



Minutes submitted by Kitty Kunz, June 20, 2008

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Convention registration began at noon on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the Bonner County Fairgrounds in Sandpoint, Idaho.

The Idaho State Republican Party Executive Committee meeting began at 3:00 p.m. PST at the Bonner County Fairgrounds in Sandpoint, Idaho.

The Chairman's Reception began at 6:30 p.m. PST at the Sandpoint Business and Events Center at the corner of Pine and Euclid in Sandpoint.

Friday, June 13, 2008

The Credentials Committee for the convention met at 8:00 a.m. PST at the Bonner County Fairgrounds in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Region meetings, Young Republican and Idaho Federation of Republican Women meetings were held at 8:30 a.m. PST at the Bonner County Fairgrounds.

Committee meetings for the Nominating Committee, Platform Committee, Resolutions Committee, and Rules Committee began at 10:00 a.m. PST.

A picnic lunch was served at 1:00 p.m. PST.

The opening ceremony of the convention began at 2:00 p.m. PST. The Master of Ceremony was State Senator Shawn Keough. Pastor Kenneth Lawrence from the River of Life Church gave the invocation. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2453 from Sandpoint posted the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senator Shawn Keough. Kathryn McGuckin from Bonner County sang the National Anthem. A presentation by the Albeni Falls Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers entertained all attendees.

The Honorable Conrad Burns, former U.S. Senator from Montana, was our keynote speaker. He lives in Billings currently and plans to stay there. He loves the West. He was raised a democrat and his parents were FDR supporters. When he moved to Montana, things changed. He realized that he was a Republican. Senator Burns spoke of the great challenges that our nation faces right now. We need to unite and work for the election of Senator John McCain. There is a real difference between the

two party nominees. There should be no question how everyone at the convention will vote. The RNC will begin honing the message of who we are and why we are here. These elections are not about you and me, they are about the younger generation. We can not allow the state of our country to be in jeopardy. We must protect our country for the next generation and the next. We need to dedicate ourselves to the ideas of a free America.

Congressman Bill Sali then spoke to the convention. Two years ago he stood before us as the nominee. Now he is our Congressman. He thanked everyone for the support and encouragement given to him. He thanked the congressional delegation for their welcome to the delegation. He thanked his opponent Norm Semanko for his offer to support and put signs up for him. Norm Semanko is truly supporting Bill in the upcoming election. Congressman Sali's opponent in the general election will fight hard. It is important to hold on to the congressional seat. Walt Minnick supports gun control and universal health care. He talks of balancing the budget but criticizes Congressman Sali's votes on spending. Congressman Sali needs our help to win the fight. If we wind up with a democrat in the White House and democrat majorities in both houses of Congress we will have an America that is different than we have ever known.

Congressman Sali spoke about how competition is good and asked that after the Chairman race is over we all unite and fight our real enemies. We need true unity. We need to stay in this fight and make sure Republicans win this fall.

Chairman Sullivan said he agrees with Congressman Sali. Both congressional districts can help each other.

Chairman Sullivan then asked for unanimous consent to appoint Senator Bart Davis as Convention Vice Chairman. He then asked for approval to appoint Daniel Keough and Janelle Hawkins as attaches. Julie Chadderdon arranged for the event this evening at Silverwood Theme Park. She announced that we should carpool if possible. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and includes a magic show and dinner.

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Saturday morning, June 14, 2008 began at 7:30 a.m. with the Tribute to Women Breakfast "Step Up and Campaign" at The Elks Club Golf Course in Sandpoint.

A Credential Committee meeting was called for 9:00 a.m. at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. The general session of the Republican State Convention was called to order by Chairman Sullivan at 9:45 a.m. Verna Brady, Bonner County Chairman, performed the Master of Ceremony duties. Father Dennis Day from St. Joseph Catholic Church gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Verna Brady. Trygve "Trig" Aos from Boundary County sang the National Anthem.

Chairman Sullivan thanked the Convention Committee: Verna Brady, Shawn Keough and Cornell Rasor. They did a great job putting together the convention.

Congressman Mike Simpson then spoke to the convention. He thanked everyone for the work they have done for the party. He thanked Kirk Sullivan for his hard work. Chairman Sullivan has made us the reddest of states. With the help of everyone we can keep a complete Republican delegation. In Idaho we believe that someone we agree with 90 percent of the time is our ally and friend. Congressman Simpson is excited about our presidential nominee. John McCain will be the next president of the United States. We need John McCain at this time to keep America free. John McCain will put America first. We chose the right candidate at the right time. Congressman Simpson then asked us to leave this convention united. We need to elect Republicans, that's our job.

Chairman Sullivan recognized all candidates and sitting legislators present at the convention. He then recognized all local, city and county elected officials.

Governor Otter then gave us our keynote address. He appreciates the support he receives from the Congressional delegation. Governor Otter has been involved in Republican politics for a long time. Idahoans elect Republicans because we have passionate Republicans in the reddest of states. Governor Otter is proud to see so many College and Young Republicans at our convention. He then spoke of the leadership and values of Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan represents Republican values and ideals. When Governor Otter read "The Conscience of a Conservative" written by Barry Goldwater, it changed him from his democrat upbringing to a Republican. Governor Otter has worked for zero-based budgeting and next year we will have 3 major agencies and 7 smaller agencies on zero-based budgets. He now has monthly cabinet meetings with great exchange among the agencies. He discovered that 42 directors of agencies had never received a performance review. Governor Otter has now had those reviews with all of those agencies. He is doing the work we elected him to do. He thanked us for giving him the best job he has ever had. When we have differences of opinion we stand tall and are passionate. As we finish our discussion on differences we need to unite and stand together to elect Republicans.

Chairman Sullivan asked the Convention to rise in a moment of silence to recognize Jack Simplot for all he has done for Idaho, and then put the convention at ease for 5 minutes.

Kitty Kunz presented the Credential Committee report to the convention. Chairman Kitty Kunz noted that each delegation needs to have a delegation chair, and the delegation must stand when a roll call vote is requested. She stated that a revised roll has been handed out to the convention. Legislative District 2 is on a separate sheet. The revised roll is the approved delegates and alternates to the convention. Chairman Kunz then reviewed the changes on the Credential Report number of delegates and alternates for each County and Legislative District. A motion for approval was made by Chairman Kunz and seconded by Wayne Hammon, Ada County. Vice-Chairman Bart Davis clarified that delegations have the authority to fill delegate vacancies with alternates. There was unanimous approval by voice vote. Chairman Kunz then verified that there was a quorum in attendance and that convention business could proceed.

Co-Chairmen Senator Brad Little, Gem County, and Steve Brown, LD 30, presented the Rules Committee report. The first change is to the Rules of the Convention, Article II Section 1 (h). It adds item (7), "Second Vice Chairman." This change is necessary to allow for the election of the second vice chairman at the convention. The State Central Committee voted in June 2007 to make the election of the Second Vice Chairman part of the convention.

The second change is to Rules of the Convention, Article VII, Section 8. It deletes "if suggested by at least twenty five (25) Delegates who shall stand to be counted," and adds "as provided for in Roberts's Rules of Order Newly Revised." Phil Hart, LD3, asked what the effect of this change would be. The effect would be that if a roll call vote is called for, it should be by a majority vote. Leslie Romriell, Bannock County, spoke in opposition to the second change. She then requested a division of the rules committee report, in order for each change to be voted on separately, and placed the request in a motion. The motion passed and the report will be divided.

The convention then voted on the motion to accept the first change to the Rules Committee report. The motion passed.

The convention then discussed the motion to accept the second change to the Rules Committee report. Allen Marsh, LD 13, spoke in opposition. Larry Spencer, LD 2, spoke in favor. Elizabeth Allan Hodge, LD 16, spoke in opposition. Lenore Barrett, Dist 35, spoke in opposition. James

McMillan, Shoshone County, spoke in opposition. Ronalee Linsenmann, LD 13, moved to amend the rule to delete the requested language and the newly added language and replace with “if supported by the majority of the delegates.” A voice vote was called for. The chair was in doubt of the vote and asked for a standing vote. The Chair ruled that the Ayes had the majority and the second change to the report was adopted. This concluded the Rules Committee report dealing with the Convention Rules.

The Rules Committee report then suggested four changes to the standing rules. The first change is to Article IV, Section 1, and relates to when the county and district committees hold their reorganization meeting. It deletes “within” from the last sentence and adds “no sooner than eight (8) days or later than” ten (10) days after the Primary Election at the county seat.

The second change to the standing rules adds Section 23 to Standing Rules, Article I, which refers to the state party staff not using any resources of the Party office to advocate or advertise for the candidacy of those seeking election to the executive committee.

The third change is to Standing Rules, Article IX, Section 4, relating to the closed primary issue and allows all to vote in the Republican primary.

A division of the report was requested by Adam Graham, Ada County. He requested dividing the Article IX changes from the other suggestions. Jim Rice, LD 10, asked to separate the report completely. The report was divided.

The question was called on the first change suggested. Jim Rice, LD 10, spoke in opposition. Al Cole, Nez Perce County, requested the word “within” be stricken if this language is accepted. Barry Peterson, Elmore County, spoke in opposition. Lenore Barrett, LD 35, spoke in opposition. Dawn Hatch, Ada County, spoke in favor. Clay Howard, LD 3, spoke in favor. Wayne Hurst, Cassia County, spoke in opposition. Phil Hart, LD 3, spoke in favor. John Blattler, Boise County, spoke in opposition. The co-chairman, Brad Little, stated that we do need to amend the report to strike “within” from the language. He stated that the change makes our rule consistent with state code. Challis McAfee, Ada County, moved to amend the change to state “no later than 15 days.” Zach Callear, Ada County, seconded the motion. Dixie Richardson, Bonneville County, spoke in opposition. Tana Cory, Ada County, reminded us that state code sets these days. Roger Falen, LD 6, spoke in opposition. Zach Callear, Ada County, spoke in favor. Claire Cox, Boise County, asked to hear what Idaho Code states. Co-Chairman Little said that statute states “no sooner than 8 days” and party rules state the last period of time. John Malloy, LD 5, spoke in favor. John Ferris, Benewah County, made a substitute motion to change the date to 12 days. Roger Falen, LD 6, seconded the motion. Craig Parrish, LD 29, called for the question and Kandi Duffin, LD 28, called for the question. Jeff Siddoway, Jefferson County, asked us to vote on the previous question. The motion passed.

A vote on the substitute motion failed. A vote on the amended motion passed. The language will state “no sooner than 8 days nor later than 15 days after the Primary Election at the county seat.”

There was no debate on the addition of Section 23 to the standing rules. Section 23 states; “At no time shall the staff, resources or finances of the Idaho Republican Party be used to promote, solicit, advocate or advertise the candidacy of those seeking election, re-election or appointment to the Executive Board.” The addition was adopted on a voice vote.

The recommendation to change Article IX of the standing rules is related to the closed primary. The change proposed deletes “Registration required to vote in a Republican” and adds “open” to Article IX. In Section 4 of Article IX, it deletes “Only persons who have registered as Republican prior to the Primary Election” and adds “All legal Idaho Voters.” Ralph Lillig, Bannock County, spoke in opposition. Bob McEntee, Elmore County, moved to postpone the consideration of this

change indefinitely and the motion was seconded. James McMillan, Shoshone County, spoke in opposition. Jeff Siddoway, Jefferson County, spoke in opposition. Allen Marsh, LD 13, called for the question and his call was seconded. The motion to postpone failed.

James McMillan, Shoshone County, spoke in favor of the Rules Committee report. Maria Nate, Madison County, spoke in opposition. Lenore Barrett, LD 35, spoke in opposition. Zach Callear, Ada County, spoke in opposition. Craig Parrish, LD 29, spoke in favor. Chris Harriman, LD 27, spoke in favor. Clark Callear, Clearwater County, spoke in favor. Adam Graham, Ada County, spoke in opposition. Bobby Power, Canyon County, spoke in opposition. Brenda Maynard Walters, Ada County, clarified that the lawsuit has been filed by the state party regarding closed primaries. Wayne Hurst, Cassia County, spoke in favor. Dixie Richardson, Bonneville County, asked the chairman to read the statement. The chairman read Section 4 stating that all legal Idaho voters may vote in the Republican Primary. John Reuter, LD 1, spoke in favor. Jessie Taylor, Ada County, spoke in favor. Jim Rice, LD 10, called for the previous question. A division of the vote was requested. A roll call vote was requested and approved. The vote was 199 Aye and 192 Nay to accept the recommended change to the standing rules regarding closed primaries. The motion passed.

The final order of business from the Rules Committee report was a resolution approved by the rules committee. The resolution states:

Be it resolved that the Convention Rules Committee strongly encourages the Idaho State Central Committee Standing Rules Committee to address the difficulties with time frames in Article IV Section 1 (the County Central Committee) of the Rules of the Idaho Republican Party. (These are regarding election of County Officers and reporting of such to the Idaho Republican Party.) The resolution passed on a voice vote.

We stood at ease for lunch.

Following lunch, the Platform Committee Report was presented by co-chairmen Melinda Smyser and Senator John McGee. The following are the proposed changes:

Section I. Fiscal Responsibility

Taxation: delete the current language and insert "We support lower federal, state, and local taxes. Taxes are too high because government spends too much. High taxes are a burden on businesses, families and individuals. More money taken out of paychecks result in people having to work harder in order to make a living, as a result of the heavy taxation burden. It is difficult for families to pay their bills and the government, resulting in less time with children, and particularly less time helping children with their education. Higher taxing of business results in more expensive products. The problem is not a lack of revenue-rather, it is excessive expenditures. Reduction of taxes has shown to increase revenue to the government. Tax reductions should always be accompanied by spending reductions. We urge our Republican officeholders to work to reduce federal, state, and local expenditures, control federal, state, and local expansion, and author legislation to eliminate such practices as "earmarking". We will spare no lawful effort to retain an all Republican congressional delegation.

Reform of Congress: The United States Congress was intended by the Founding Fathers to be the finest deliberative body in the history of mankind. But in recent years, Congress has demonstrated that it has lost its way. The Idaho Republican Party supports an overhaul of the legislative process in Washington, D.C., that would allow: 1) more time for members of Congress to study legislation that will be considered, rather than a handful of hours to review hundreds or thousands of pages of legislation, 2) more opportunity for citizens to testify at congressional hearings, 3) more opportunity for members of Congress to listen to debate on legislation in each chamber rather than the current

system in which members give speeches in empty chambers and perform for the C-Span audience, 4) an opportunity for members of Congress to raise objections to earmarks and to the inclusion of unrelated subject matter in a single bill, 5) an end to earmark abuses, more oversight for the earmark process and an end to members using earmarks for financial gain, and 6) a more orderly process for consideration of legislation, similar to the process used in the Idaho Legislature.

Add this section at the end of Section I: **Sound Currency:** We recognize the failure of the Federal Reserve System to maintain a sound U.S. dollar and the dangers of private bankers controlling the issuance of our currency. We believe the Federal Reserve Bank should be abolished and the issuing power restored to the people through their representatives in the U.S. Congress with the stipulation that the U.S. dollar be backed by gold and silver.

Section IV: Education

Add “We recognize the importance of early childhood education. We also believe that the needs of early childhood education are best met by individuals, families and private sector. Only in the rarest of situations should government assume the responsibilities reserved to parents.

We believe parents have the right to educate their children at home, that court rulings that undermine these rights devalue the important role of parents and family in a child’s education.

Change the second paragraph by striking “strengthen” and add “improve.” Then add the sentence “We also recognize that more government spending does not necessarily generate improved schools.”

After the paragraph in this section, which begins “We are proud of our many dedicated, professional teachers and educators,” add “We support the efforts to reward great teachers for their hard work. We support efforts to create a career ladder for teachers so that our best educators are willing to remain in the classroom and work with our children.”

Section XI: Commerce, Industry, and Transportation

Add “through private enterprise and free market means” to the first paragraph in section XI.

Change the sixth paragraph final sentence to read “When government appropriates private property or investment expectations, full restitution shall be made, including reimbursement of legal and interest expenses.”

Section XIII: Energy

After the first paragraph in this section, add “The Idaho Republican Party supports efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We support efforts to increase American exploration and production of American crude oil and natural gas, and support voluntary efforts to improve efficiencies and promote conservation. Congress must end its ban on American energy exploration on U.S. soil and on the Outer Continental Shelf and provide for additional American refining capacity. We must make America’s resources available to U.S. citizens.”

Section XVI: American Family

Strike from the third paragraph the phrase “and to the increased use of illegal drugs.” Add “Many of the problems facing the traditional family include, but are not limited to: pornography, substance abuse, debt, and the lack of simple ‘family’ time. Pornography and substance abuse are particular in that they distort one’s view of reality, and create detrimental addictions, which limit one’s ability to operate physically, mentally and emotionally within the family.”

Section XXV: Election of Supreme Court Justices

Change the paragraph to read “The Idaho Republican Party opposes any attempt to undermine the constitutional right of the people to select justices in an open competitive election process.”

Section XXVI: Climate Change

Add this new section. It shall read “We, the Republican Party of Idaho, recognize that the beautiful and fruitful land that we have been given by the Hand of Providence must be properly cared for to ensure that its rich blessings will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come. We recognize that it is ultimately the individual’s responsibility to act as a steward of their environment and that government involvement should be limited at best.

We discourage international regulations on industry which attempt to halt the production of certain industrial byproducts. Instead we encourage citizens to adopt buying habits that promote a clean earth.

We also encourage the development and use of nuclear energy as a clean, efficient solution to energy and environmental needs.”

A motion to adopt the Platform Committee report was made and seconded.

Rep. Jim Patrick, Twin Falls County, requested a division of the report. James Stivers, Benewah County, requested a division by sections. The division was approved.

Jake Ball, Ada County, commended the committee on their work and especially likes the climate change section. He moved the previous question and it was seconded. The motion passed.

Will Hart, Ada County, moved to amend the first paragraph of Section I by striking the words on the second to the last sentence “and author legislation to eliminate such practices as ‘earmarking’” and leave the last sentence. His motion was seconded by Brenda Maynard Walters, Ada County. Will Hart spoke in support of the amendment. He stated that every single county has benefitted from federal earmarking. Most of the funds are used for infrastructure to local governments.

Adam Graham, Ada County, spoke in opposition to the amendment. Roger Falen, LD 6, spoke in opposition. Dan Loughrey, LD 17, spoke in opposition. Allen Marsh, LD 13, spoke in opposition.

The motion to amend failed on a voice vote.

Will Hart, Ada County, moved to strike the second paragraph in Section I. Brenda Maynard Walters, Ada County, seconded the motion. Will Hart spoke in support of his motion. He believes the paragraph is confusing and redundant.

Jake Ball, Ada County, spoke in favor. Roger Falen, LD 6, spoke in opposition. Allen Marsh, LD 13, spoke in favor. George O’Connor, LD 20, spoke in opposition. Coleen Erickson, Jefferson County, spoke in favor.

The motion failed on a voice vote.

Jim Patrick, LD 3, moved to strike the whole paragraph of Sound Currency and the motion was properly seconded. Jim Patrick spoke in favor of his motion. He believes that the section is unnecessary.

Mark Cox, Boise County, spoke in opposition. James McMillan, Shoshone County, spoke in opposition. Jennifer Pitino, Ada County, spoke in opposition. Billee Hasbrouck, Twin Falls, spoke in

support. Bob McEntee, Elmore County, spoke in opposition. Michael Howard, Bonneville County, spoke in opposition. Chris Harriman, LD 27, spoke in opposition. Susan Kenney, Ada County, spoke in opposition. John Hatch, Ada County, called for the previous question. Dick Bauer, Ada County, seconded the motion. The vote taken by division failed. The Platform report was accepted without change.

The Resolutions Committee report was presented by co-chairmen Rep. George Eskridge and Gen. Ben Doty. The committee will present each resolution separately.

RESOLUTION 1: ANTI-MARIJUANA USE

Submitted by Jeremy Chou, Ada County

WHEREAS, Marijuana contains the active chemical THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) and is considered a mind-altering psychoactive Drug. Marijuana use is associated with impaired memory and learning, distorted perception, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, loss of coordination, increased heart rate and anxiety. In people with psychotic or other problems, the use of marijuana can precipitate severe emotional disorders. Chronic use of marijuana may increase the risk of psychotic symptoms in people with a past history of schizophrenia. Marijuana smoking by young people may lead to severe impairment of higher brain function and neuropsychiatric disorders, as well as a higher risk for addiction and polydrug abuse problems;

WHEREAS, Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. According to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), an estimated 97.8 million Americans aged 12 or older tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes, representing 39.8% of the U.S. population in that age group. Among 12-17 year olds surveyed as part of the 2006 NSDUH, 6.7% reported past month marijuana use;

WHEREAS, The Idaho Meth Project reports that 55% of the children between 12 and 17 years old surveyed stated that marijuana was “very” or “somewhat” easy to obtain in Idaho;

WHEREAS, A 2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Report, *Initiation of Marijuana Use: Trends, Patterns and Implications*, concludes that younger children are, when they first use marijuana, more likely to use cocaine and heroin and become dependent on drugs as adults;

WHEREAS, On April 20th, 2006, the FDA issued an advisory concluding that no sound scientific studies have supported medical use of smoked marijuana for treatment in the United States, and no animal or human data support the safety or efficacy of smoked marijuana for general medical use;

WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has concluded that smoking marijuana is not recommended for any long-term medical use, and a subsequent IOM report declared that, “marijuana is not modern medicine.” Additionally, the American Medical Association, the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society do not support the smoked form of marijuana as medicine;

WHEREAS, a number of states have passed voter referenda or legislative actions making smoked marijuana available for a variety of medical conditions upon a doctor’s recommendation. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these measures are inconsistent with efforts to ensure medications undergo the rigorous scientific scrutiny of the FDA approval process and are proven safe and effective under the standards of the FD&C Act;

WHEREAS, Marijuana, like all illicit drugs including, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, inhalants, hallucinogens and crack, is damaging to society and the youth of Idaho;

NOW THEREFORE, Based on the recitals above, the Idaho Republican Party ADOPTS the following RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT THE IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY OPPOSES THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN THE STATE OF IDAHO AND SUPPORTS EFFORTS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT TO FULLY ENFORCE LAWS PROHIBITING MARIJUANA USE.

Resolution 1; Anti-Marijuana Use Resolution passed the committee. Co-chairman Ben Doty moved that the resolution be adopted. Steven Thayn, LD 11, introduced a minority report and spoke in favor of the minority report. Vice Chairman Davis explained the requirements for the report to come before the Convention. Steven Thayn, LD 11, moved for adoption of the minority report and a second was received. Steven Thayn read a prepared statement in support of the approval of the minority report and urged the Convention to reject the resolution not because it was incorrect, but because it was incomplete.

Anti-Marijuana Use Resolution Minority Report
Submitted by Steven Thayn, LD 11

The Anti-Marijuana Use Resolution correctly identifies many problems with marijuana and its use. In no way does this Minority Report suggest that marijuana use should be encouraged; rather, to question the solution offered in this resolution.

The resolution offers no solution other than enforcement of the law which leads to incarceration. However, successful anti-drug efforts are moving away from incarceration toward drug courts, treatment and prevention which have a better return on investment than incarceration alone. Of course violent offenders and drug dealers need to be incarcerated. Marijuana use is best reduced by the teaching of correct thinking and new behaviors.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse states: “In treatment, the drug abuser is taught to break old patterns of thinking and behaving and to learn new skills for avoiding drug use and criminal behavior.” Shouldn't we be teaching these same skills and thinking patterns before a person abuses drugs? Shouldn't this resolution state a positive course of action rather than focus exclusively upon punishment and incarceration?

Some background information may be helpful.

1. In 1972 only 111 individuals per 100,000 were incarcerated in Idaho.
2. Now, 750 individuals per 100,000 are incarcerated, almost a 700 percent increase in 36 years.
3. Germany has an incarceration rate of 95/100,000 while Canada has a rate of 116/100,000.
4. America has the highest incarceration rate in the world.
5. About 2/3 of individuals in prison are incarcerated for non-violent crime.
6. It is estimated 80 percent of individuals in prison have drug problems.

It is time we address real social problems with real solutions and not simply rely upon incarceration. This resolution is a reaction to a pro-marijuana initiative in Blaine County. Let's solve problems; not simply react to what others are doing.

THEREFORE, future resolutions dealing with drugs could read more like the following:

RESOLVED that the Idaho Republican Party discourages the use of marijuana, does not believe it should be legalized and encourages youth to learn how to enjoy a drug-free life by being constructively engaged in positive behaviors; allocate more resources to drug abuse prevention and drug courts; strengthen the parent/child relationship; and teach constructive behaviors in an effort to reduce the dependence upon marijuana and other illegal drugs.

This form of the resolution identifies what actions are not wanted; but, more importantly identifies what positive course of action should be followed.

Alan Marsh, LD 13, spoke in opposition to the minority report. The question was called for and the minority report failed on a voice vote.

The convention then opened discussion on the original motion. Mark Cox, Boise County, spoke in opposition to Resolution 1. Allen Marsh, LD 13, made a motion to include in this resolution that the Republican Party encourages alternative treatments. He suggested that we insert a new paragraph at the end of the resolution stating; "Further Resolved that the Republican Party encourages alternative treatments for the rehabilitation of those involved in use that they may enjoy a normal and happy life." The motion received an appropriate second.

Wayne Hammon, Ada County, called for the previous question and received an appropriate second. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Jeremy Chou, Ada County, spoke in favor of Resolution 1. He thanked Allen Marsh, LD 13, for the amendment to the resolution. He stated that the resolution was taken directly from the Office of Drug Policy.

Eric Playsread, Ada County, spoke in opposition. Adam Graham, Ada County, moved that the Convention amend the committee report and add the following paragraph at the end of the resolution: "Be it further resolved that the IRP encourages youth to learn how to enjoy a drug-free life by being constructively engaged in positive behaviors; allocate more resources to drug abuse prevention and drug courts; strengthen the parent/child relationship; and teach constructive behaviors in an effort to reduce the dependence upon marijuana and other illegal drugs."

Wayne Hammon, Ada County, called for the previous question and received the appropriate second. The motion was approved by a voice vote. The amendment was approved by a voice vote.

The question was called for on the original motion and received the appropriate second. The motion was approved by a voice vote. The resolution, as amended, was approved by a voice vote.

George Eskridge presented Resolution 2 supporting the current policy against terrorism. He moved that the resolution be approved and it was appropriately seconded.

**RESOLUTION 2: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CURRENT POLICY AGAINST
TERRORISM WORLDWIDE AND IN SUPPORT OF OUR FIGHTING TROOPS IN IRAQ
AND AFGHANISTAN**

Submitted by the Idaho Republican Party - Proposed by Ben Doty, Ada County

WHEREAS the United States and Allies have been fighting terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan in an attempt to bring a stable government and democracy to their people, and

WHEREAS the current strategy of a troop surge to protect the Iraqis in the cities and villages is working and there have been a significant number of the Terrorists eliminated or captured, and

WHEREAS the Iraq Army, trained by the U.S. forces, is now beginning to payoff, and

WHEREAS the democrat candidate for President proposes to execute an immediate withdrawal from Iraq which will be a disastrous move, and

WHEREAS the United States is receiving more funds and in-kind financial assistance from both countries and their governments, and

WHEREAS we have paid a price in blood and sacrifice by our armed forces

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Republican Party support our National effort in Iraq and Afghanistan and retain the necessary forces until victory is achieved.

Elizabeth Alan Hodge, LD 16, spoke in opposition to the resolution. Wayne Hammon, Ada County, called for the question and was appropriately seconded. The question passed by a voice vote. Resolution 2 passed by a voice vote.

Chairman Eskridge informed the convention that Resolution 3 failed in committee and a minority report has been prepared.

RESOLUTION 3: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING A CAUCUS TO NOMINATE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

Submitted by Adam Graham, Ada County

WHEREAS, Idaho has not had a meaningful vote in the Republican presidential nominating contest since 1976;

WHEREAS, Idaho, as one of the reddest states in America should have a say in who is the Republican nominee;

WHEREAS, several western states held contests on or before February 5th including Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada;

WHEREAS, caucuses lead to a more deliberative and thoughtful process;

WHEREAS, regardless of any plan passed by the national convention, in order to have a voice, Idaho must schedule an earlier contest for the nomination;

AND WHEREAS, holding an early presidential primary will lead to hundreds of thousands of dollars in expense to Idaho taxpayers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning in 2012, Idaho's delegates to the Republican National Convention which are currently chosen in the May primary shall be chosen at a caucus which shall:

- 1) Be held as early as allowed by National Party rules.
- 2) Allow for discussion of candidates for the Presidency and deliberation prior to voting.
- 3) Proportionally allocate delegates in a fair and reasonable manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That, the state party shall write and approve rules for a caucus process in accordance with the requirements of this resolution.

Minority Report: Question and Answers Regarding Caucus Resolution

Submitted by Adam Graham, Ada County

In proposing the issue of a caucus, several questions have been raised on the attached resolution, below are some answers.

Q: Will the passage of this resolution affect Idaho having legal delegates elected to the convention, similar to the issues that occurred with Michigan and Florida?

A: No, party rules should be followed strictly and honored in order to insure fair elections. This resolution specifically requires that no vote be held before party rules allow.

Q: Won't primary turnout be hindered by voters being unable to vote for President along with other offices?

A: The caucus will not impact whether there will be a Republican Primary for President. The Democratic Party elects their delegates by a caucus in February, but there is still a Democratic Primary in May. While no delegates would be awarded at the primary, voters who would only come out to vote for President in a primary election held months after the issue was decided would still come out to vote in a non-binding primary.

In addition, by decoupling the selection of Presidential Delegates from the May Primary, the State could also consider a date that would produce higher voter turnout rather than our current primary date which often falls directly after Memorial Day.

Q: There's an effort underway to reform the Republican Primary process and under that reform, Idaho would be given the chance to vote among the smallest states that would go first. How would this effort at the national level impact the proposed resolution?

A: The proposed resolution in no way contravenes any efforts nationally to reform the primary process. Our caucus would be scheduled as soon as it is allowed by the national party, not before.

If Primary Election Reform is passed by the Republican Convention, the Idaho GOP will be left with four options:

- 1) Hold a Caucus
- 2) Move Idaho's General Primary up to February. This option is not viable as it would have primaries held in the middle of the legislative session.
- 3) Obtain funding for a Special Presidential Primary Election in February. With more expensive voting technologies being adopted in Idaho's largest counties, this would lead to costs in the millions of dollars and would seem a questionable use of tax dollars.
- 4) Hold our normal Primary. The net result of this would be that the Idaho Republicans would once again be in a position of being second class in the choice of our party's nominee.

If primary reform is not passed, we will be left with the same four options. It is important that we are proactive rather than reactive in doing what's right for Idaho.

Q: The Presidential Primary in Idaho was a great idea in 1976, why change?

A: Because in 1976, the process was much different. Not every state held primaries, and many of those states that did elected their delegates proportionally. We now face a situation of frontloading and winner-take-all contests that has compressed the process with Idaho voters given no choice but to vote for a candidate chosen for us by other states, or casting a heckler's veto. Even under the Proposed Reform proposal at the RNC, the nomination will be decided more than a month before our current primary is scheduled.

In a world where conservative principles are needed, Idaho's voice must count. The nominee for President has an impact on our party at every level, and Idaho should not be a mere victim of circumstance. Approval of the caucus resolution will make Idahoans full and equal partners in the Republican enterprise, and in choosing our party's nominee.

The sponsor of the minority report is Adam Graham, Ada County. He introduced the minority report and moved to adopt the minority report. The motion was appropriately seconded. Adam Graham spoke in favor of accepting the minority report. Resolution 3 asks the party to adopt a caucus for electing our delegates to the National Convention. Chairman Eskridge spoke against this resolution stating that the primary election is very important to us. If we move to a presidential caucus the election turnout will be so low that it makes it difficult to get a true feel of voter feelings. It would make it difficult for current elected officials in the Idaho Legislature to participate.

With no further debate the minority report failed on a voice vote. The resolution is not adopted on the recommendation of the committee.

Chairman Eskridge introduced Resolution 4 which is a thank you to past and present Idaho GOP workers. The chairman moved to accept the resolution. The motion was appropriately seconded. The resolution was approved on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION 4: THANK YOU PAST AND PRESENT IDAHO GOP WORKERS

Submitted by Sen. Patti Anne Lodge, Canyon County and Sen. John McGee, Canyon County

WHEREAS, The State of Idaho is the most Republican State in the country;

WHEREAS, Less than twenty years ago in Idaho, Democrats held two of the four seats in our federal delegation and the Idaho State Legislature was very closely divided, with Democrats nearing control of both chambers;

WHEREAS, With the hard and dedicated work of past and present Idaho GOP Workers, the Idaho Republican Party has been truly successful in its efforts of electing Republicans;

WHEREAS, Past and present Idaho GOP Workers are credited with the Idaho Republican Party's current superb financial condition;

WHEREAS, for the past two elections, our successful efforts of the Idaho Republican Party have been led by State Republican Chairman J. Kirk Sullivan. Chairman Sullivan's leadership has been instrumental in building a strong Republican majority at all levels of government in Idaho;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Chairman Sullivan, past and present Idaho GOP Workers are putting the principles of efficiency, private party rights, economic freedom and personal responsibility back into our government;

WHEREAS, The election of Republican candidates in the present election cycle will be crucial in this country's history, making the need for past and present Idaho GOP Workers and experienced leadership more important than ever;

NOW THEREFORE, Based on the recitals above, the Idaho Republican Party ADOPTS the following RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED THAT THE IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO ALL OF THE PAST AND PRESENT GOP WORKERS THAT HAVE MADE IDAHO THE ENVY OF STATES IN THIS GREAT UNION AND CALLS UPON ALL GOP MEMBERS TO REBOULE EFFORTS THIS YEAR TO CONTINUE THE SUCCESS IN THE STATE OF IDAHO.

Chairman Eskridge introduced Resolution 5 which opposes the High Gas Prices. The chairman moved to adopt Resolution 5. The motion was appropriately seconded. The resolution was approved on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION 5: RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF HIGH GAS PRICES

Submitted by Steven Brown, LD 30

WHEREAS the Democrat controlled Congress has made no effort to end the gas crisis in our country, and;

WHEREAS Idahoans depend upon our vehicles for personal transportation and recreation, and;

WHEREAS our State's tourism dollars will be greatly impacted as Americans enjoy stay-vacations and travel less, and;

WHEREAS our working partners in the agriculture, trucking, and construction communities are being forced to pass along their transportation costs to consumers or face closing their businesses, and;

WHEREAS the Democrats are in the pocket of the protest industry and continuously block Republican efforts to drill for oil domestically, and;

WHEREAS the United States should not be dependent upon any country for any of our resources, and;

WHEREAS it has been proven that we have an abundance of oil reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off the Gulf Coast, and;

WHEREAS no new oil refinery has been built in over thirty years, and;

WHEREAS increasing supply is proven to reduce costs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Idaho Republican Party encourages our policy makers to find real solutions for our current gas crisis in America, including increased drilling and building refineries to give immediate and long term relief to its country's citizens.

Chairman Eskridge introduced Resolution 6 that is in support of Idaho's commitment to clean energy. The chairman moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was appropriately seconded. The resolution was approved on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION 6: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IDAHO'S COMMITMENT TO CLEAN ENERGY

Submitted by Erik Simpson, LD 32

WHEREAS Idaho is one of the cleanest and most pristine states in our Nation with one of the lowest carbon footprints, and;

WHEREAS our Congressional Delegation has fought tirelessly for decades to protect our dams for continued clean energy, and;

WHEREAS Idaho has one of the lowest prices for electricity generation due to conservation and clean hydro-power, and;

WHEREAS Idaho is the birth place of nuclear energy, and;

WHEREAS nuclear power represents nearly one-fifth of U.S. power production, more than all other clean energy sources combined, and;

WHEREAS Idahoans continue to look toward alternative energy sources such as wind and geothermal, and;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Idaho Republican Party encourages our policy makers to continue Idaho's national leadership in the production of clean and affordable energy to our citizens and business.

Blake Hall, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee report. He moved to accept the report of the committee and it was appropriately seconded. The report was approved by a voice vote.

Idaho Delegates to the National Republican Convention

John McCain Delegates: 17

1. Mary Jo Ambrosiani
2. Darlene Bramon
3. Marge Chadderdon
4. Tana Cory
5. Ron Crane
6. Bart Davis
7. Roy Eiguren
8. Brad Hoaglund
9. Donna Jones
10. Cynthia Jorgensen
11. James E. Risch
12. John Sandy
13. Sidney C. Smith
14. Walter Steed
15. Mitchell Toryanski
16. Frank Vandersloot

17. Lawrence Wasden

Ron Paul Delegates: 6

1. Vito Barbieri
2. Claire Cox
3. Mark Cox
4. Alanna Grimm
5. Phil Hart
6. Elizabeth Hodge

At Large Delegates: 6

1. Ruthie Johnson
2. Chris Harriman
3. Tom Luna
4. Steve Hartgen
5. Ron Nate
6. Marsha Bjornn

Total Delegates: 29

John McCain Alternates: 17

1. Jack Ambrosiani
2. C. Gaye Bennett
3. Julie Chadderdon
4. Steve Cory
5. Marion Davis
6. Guy Hurlbutt
7. Linda Hurlbutt
8. Dennis Johnson
9. Kathy Johnson
10. Michael Jorgensen
11. Jason Kreizenbeck
12. Kevin McGowan
13. Rachel Riggs
14. Vicki Risch
15. Robin Sandy
16. Mary Jo Steed
17. Shirley Taylor

Ron Paul Alternates: 6

1. Allen Hodge
2. Sharon Goltry
3. Nate Jones
4. Melissa Yarno
5. Maurice Clements
6. Vernon Goltry

At Large Alternates: 6

1. Chad Reiser
2. Jesse Taylor
3. Tyler Hurst
4. Cindy Luna

5. Ronalee Linsenman
6. Sharon Culbreth

Total Alternates: 29

Chairman Hall then presented the list of electors for Idaho. These electors vote in the Electoral College. He moved to accept the electors and it was appropriately seconded. The electors were approved on a voice vote.

Idaho Electors: 4

1. John Erickson
2. Melinda Smyser
3. General Ben Doty
4. Darlene Bramon

The next order of business is the election of the Idaho State Party Executive officers. Rep. Raul Labrador, LD 14, moved to allow for a secret ballot in contested races for the officers and allow each candidate one observer. Chairman Bart Davis ruled that it would be a suspension of the rules. Raul Labrador appealed to the floor. The floor indicated they would like to decide. Raul Labrador spoke to his motion. He believes it is the right of each delegate to have a secret ballot. Chairman Bart Davis defended his ruling. He said he is trying to be fair in applying the rules of the convention. He does not believe his ruling is contrary to the rules of the convention. He argued that if we overturn him then we do not need the rules.

Trent Clark, Caribou County asked for a point of order. He stated that the rule is not specific on how to resolve a dispute dealing with a secret ballot. Chairman Bart Davis said it is still the position of the Chair that the voting should be done by the voting rules of the party. Brian Wood, LD 15, spoke in support of the motion. Raul Labrador asked for a vote on the motion. The rules speak only to a roll call ballot. A division vote was taken and the motion passed.

The next order of business was a vote on the original motion to have a secret ballot for all contested races. Trent Clark, Caribou County, spoke in favor of the motion. Leslie Romriell, Bannock County, spoke in favor of the motion. A division vote was taken and the motion passed.

Chairman Bart Davis asked to have the nominations made without a roll call of the convention. The recommendation was approved and the nominations for Chairman of the Idaho State Republican Party began. There were two nominations for chairman. The order of nomination was decided by a coin toss.

Sen. Robert Geddes, Caribou County, nominated Kirk Sullivan for Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. Ruthie Johnson, Kootenai County, seconded the nomination. Pamela Prather, Ada County, seconded the nomination.

State Superintendent Tom Luna, Canyon County, nominated Norm Semanko for Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. Randy Hansen, Twin Falls County, seconded the nomination. Maria Nate, Madison County, seconded the nomination.

By roll call, a secret ballot was distributed and collected. A representative for each nominee and the selected counters were dismissed to tally the count.

Sheila Olsen, Bonneville County, moved to return to the original rules of voting procedure for all remaining offices. A second was heard and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Claire Cox, Ada County, nominated Ryan Davidson for 1st Vice Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. Redgie Bigham, LD 15, seconded the nomination. William Johnson, Benewah County, seconded the nomination.

Rep. Jim Patrick, Twin Falls County, nominated Mike Matthews for 1st Vice Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. Brad Hoaglund, Ada County, seconded the nomination. Trent Clark, Caribou County, seconded the nomination.

Mike Matthews was elected 1st Vice Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party by a standing division vote.

Cindy Moyle, LD 27, nominated Keith Johnson for Treasurer of the Idaho Republican Party. Rep. Frank Henderson, LD 5, seconded the nomination. Frank Dammarell, Latah County, seconded the nomination.

Clay Howard, LD 3, nominated Richard Fagley for Treasurer of the Idaho Republican Party. A second was appropriately made.

Keith Johnson was elected Treasurer of the Idaho Republican Party by a standing division vote.

Brian Wood, LD 15, nominated Sharon Goltry for Secretary of the Idaho Republican Party. Jennifer Pitino, Ada County, seconded the nomination.

Sen. Robert Geddes, Caribou County, nominated Kitty Kunz for Secretary of the Idaho Republican Party. Donna Jones, Payette County, seconded the nomination. Sherri Rothfus, LD 5, seconded the nomination.

Kitty Kunz was elected Secretary of the Idaho Republican Party by a standing division vote.

Mike Matthews, Twin Falls County, nominated Cindy Moyle for National Committeewoman. China Gum, LD 14, seconded the nomination.

Sen. Shawn Keough, Bonner County, nominated Julie Chadderdon for National Committeewoman. Sen. John McGee, Canyon County, seconded the nomination.

Cindy Moyle was elected National Committeewoman of the Idaho Republican Party by a standing division vote.

Skip Smyser, Canyon County, nominated Blake Hall for National Committeeman. State Superintendent Tom Luna, Canyon County, seconded the nomination.

Trent Clark, Caribou County, nominated Rod Beck for National Committeeman. Rachel Gilbert, Ada County, seconded the nomination.

Blake Hall was elected National Committeeman of the Idaho Republican Party by a standing division vote.

Rep. Elizabeth Hodge asked for an appeal of the decision of the chair to have a counted vote. Skip Smyser, Canyon County, recommended that each side stand and be counted. A count was taken and the majority voted for Blake Hall.

Rep. Phil Hart, LD 3, nominated Ron Vieselmeyer for 2nd Vice Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. John Cross, Kootenai County, seconded the nomination.

Colleen Erickson, Madison County, nominated Tana Cory for 2nd Vice Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. Sharon Culbreth, Kootenai County, seconded the nomination of Tana Cory. Ben Doty, Ada County, seconded the nomination.

Tana Cory was elected 2nd Vice Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party by a standing division vote.

The remaining election business is the Chairman race. Norman Semanko was elected Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party with a vote of 227 for Semanko and 169 for Sullivan.

Norman Semanko recognized the work that Chairman Kirk Sullivan has done. He said we must continue to raise money. He will work with all of us to do that. He will commit the time needed to do the job. We must uphold our conservative Republican principles. He will be an advocate and spokesman. He will serve as a motivator. We need to focus for the next seven months on electing Republicans. In 2006 we lost seats in the House of Representatives. We must get those seats back. We must elect Jim Risch as U.S. Senator. We also need to work hard to keep Bill Sali and Mike Simpson as our U.S. Representatives. We must unite and work to elect Republicans.

Chairman Kirk Sullivan wished Norm the best of luck. We have a tough challenge in the next seven months; we need to work together.

Rep. Phil Hart, LD 3, thanked Senator Bart Davis for the job he did running the convention. The new people feel they have been heard and respected. He thanked the convention and chairman for a fair process.

A Republican pillow case was given to Chairman Sullivan to help him to get a good night's sleep and rest from the convention.

Following adjournment a meeting for the delegates to the National Convention will be held to give them the information they need and to organize the delegates.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m., PST.

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Idaho Republican Party State Central Committee meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Chairman Norm Semanko. A motion to dispense with the rules requiring a roll call vote was made by Ben Doty, Ada County, and seconded by Gordon Eccles, Valley County.

Blake Hall, National Committeeman, moved to approve the proceedings of the convention. Gordon Eccles, Valley County, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

The State Central Committee adjourned at 6:30 p.m. PST.