2020 – 7

Resolution regarding SBAC/ISAT Opt Out

Submitted by: Elaine K. King, Delegate – Madison County

WHEREAS, providing quality education for Idaho's children remains a top priority among citizens; and

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

WHEREAS, SBAC representatives estimate it takes students 6 to 8½ hours on average to complete the SBAC test, now referred to as the ISAT test, according to the Idaho Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, SBAC actually tests to measure Common Core Standards, which are being reconsidered this year (see SCR132); and

WHEREAS, school districts must hire and train proctors to administer the test, making it more expensive than alternative tests; and

WHEREAS, other states have shown that, especially in younger-aged students, the SBAC test causes unnecessary stress and anxiety; and

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

WHEREAS, there is little evidence that students statewide have improved their test scores over the past few years (see 2017-2020 EdTrends in Idaho Public Education);

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention urges the Idaho Legislature and Idaho Department of Education to enact legislation and/or adjust rules to allow school districts to opt out of the SBAC test, regardless of what revised standards may be adopted.

Resolution 2020 – 8

Proposed Resolution of the Idaho Republican Party Regarding the Declaration of Public Health Emergency in March, 2020

Submitted By: Hendrick Mills, Delegate - Kootenai County

WHEREAS on March 25th of this year, 2020, Idaho Governor Brad Little declared a public health emergency due to the disease known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS Governor Little's declaration forced many businesses to close or to operate in a very limited mode for several months, resulting in thousands of people becoming unemployed; and

WHEREAS Governor Little's declaration sought to prohibit citizens from walking in parks, holding outdoor yard sales, or engaging in other lawful public activities; and

WHEREAS many recent studies have shown that the great majority of those people who contracted COVID-19 experienced no serious symptoms; and

WHEREAS when taking into account the large number of people who have had COVID-19 with no serious health effects, the death rate from the disease is comparable to the death rate from the ordinary influenza; and

WHEREAS a quarantine, when justified by a truly lethal disease, is a quarantine of sick people away from healthy people; and

WHEREAS requiring healthy people to restrict their movements and to stay home is tyranny and not a legitimate health related quarantine,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Republican Party condemns the declaration of emergency of March, 2020, and opposes any further shutdowns or restrictions of the movement of citizens for any reasons connected to COVID-19; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2020 Idaho Republican Party State Convention strongly opposes all governmentally-mandated contact tracing, wearing of masks, and stay-at-home orders or any restrictions of civil liberties, for any future outbreaks of COVID-19 or other similar diseases.