

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HJR 4 AND IN DEFENSE
OF IDAHO’S CITIZEN INITIATIVE PROCESS**

WHEREAS, for more than a century, the Idaho Constitution has reserved to the people the right to propose and enact laws independently of the Legislature through the initiative process; and

WHEREAS, ultimate legislative power rests with the people of Idaho, and;

WHEREAS, democratic access through the initiative process is an essential remedy when the Legislature becomes unresponsive to the demands of people because of political machines, lobbyists, and other organized and moneyed interests; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 4 (“HJR 4”) proposes an amendment to Article III, Section 26 of the Idaho Constitution providing that only the Idaho Legislature shall have the power to legalize the growing, producing, manufacturing, transporting, selling, delivering, dispensing, administering, prescribing, distributing, possessing, or using of marijuana or other psychoactive substances; and

WHEREAS, HJR 4 will appear before voters at the November 3, 2026 General Election and requires an approval by a majority of Idaho voters to become part of the Idaho Constitution; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, HJR 4 would expand the power of the Idaho Legislature and prevent voters from using the initiative process to enact laws legalizing marijuana or other psychoactive substances, reserving such authority exclusively to the Idaho Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature has, for years, repeatedly aimed to restrict the initiative process, expand their own power, and weaken the people’s access to legislative self-determination and this foundational check on the Idaho Legislature; and

WHEREAS, HJR 4 is not only a question of drug policy, but more importantly a question concerning the scope of Idahoans’ initiative power and whether a particular subject should be removed from that process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho State Democratic Party recognizes that HJR 4 concerns the expansion of lawmaking authority of the Legislature and prevents Idaho citizens from exercising their initiative power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho State Democratic Party affirms the importance of carefully considering the consequences of amending the Idaho Constitution to remove a category of policy question from the citizen initiative process; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Idaho State Democratic Party stands in opposition to HJR 4 through its established governing procedures and will communicate that position to its members and to the public.