

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 1
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ACCESS AND INTEGRITY**

WHEREAS, the Idaho Constitution mandates the legislature to maintain a general, uniform, and thorough system of public, free common schools through adequate funding; and

WHEREAS, Idaho consistently ranks 51st in the nation for per-student funding¹ and statewide assessments have found that hundreds of millions of dollars in repairs, expansions, and upgrades are needed by school districts; and

WHEREAS, "school choice" advocates seek to bypass the Blaine Amendment of the Idaho Constitution (Article IX Section 5) by redistributing public funds to families in the form of vouchers as no state or local government entity may direct taxpayer money to any religious or sectarian organization²; and

WHEREAS, vouchers are especially harmful to rural communities wherein non-public educational choices are limited and public school funding is already inadequate³; and

WHEREAS, families forego public support and regulation by the Idaho Department of Education when choosing to homeschool students; and

WHEREAS, non-public schooling is not subject to state or federal systems of accountability including learning standards, student performance measures, financial oversight, or other regulations; and

WHEREAS, all non-public schools are able to choose their students and do not have to accommodate or provide support services for special needs students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party calls upon the legislature to honor its constitutional responsibility to maintain a non-sectarian, comprehensive system of public education by increasing per-student funding, fully funding school budgets, upgrading school facilities, increasing student support services, retaining the Blaine amendment, and rejecting public funds being directed to private and religious schools through any form of school voucher, tax credit, educational savings account (ESA), or other means of redistributing taxpayer monies intended for public schools.

¹ <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/educator-pay-and-student-spending-how-does-your-state-rank>

² <https://www.idahoednews.org/voices/the-idaho-constitution-strictly-prohibits-public-funds-for-religious-schooling/>

³ <https://idahofiscal.org/private-school-vouchers-are-especially-harmful-to-rural-communities/>

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2
RESOLUTION REGARDING SUPPORT OF PUBLIC and SCHOOL LIBRARIES
and THE FREEDOM TO READ**

WHEREAS, on April 10th, 2024, the Governor signed into law House Bill 710 (now Idaho Code 18-1517B), which allows for people to sue libraries over content they feel to be inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, this infringes on the rights of parents to make decisions about what is and what is not appropriate for their own children; and

WHEREAS, this is an attack on the LGBTQIA2S+ community whose stories and depictions have been targeted for censorship; and

WHEREAS, 69% of Idahoans¹, the majority of libraries, and the Idaho Library Association opposed this legislation; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment protects access to information and the right to read; and

WHEREAS, libraries are governed by a local board of trustees that sets policy and ensures materials in their collections meet the needs of all people in their community; and

WHEREAS, books on controversial or challenging topics create opportunities for growth and learning and help youth critically navigate their world; and

WHEREAS, Idaho students are reading significantly below grade level², and this bill further prevents access to literacy materials for Idaho families; and

WHEREAS, librarians are professionals who take their jobs and responsibilities seriously;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party stands against Idaho Code 18-1517B and believes that it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to determine whether a book is appropriate for their child; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party will organize a Day of Action on July 1st to stand against this harmful legislation. Events will be held in communities across the state to show our support for our local libraries and staff.

¹ <https://idahocapitalsun.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/9th-Annual-Survey.pdf>

² <https://www.idahoednews.org/news/reading-realities-idaho-is-far-from-its-lofty-literacy-goals/>

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 3
RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL IMMIGRATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, immigrants have contributed significantly to the United States' economic, social, and cultural fabric; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform is necessary to address the complexities of the current immigration system, ensure national security, and uphold the nation's values of fairness and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden's administration has emphasized a balanced approach to immigration, prioritizing both border security and humane treatment of immigrants, while also addressing the root causes of migration; and

WHEREAS, President Biden has proposed a comprehensive immigration reform plan that includes modernizing the immigration system, providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, especially for Dreamers, essential workers, and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and enhancing border security with technology and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, studies¹ have shown that immigrants contribute positively to the U.S. economy, including filling critical labor shortages, starting new businesses, and contributing to the tax base; and

WHEREAS, there is a broad consensus² among various stakeholders, including businesses, the agricultural community, labor unions, faith groups, and immigrant rights organizations, on the need for comprehensive immigration reform;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party strongly supports President Joe Biden's approach to immigration reform, which balances securing the border with honoring America's history as a nation of immigrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes:

1. **Modernizing the immigration system** to reduce backlogs, improve visa processes, and create legal pathways for immigration that meet the needs of the economy.
2. **Providing a pathway to citizenship** for undocumented immigrants, particularly Dreamers, essential workers, and TPS holders.
3. **Enhancing border security** using appropriate technology and infrastructure to manage and secure the border effectively.

¹ <https://www.uidaho.edu/president/direct-reports/mcclure-center/publications/research-reports/unauthorized-immigrant-workforce-and-idahos-economy>
<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/idaho/>
<https://www.bu.edu/articles/2024/do-immigrants-and-immigration-help-the-economy>

² <https://immigrationforum.org/article/new-poll-americans-value-offering-refuge-welcome/>

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4. **Addressing the root causes of migration** by investing in international aid and development programs in Central American countries to reduce violence, improve governance, and create economic opportunities.
5. **Ensuring humane treatment** of immigrants and asylum seekers, with fair and efficient processing of asylum claims and protection of families from separation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party will work with local, state, and national leaders to advocate for policies that reflect these principles and ensure that the United States remains a beacon of hope and opportunity for immigrants around the world; and

SO BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party urges Congress to act swiftly to pass comprehensive immigration reform, in alignment with the principles and proposals outlined by President Joe Biden, to secure our borders while upholding the nation's values.

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 4
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LGBTQIA2S+ COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA2S+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and Two-Spirit; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Democratic Party stands firmly in support of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, recognizing the inherent dignity and equality of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression; and

WHEREAS, the transgender community, in particular, faces heightened levels of discrimination, violence, and targeted attacks from hate groups; and

WHEREAS, many policymakers further discriminate, intimidate, and marginalize Idahoans by passing laws that specifically remove identities, stories, expressions, and scientific consensus related to the LGBTQIA2S+ community; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month is a singular time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, honor their history of struggle and resilience, and recommit to advancing equality and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden's administration has demonstrated strong support for the LGBTQIA2S+ community through executive actions, policies, and public statements that advance equality, protect against discrimination, and promote inclusion; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive non-discrimination protections are essential to ensure that LGBTQIA2S+ individuals have equal access to employment, housing, education, healthcare, and public accommodations, free from fear of prejudice and bigotry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party reaffirms its unwavering support for the LGBTQIA2S+ community, including support of Pride Month, with a particular focus on the transgender community that is disproportionately targeted by hate and discrimination; that the Idaho Democratic Party calls on the Idaho Legislature to pass laws that support and protect the LGBTQIA2S+ community, including a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance commonly referred to as "Add the Words"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party urges the federal government to continue President Biden's record of support for the LGBTQIA2S+ community by enacting policies that further protect and advance LGBTQIA2S+ rights, ensure fair treatment under the law, and promote inclusion and acceptance at all levels of society; and

SO BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party will actively advocate for these principles and work toward a future where all Idahoans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, can live openly and authentically, free from fear and discrimination.

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 5
RESOLUTION REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Resolution: Funding Support of Idaho's Life Saving Domestic Violence Programs

Whereas, more than half of the world's population is at risk of domestic violence; and these include females & males, individuals who identify as LGBTQIA2S+, and women of color; and thousands of individuals in Idaho identify themselves in these groups; and

Whereas, domestic violence is estimated to occur at a rate of 1 in 3 women but is higher in minoritized groups¹; and

Whereas, victims of domestic violence most often (more than half of the time) choose not to report the crime to law enforcement²; and

Whereas, these victims choose to obtain services at community service centers across our state^{2,3}; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho provides no line item budgetary support of domestic violence service agencies; and the State of Idaho dedicates only a small portion of fees for marriage and divorce filings to domestic violence programs and that equates to an average of \$200,000 per year (1.7% of total grants budget), and the lack of state funding renders Idaho programs are reliant upon federal funding for programs; and

Whereas, Republicans in Congress did not reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, and federal grant monies dedicated to domestic violence are significantly decreasing over the next 3 years – an estimated 41% decrease to occur; and

Whereas, the decrease in federal funds shifts a significant burden to community fundraising; and

Whereas, Governor Little dedicated \$600,000 of CARES monies to Idaho domestic violence programs, signaling his support of these lifesaving programs; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party calls upon the Governor of Idaho to create ongoing dedicated state funding for Idaho's domestic violence centers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that elected Democrats will support policy proposals, work with the Governor to create policies, and work across party lines to garner support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party calls upon the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee to fund at 100% or above the Governor's recommendation.

1. National coalition against domestic and sexual violence. Statistics. [www.ncadv.org](https://ncadv.org) Web site. <https://ncadv.org/statistics>. Accessed May 11, 2022.
2. Thompson A, Tapp S. Crime victimization, 2021. U.S. Department of Justice. 2022:1-31.
3. ICDVVA legislative report. <https://icdv.idaho.gov> Web site. <https://icdv.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ICDVVA-Legislative-Report-2022-4.pdf>. Updated 2022. Accessed 06/22/24.

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 6
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE**

WHEREAS, abortion is healthcare¹, and

WHEREAS, since August 2022, Idaho has lost approximately 22% of its OBGYNs and 55% of its maternal-fetal medicine specialists²; and

WHEREAS, since the Idaho abortion law (Idaho Code 18-622), OB/GYN practices and hospitals have been forced to close their maternity wards, affecting communities and thousands of patients across the state³; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result, women and pregnant people in Idaho have been subject to harm, including death, requiring out-of-state air transfers to receive proper medical care, some resulting in devastating consequences, and

WHEREAS, since the Idaho abortion law, Idahoans have had to bear the burden of traveling out of state to obtain abortion care; and,

WHEREAS, the abortion ban is extreme to the extent of violating the religious freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Idaho abortion law violates the established and recognized role of healthcare professionals as the experts necessary to provide patients with all relevant information and medical options so that patients can make sound decisions regarding treatment and thereby provide informed consent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party stands against the Idaho abortion law and calls to restore access to evidence-based, standard-of-care medical treatments and procedures relevant to reproductive healthcare and the restoration of patient privacy for reproductive healthcare decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party believes that reproductive healthcare choices, including abortion, contraception, and in vitro fertilization, should be between an individual and their provider, unrestricted by legislative interference.

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2022/07/02/1109557947/some-abortion-are-necessary-to-save-the-life-of-a-patient>

² <https://www.adamedicalsociety.org/assets/docs/FINAL%20Post%20Roe%20Idaho%20Data%20Report%20Feb.%202024.pdf>

³ <https://www.idahostatesman.com/living/health-fitness/article285692341.html>

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 7
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF VETERAN HEALTH AND WELFARE**

WHEREAS, the Idaho Democratic Party deeply values and honors the service and sacrifices of our veterans, who have bravely defended our nation and its principles; and

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden's administration has made significant strides in addressing veterans' issues, including improvements in healthcare, mental health support, housing, and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Biden administration has increased funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), implemented measures to reduce veteran homelessness, expanded access to mental health services, and improved benefits processing to ensure that veterans receive the care and support they deserve; and

WHEREAS, medical marijuana has been shown to provide relief for various conditions commonly affecting veterans, including chronic pain, cancer, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health issues, offering a potential alternative to opioid-based treatments; and

WHEREAS, current federal laws restrict the ability of veterans to access medical marijuana, despite its potential benefits and the growing body of research supporting its use for medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, U.S. military veterans have been heavily impacted by the opioid overdose crisis, with drug overdose mortality rates increasing by 53% from 2010–2019, and addressing drug overdose in the veteran population requires accessible and non-judgmental, low threshold, wraparound, and holistic solutions that recognize the complex etiology of overdose risk for veterans¹;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party honors and expresses profound gratitude to all veterans for their service and dedication to our country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party commends President Joe Biden and his administration for their accomplishments in improving the lives of veterans, including increased funding for the VA, enhanced mental health services, reduced veteran homelessness, and expedited benefits processing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party calls on the Idaho Legislature and Congress to pass legislation that permits the use of medical marijuana for veterans, ensuring they have access to all available treatment options to improve their quality of life; and

SO BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party will actively advocate for these measures and work with local, state, and national leaders to ensure that veterans receive the comprehensive care and support they deserve, including access to medical marijuana as a viable treatment option.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9262363/>

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 8
RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING IDAHO'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS**

WHEREAS, Idaho's elected officials should commit to serving the needs of all of their constituents, regardless of party affiliation, in the interests of the common good; and

WHEREAS, it has been 237 years since the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787 and 135 years since the adoption of the Constitution of Idaho in 1889; and

WHEREAS, every generation has the responsibility to protect the democratic process, recognizing that the work of strengthening American democracy is never done; and

WHEREAS, voter participation is critical for a strong democracy, and the Idaho Democratic Party is committed to empowering every eligible voter to exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Democratic Party believes it is vital to maintain a free press and supports the critical role of journalists as objective observers of government actions on behalf of the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party will protect and promote policies that encourage voter participation, such as publishing a state-funded voter guide, expanded early in-person voting, no-excuse mail-in voting, and same-day voter registration at the polls on Election Day including the use of an affidavit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party supports open primaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party calls for continued innovation beyond the ballot box, including increased transparency and accountability of government officials and institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party supports the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution which has allowed for more than 100 years the direct election of U.S. Senators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party will strive for civil discourse as we work towards the common good on matters of public concern.

**IDAHO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION NO. 9
RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE JUSTICE**

WHEREAS, there is worldwide scientific consensus that the earth's climate is warming due to high concentrations of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere that have accumulated from predominantly wealthy countries for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, scientists predict that global warming will increase drought periods, wildfire intensity, and extreme heat days across Idaho for the rest of this century; and

WHEREAS, countries like the U.S. that became wealthy through unrestricted and unjust climate pollution have a moral responsibility to reduce carbon emissions while supporting more vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change with non-polluting technologies; and

WHEREAS, Idaho irrigators increasingly face water curtailments due to declining surface and groundwater supplies caused by milder winters that yield more rain than snow, higher evapotranspiration rates, and more extreme heat days each summer; and

WHEREAS, the climate justice movement demands an equitable transition to a less polluting, carbon-free economy that is fair to low-income and marginalized communities that are enduring greater economic hardships and health impacts due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change clearly represents an existential threat to Idaho, Idaho's natural resources, and all communities and sovereign Tribes that depend upon them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Democratic Party advocates for actions and policies that will significantly reduce carbon emissions and equitably mitigate anticipated climate impacts as the state transitions to a carbon-free economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party calls for conjunctively managing the state's limited water resources, encouraging effective aquifer recharge, and resolving irrigation water disputes within the tenets of Idaho Water Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Democratic Party will support sustainability policies that promote intersectional climate justice, energy efficiency, waste reduction, good paying unionized climate jobs, clean water, food security through resilient food systems, use of non-fossil and diverse and renewable resources, and declaration of a climate emergency by President Biden.