



LIBERTARIAN

PARTY OF IDAHO

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Liberty

Freedom and Responsibility

Issue

Government has caused average people to lose sight of their responsibilities to themselves and their communities. People have become accustomed to fear the responsibility that comes as a natural consequence of individual liberty.

Principle

Freedom and responsibility cannot be separated. Libertarians do not necessarily advocate or condone any of the practices our policies would make legal. Our exclusion of moral approval or disapproval is deliberate: people's rights must be recognized; the wisdom of any course of peaceful action is a matter for the acting individual to decide.

Solution

Liberty promotes and requires a society where people are free to make and learn from their own decisions, so long as they do not violate others' natural rights.

Transition

We call for communities to build voluntary institutions that solve social problems without government interference, rather than relying on the use of force to bring about their own vision.

Freedom of Religion

Issue

Religious practice is a broad category, most of which has nothing to do with government. However, both governments and religions proclaim some activities or behaviors to be laudable, others wrong, and still others criminal. Government comes into conflict with religion when the two disagree on which activities are in which category.

Governments are threatened by rival centers of power. Religious organizations are such a center, and so governments have an interest in restricting the practice of religion.

On the other hand, individuals often claim religious practice as a reason for violating the rights of other people. Many religions proclaim moral positions which are in conflict with natural rights; some governments also adopt religious positions in order to violate the natural rights of religious and non-religious minorities.

Principle

The government should hold natural rights as its central moral pillar, and never promote or practice any other. Religious practices should never be banned, except to the extent that they violate natural rights.

Natural rights are those liberties with which every person is born: the freedom from imposition by others on any person's life, liberty, property, or pursuit of happiness.

Solution

The government should be removed from the arena of regulating moral or immoral behavior and use its policing power strictly for punishing violations of natural rights.

Transition

End all laws restricting behavior that does not violate natural rights.

Repeal Idaho Constitution Article III §24, which sets as the legislature's highest priority the promotion of "temperance and morality."

Engage in voluntary organization and activism to promote the formation of healthy social bonds, personal responsibility, and celebration of wholesome and productive behavior.

Private Property Rights

Issue

The government uses policies like Eminent Domain and Civil Asset Forfeiture to deprive people of their property, often with little or no compensation.

Principle

The right to defense and use of property is an essential natural right, which allows us to live in peace with one another.

Solution

Property Taxes, Eminent Domain, and Civil Asset Forfeiture should be abolished in Idaho.

Transition

Government should dramatically slash spending across the board, not merely reduce projected increases. By removing the government from the many areas of life it has intruded, we can reduce property taxes to nothing over the course of several years. What few government services remain can be funded through fees for services and use of public land.

Any statute making it criminal to possess or sell a particular good should be abolished. These laws enable Civil Asset Forfeiture; police see a large quantity of cash and claim Reasonable Suspicion that the cash is evidence of a criminal transaction.

Eminent Domain should be abolished. No person should ever be forced to sell their property to the government. The government must compete on the open market for purchases and easements.

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms

Issue

Laws that restrict or outright prohibit armed self-defense and the ownership and use of firearms violate the citizens' right of self defense. These "gun control" laws are often justified by the mistaken premise that they will lead to a reduction in the level of violence in our society, but disarming peaceful people only makes them more vulnerable to violence.

Principle

An armed citizenry is essential to a free society. We affirm the right to keep and bear arms. The ownership of a firearm by an individual does not violate the rights of another person.

Solution

We oppose all laws requiring registration of firearms, ammunition, parts, attachments, or accessories. We also oppose any government efforts to ban or restrict the use of tear gas, "mace," or other self-protection devices. We also oppose

any restrictions on sharing the software used in the production of 3D-printed guns and accessories.

Transition

We call for the repeal of all laws restricting or regulating the ownership, manufacture, transfer, or sale of knives, firearms, or ammunition.

We favor the repeal of laws banning the carrying of weapons or prohibiting pocket weapons. We also oppose the banning of inexpensive handguns (“Saturday night specials”), semi-automatic or so-called assault weapons and their accessories, and fully automatic or so-called machine guns and their accessories as a violation of the right to property.

We demand that the State of Idaho nullify any and all Federal regulation of firearms. We call for Idaho to refuse to enforce Federal gun laws, or to participate in any regulatory program operated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

We oppose so-called “Red Flag” laws, also known as “Extreme Risk Protection Orders.”

Freedom of Communication

Issue

Both action and inaction by the state prevent people from exercising their liberty as protected in the US Constitution in the First Amendment.

Principle

We defend the rights of individuals to unrestricted freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Freedom of expression is possible only as part of a system of property rights. The freedom to use one’s own voice; the freedom to hire a hall; the freedom to own a printing press, a broadcasting station, or a transmission cable; the freedom to wave or burn one’s own flag; and similar property-based freedoms are precisely what constitute freedom of communication. Conversely, freedom of communication does not extend to the use of other people’s property, such as shopping malls, to promote one’s ideas, without the consent of the owners. We deplore any government efforts to coerce the media in the name of stopping “bias” or ensuring “fairness.”

Solution

Removing government interference with communications media, including the internet, would open the way for a free exchange of ideas.

Transition

We oppose any abridgment of the freedom of speech through government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media, including — but not limited to — laws concerning:

- 1) Obscenity, or offensive speech or writings;
- 2) Government control, regulation, subsidization, intimidation, or nationalization of private networks and Internet service providers;
- 3) Internet censorship of any kind; and
- 4) Restricting commercial speech or advertising.

We oppose reclassifying the Internet as a common carrier under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. The way to provide the best product and services at the best price is to allow choice and competition. We therefore support ending government-granted monopolies at the federal, state, and local level to cable companies, telecommunications providers, or any news outlet.

We would require government agents to publicly disclose communications with social media companies. We would ban government agents from threatening, coercing, or requesting communication companies to cause the company to censor on the government's behalf.

Economy

Legal Tender

Issue

Money is the foundation of a sound economy. The state has always sought to monopolize the production of money and currency as a means of maintaining ultimate economic power over the people. This monopoly has resulted in a highly regressive form of taxation called inflation, special privileges for those well connected to the regime, and the stunting of innovation in money production.

Principle

People are free to exchange whatever property they wish in exchange for the property and services of others. Over time, the most useful forms of money naturally rise to the top and become circulated, as precious metals did for thousands of years, and as newer forms of money such as cryptocurrency emerge. People must be free to use what they deem best, without the state stifling innovation, picking winners and losers, or exploiting its monopoly to secretly tax people through inflation.

Solution

Do not intervene in the innovation and development of alternate currencies or their operation, except in cases of fraud. Integrate alternative currencies into the financial law so that they can be used in legitimate business.

Transition

Do not pass new regulations regarding the use or innovation of alternative currencies. Where financial laws currently exist, integrate alternative currencies into them so that US dollars and alternative currencies are on the same legal footing. Repeal Legal Tender laws that give US Dollars a monopoly in the currency market.

Allow the state Treasury to hold reserves in alternate currencies, including cryptocurrencies and precious metal specie, and allow taxes to be paid in these alternate currencies.

Allow for payment, including of taxes, in precious metal specie, or in cryptocurrencies.

Allow for calculation of taxes in the currency at hand, rather than entirely in USD.

Amend ID Code §63-201.13:

Current

“Lawful money of the United States” means currency and coin of the United States at par value and checks and drafts that are payable in dollars of the United States at par value, payable upon demand or presentment.

Proposed

“Lawful money of the United States” means currency and coin of the United States at par value and checks and drafts that are payable in dollars of the United States at par value, payable upon demand or presentment; gold or silver specie; or cryptocurrency.

Poverty and Welfare

Issue

Governments at every level extract money from productive people to give money and goods to people in difficult financial situations. This sounds generous, but because it is forced on everyone, it is rife with corruption and waste.

Government wealth transfer programs also create perverse incentives, which encourage people to put themselves in more difficult circumstances, and to avoid improving their own circumstances.

Voluntary charity is both morally and practically superior in all respects.

Principle

Individuals who are unable to fully support themselves and their families through the job market must learn to rely on supportive family, religious institutions, community, or private charity to bridge the gap.

Solution

All wealth transfer programs funded by taxes should be abolished. The government should never prevent voluntary charity.

Transition

We support repeal of minimum wage laws, mandatory state unemployment insurance and disability insurance, and so-called “protective labor” legislation for women and children. We also support repeal of governmental restrictions on the operation of private day-care centers, which only serve to reduce the supply and further burden parents who want to work. We further would stop police from shutting down voluntary donations of food from restaurants and grocery stores.

We would eliminate the government’s role in the social-welfare system, such as Food Stamps, and subsidized housing.

Subsidies

Issue

Government intervention into the market via subsidies has created artificial surpluses in the market. Agricultural subsidies have led to overproduction of commodities keeping the price artificially low. They also sustain unprofitable farms creating more competition which drives up land costs, and lowers profitability.

Principle

The government should not involved itself in market forces, by subsidy, price control, taxation, or regulation.

Solution

By abolishing subsidies, demand and innovation will drive the market instead of the state.

Energy

Issue

Government regulation of utilities has resulted in high prices, shortages, lack of competition, restricted exploration and development of alternative energy sources, and displaced responsibility for pollution and other wrongdoing in the energy markets, while granting advantage in existing markets to those with political

access. Government control of utilities includes the ability to threaten the lives of political dissidents by shutting off those utilities.

Principle

A free market in energy means full property rights in underground fossil fuel and geothermal energy and the repeal of all government controls over output in the petroleum industry.

Solution

Any nuclear power industry must meet the test of a free market. Full liability — not government agencies — should regulate nuclear power and oil and gas exploration. Any government emergency mobilization agency in the energy field would wield dictatorial powers in order to override normal legal and market processes, and is therefore unacceptable.

Transition

Eliminate all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production, such as that imposed by the state public utility commissions, state pro-rationing agencies, and local zoning boards .

Eliminate all government subsidies for energy research, development, production, and operation. We also oppose quotas on energy use.

Eliminate all direct and indirect government participation in the nuclear energy industry, including subsidies, research and development funds, guaranteed loans, and waste disposal subsidies.

We support repeal of laws that limit liability of utility companies in case of an accident.

Agriculture

Issue

Regulations, and subsidizing of farming has led to rising costs, overproduction, and the rise of corporate farms.

Principle

Any intrusion by the State into the private sector has negative consequences for that industry, and the market. Agriculture should be a free and open market

separate from state intervention. Farmers understand farming better than bureaucrats.

Solution

We call for the repeal of all State intervention. Regulations, and intervention into the market to allow our farmers to thrive.

Occupational Licensing

Issue

The State requires doctors, lawyers, electricians, and many other working professionals to petition the government for permission to practice their profession. This creates an illusion of guaranteed quality and expertise, but in practice creates cartels in each industry and stifles innovation.

Principle

No worker should be penalized by the state for lack of certification, and no employer should be legally restrained from hiring unlicensed individuals.

Solution

We support a return to private, competitive licensure, which allows people to work in whatever trade they wish. It is inappropriate for the government to restrict entry into any profession, regulate its practice, or give a private organization gatekeeping authority. Professional associations or certifying groups, such as unions, should be the mechanism for setting standards for occupations. Consumers would be free to choose a certified or uncertified professional.

Transition

All professional licensure laws should be repealed. All laws requiring professional licenses as a qualification for office should also be repealed; this includes the requirement for Judge candidates to be members of the Idaho Bar.

Private organizations should be formed to offer competition to organizations like the American Medical Association and the Idaho Bar; these competitors could certify the competence of professionals and offer their alternative seal of approval for advertising purposes.

Finance and Capital Investment

Issue

The state creates various regulations and legal hurdles for how financial advice may be given and investments be made that stray outside the bounds of merely preventing fraud and reinforcing fiduciary duties.

Principle

People should be free to engage in whatever contractual and financial arrangements they wish, so long as they are not fraudulent.

Solution

Eliminate laws concerning finance and investment that do not have to do with fraud, conflicts of interest, or breach of fiduciary duty.

Transition

Forbid the government from treating currencies such as precious metals and cryptocurrencies as taxable assets.

Abolish all capital gains taxes.

Taxation and Inflation Indexing

Issue

While inflation is a product of Federal exercise of power, it has consequences for Idaho citizens that are exacerbated by state policies.

Principle

Any state dependence on inflation, which is an insidious form of taxation, must be eliminated.

Solution

Federal inflation cannot be controlled by the State of Idaho. We can only live with the adverse consequences. All state taxes, to the extent they cannot be eliminated, must be indexed for inflation, to reduce the incidental burden on the people of Idaho. This is especially pernicious with the State sales tax and property taxes. Federal inflation results in a windfall for the taxing authorities in Idaho, which

additional taxation falls mostly on middle-class workers and retirees on a fixed income. Indexing will correct for that burden.

Transition

One by one, implement indexing of any payments to, and disbursements from, the state and locality, to blunt the effects of inflation.

Society

The War on Drugs

Issue

Local, state, and federal governments arrest and jail people who sell, buy, use, or possess various substances. This drives the trade underground, funneling cash to criminal organizations which run the trade. This pushes both private and taxed money into an ever-escalating war between law enforcement agencies and criminal cartels, with addicts and innocents caught in the crossfire. In the black market, users have no legal recourse if the product contains undisclosed deadly substances like Fentanyl; as a result, these materials are cut into drug products, making already dangerous substances even worse. Jailing people who use or deal drugs also breaks up families, and has worsened the epidemic of fatherlessness across America.

In some localities that have ended the local enforcement of drug prohibition, addicts have set up homeless camps, vandalized local property, and sometimes violently attacked passersby.

Principle

Individuals have a right to choose which substances they will eat, drink, breathe in, or inject to their own body; they bear responsibility for the consequences of their choices, both positive and negative. No effect of a voluntarily-consumed psychoactive substance gives a person the right to infringe on the rights of another.

Solution

Like alcohol prohibition, all drug prohibition, restriction, and regulation laws should be repealed. Drug production and sale should be treated the same as any other normal product on the market, subject to lawsuits over failure to deliver product, misleading advertising, conversion, fraud, and racketeering. Addicts should get support from family, friends, and community to help break them of any dependence. Property owners should have their right to evict trespassers, squatters, and vandals respected and enforced.

Transition

Idaho should repeal all laws incorporating the federal War on Drugs. Idaho State Police and local police departments should cease all cooperation with the DEA. The

Idaho Legislature should pass laws protecting Idaho banks from Federal prosecution for engaging in business with drug manufacturers and merchants.

Sidewalks and roadways should be recognized as the private property of the owners of buildings abutted to the thoroughfares with respect to loitering. These owners should have the right to evict any squatters enforced by local police departments. Civil code governing behavior in public parks should also be enforced.

Local communities should work to build strong social bonds and support networks, run wholesome and enjoyable community events, and work to build a society that young people are glad to join. This will prevent them from retreating to self-destructive behaviors as a cure to social isolation and despair.

Discrimination

Issue

Well-intentioned anti-discrimination laws designed to eliminate racism in the government and in society have trespassed on individual rights, leading to excessive risk for property owners, perpetuating hostility between identity groups, and laying the pretext for thought crime.

Principle

The state and individuals are not the same. The state cannot claim jurisdiction over all, yet only serve some; but individuals have an absolute right to associate or not on any basis they desire, including identity.

Solution

The state must be made to serve anyone it claims jurisdiction over with equality before the law, while protecting the rights of individuals to associate or disassociate as they see fit.

Transition

Restore the rights of individuals to associate or disassociate on any terms they see fit. This includes the abolishment of the US Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. Chapter 21) and Idaho Code Title 67, Chapter 59.

Consider the many obstacles that the state places in the way of various identity groups, either intentionally or by accident, and eliminate those government-made obstacles to improve outcomes for those groups in a legitimate fashion.

Education

Issue

The state has directly taken over or subsidized the education of adults and children, with the result of a more indoctrinated, more traumatized, less educated, and less capable populace. It has created a demographic of public sector employees whose obligations are not to the students or parents, and who can violate basic ethics by voting themselves a job at the expense of people who are forced to pay. It has given such employees an opportunity to indoctrinate children in ideologies out of step with the desires and values of parents.

Principle

It is the responsibility of parents to provide for their own children's education, which the free market is more than capable of providing in a safer, more affordable, more effective, and more meaningful manner. The state is not only incapable of producing the best education possible, but actively corrupts education for its own ends or the ends of individual state employees with ideological agendas.

Solution

Turn the incentives of educators back towards the people their careers are supposed to serve: the students. All property taxes, public schools, and college subsidies must be abolished, and there must be no obstruction of any kind put in the way of privately-arranged schooling.

Transition

Allow parents to use their child's portion of tax dollars to be spent on the school of their choice, including homeschooling, religious schools, private schools, and charter schools, without any curricular demands imposed by the State.

Remove the influence of federal programs and regulations on schooling by cutting off any form of federal funding.

Remove subsidies for colleges and universities.

Remove the moral hazard of government-backed college loans and allow the borrowers to discharge the debt through bankruptcy.

Celebrate voluntary solutions, such as charities and individual benefactors, that help indigent children access high-quality education.

Consistently enforce existing rules against the use of taxpayer money for campaigning and electioneering for school-related ballot measures.

Family, Women, and Children

Issue

The state intervenes in parents' rights by laying claim to people's children, and imposes laws regarding childbirth that are a private matter between a pregnant woman and her health care provider. Idaho also imposes laws regarding child rearing that are none of the state's business.

Principle

Individual choices and family decisions regarding sex, marriage, contraception, pregnancy, family life, and child rearing are too important to be left to the state. These responsibilities and decisions belong to individuals relying, to the extent that he or she wishes, on the aid of family, friends, community, and religious guidance. Libertarians recognize that virtue, values, traditions, and culture exist in society only as a result of free choices and voluntary interactions among individuals, and cannot be imposed from on high by any state.

Solution

We call for an end to all forms of state intrusion into family life.

Transition

We call for the abolition of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, the Board of Family Development, the Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence, the Advisory Committee on Child Care, and the Child Life Protection Committee. We oppose all laws that empower government officials to seize children and make them "wards of the state" or, by means of child labor laws and compulsory education, to infringe on their freedom to work or learn as they choose. Young people should be guided and protected by those whom they trust and who love and value them and their development - normally their parents. However, the state may act to protect a child from abusive or neglectful parents, as long as due process is observed.

The state should cease defining and regulating the institution commonly known as marriage.

Unions and Collective Bargaining

Issue

Government interference in the employer/employee relationship has imposed undue burdens on our economy, eroding the right of both to contract.

Principle

People are free to establish and associate in, or not associate in, labor unions. An employer has the right to recognize, or refuse to recognize, a union as the collective bargaining agent of some, or all, of its employees, and also has the right to dismiss employees who attempt to form a union. If an employer chooses to recognize a union, and deal with its employees exclusively through that arrangement, that is not the business of government or any other outside party.

Workers and employers also have the right to organize secondary boycotts, as a form of free expression.

Solution

Government should not interfere in bargaining, by compulsory arbitration or the imposition of an obligation to bargain. We call for the abolition of the Idaho Department of Labor, and all its subsidiary committees and boards.

Government back-to-work orders are the imposition of a form of forced labor, and are anathema in a free society.

Transition

Government-mandated waiting periods for closure of factories or businesses hurt, rather than help, the wage-earner. We support all voluntary efforts to benefit workers, owners, and management while keeping government out of this area.

Governance

Voluntary Association and Decentralization

Issue

The State claims sovereignty over all individuals living in its territory. It uses that as a pretext to violate the rights of the individual. It organizes individuals into collectives and political units, against their will and for its own purposes.

Principle

No system of government is just unless it recognizes the sovereignty of every individual over him- or herself. Individuals have a right to organize politically through voluntary association.

Solution

To the extent that governments exist among men, they should be founded on the mutual consent of every person being governed, under English Common Law principles of contract.

Transition

We advocate:

- 1) The decentralization of power from the international down to the individual, with every step along the way being an improvement.
- 2) The Right of Nullification, by which local governments can refuse to enforce unjust laws passed by more central authorities.
- 3) The Right of Secession at every level of governance, from neighborhoods through international organizations.
- 4) The abolition of Idaho Constitution Article III, Section 24, which attempts to grant the Legislature the right to decide matters of personal behavior for individuals.
- 5) The abolition of Idaho Code §63-3642, which punishes Idaho's cities and counties for exercising the right of Nullification; and

6) The peaceful separation of Eastern Oregon from the Oregon state government in Salem, Eastern Washington from the Washington state government in Olympia, and Northern California from the California state government in Sacramento. We support either the formation of new states from these regions, or their admission into the state of Idaho, depending on the consent of the peoples in these regions and the people of Idaho.

National Guard

Issue

History is filled with militaristic societies invading their neighbors. In order to deter such an invasion, societies create militaries of their own. This creates two problems: funding and maintaining the military, and preventing the military from engaging in invasions of its own.

Principle

Militaries should only be used in defense against foreign invasion or occupation.

Solution

The US Military Industrial Complex must be dismantled, the troops brought home, and the government must return to the classic foreign policy proposed by Thomas Jefferson: “peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none.”

Transition

Idaho should pass the Defend the Guard Act, restricting National Guard troops stationed in Idaho from being deployed outside of the United States except in the case of a Congressional Declaration of War (which has not occurred since 1942).

Crime

Issue

Crime threatens the lives, happiness, and property of Americans. At the same time, the government’s demonstrated inability to deal with crime undermines the people’s sense of justice. The present system of criminal law is based almost solely on punishment with little concern for the victim, and no concern that it creates victims where none already exist.

Principle

We believe that only actions initiating force or fraud against other people constitute true crimes. The appropriate way to reduce crime is through consistent and impartial enforcement of laws that protect natural rights.

Solution

A legal system must focus on the protection of property and individuals, with restitution to the victims of crime at the cost of the criminal as a part of the criminal process.

Transition

We favor the repeal of all laws that create “crimes” without victims. For example, we advocate:

- 1) The repeal of all laws prohibiting the production, possession, or use of alcohol, drugs and drug “paraphernalia” by adults;
- 2) The repeal of all laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol, drugs and drug “paraphernalia” to adults, and of all prescription requirements for the purchase of nutritional supplements, health foods and similar substances;
- 3) The repeal of all laws regarding consensual sexual relations involving adults;
- 4) The repeal of all laws regulating or prohibiting the possession, use, sale, or distribution by adults of sexually explicit material involving adults, without regard to tests of “socially redeeming value” or compliance with “community standards”;
- 5) the repeal of all laws regulating or prohibiting gambling;
- 6) the repeal of so-called anti-racketeering statutes such as the Idaho Code Title 18, Chapter 78.
- 7) the repeal of all laws interfering with the right to commit suicide as infringement of the ultimate right of an individual to his or her own life;
- 8) the repeal of any law which makes it a criminal offense for a private individual to improperly or inadequately complete paperwork related to government requirements; and
- 9) The passage of a Kyle’s Law, punishing the government if it prosecutes a person for exercising his or her right of self defense.

We applaud the trend toward private protection services and voluntary community crime control groups.

Medical Mandates

Issue

In 2020, individuals and localities took a variety of approaches to attempt to limit the damage to society from the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Many local and state governments imposed particular approaches on people and organizations.

Principle

Individuals have the right to decide how to respond to risks in their life.

Solution

When a new source of risk becomes known, be it a virus, weather phenomenon, cosmological danger, or act of God, individuals should respond as they believe is most appropriate, while respecting the rights of others to do the same and to have the risk to themselves minimized.

Governmental, corporate, and thought leaders may have some degree of expertise on how risks might be mitigated or addressed. Private organizations and individuals should share that expertise as best they are able, through open dialogue and publication of information. Any efforts to suppress disagreement or enforce compliance with the proposed solutions are violations of the natural rights of self-ownership, speech, and association.

When private businesses and other voluntary associations decide to enact emergency measures in the face of a new threat, the effectiveness and wisdom of these measures should be decided by customers and associates in the open market, free from government intervention.

Transition

We support a complete rollback of the Covid Regime, and amendments to the Idaho Constitution forbidding any government implementation of lockdowns, mandates, or “vaccine passports.”

We support the removal of any tax benefits, regulatory advantages, or monopoly protections that give advantages to large corporations, which in many cases served as the backdoor to lockdowns, mandates, and “vaccine passports.”

We oppose efforts to directly restrict private companies from placing requirements on potential customers, trusting that individuals are able to choose the most reasonable option among market competitors.

Federal Land

Issue

Federal ownership of a large portion of Idaho land hurts our state sovereignty, and has negative consequences for our beautiful landscape, and the animals that reside within it.

Principle

Smaller, more local government is more accountable and less corrupt than large, distant government. States are sovereign entities that should not have to answer to the Federal government for control of the non-private property contained inside their borders. Any Federal control interferes with the ability of the people who reside in Idaho to properly manage the land, and its resources.

Solution

We call for the residents of Idaho to have complete control of all non-private land within its borders, and to determine how to best manage the resources within.

Transition

As Idahoans we should be in control of all the available resources our great state has to offer. A one size fits all policy set up by the Federal apparatus is not what is best for our state. Removing all federal control, and the agencies they employ will allow Idaho to better manage our natural resources.

Transportation

Issue

Government control of transportation, including roads, buses, and trains, leads to poor allocation of resources and a distorted market for varying modes of transportation.

Principle

The transportation industry must be governed by the free market.

Solution

We call for the dissolution of all government agencies concerned with transportation, including the Idaho Department of Transportation, and the transfer of their legitimate functions to competitive private firms.

Transition

We advocate an end to government regulations of private transit organizations and to governmental favors to the transportation industry. In particular, we support the repeal of all laws restricting transit competition such as the granting of taxicab and bus monopolies and the prohibition of private van pools. Insofar as tolls are a form of user fees, it is not legitimate to force redirection of that revenue elsewhere.

We also oppose government light rail projects. Train transport should be built using easements purchased on the free market, without subsidy, tax, or regulation.

Protection of Privacy and Contract

Issue

Privacy protections have been eroded over time. Government agencies routinely use electronic and other means of surveillance of an individual's actions and private property. Correspondence, bank and other financial transactions and records, doctors' and lawyers' communications, employment records, and the like have become open to review by government without a warrant signed by a judge, for no other reason than the individual might commit a crime in the future.

Principle

The individual's right to privacy and property, to enter into or to refuse to enter into a contract, and to speak or not to speak, must never be infringed by the government.

Solution

We support the protections recognized by the Idaho Constitution Article I, §17 (and by the 4th Amendment to the US Constitution), and oppose any government misuse of search warrants, for example, to examine or seize material not specifically listed. We also oppose police roadblocks that randomly test drivers for intoxication, and police practices that stop mass transit vehicles and search passengers without probable cause.

Private contractual arrangements, including labor contracts, must be founded on mutual consent and agreement in a society that upholds freedom of association.

Juries

Issue

The right to trial by jury is an important check on infringement of our other rights by the State. Current practice has seriously eroded that protection.

Principle

Trial by jury is a cornerstone of the judicial process of a free society.

Solution

In all cases to which the government is a party, the judge must be required to inform the jurors of their common-law rights of Jury Nullification: to judge the law as well as the facts; and to acquit a criminal defendant, and to find against the government in a civil trial, whenever they deem the law unjust or oppressive.

Transition

We oppose the current practice of forced jury duty, and favor all-volunteer juries.

Further, insisting on a trial by jury often results in extreme punishments, simply because the individual has insisted on his right and refused to accept a loaded bargain offered by the prosecution, frequently with charges multiplied to intimidate the accused. This bias against trial must be eliminated.

Other approaches to reducing the workload on juries include: Community mediation, restorative conferencing, sentencing circles, victim-offender dialogue, teen court. These possibilities and others are being researched and discussed by the Institute for Community Solutions.

If our other proposals, or even just some of them, are adopted, the cost of jury trial will be reduced substantially, because there will be fewer defendants accused in the first place.

Omissions

Our silence about any particular government law or regulation does not imply approval.