IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM, amended

ARTICLE XX:

IDAHO REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM ENFORCEMENT

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF PLATFORM AGAINST

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE MICKELSEN

November 29, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
TITLE	**PAGE**

STEPHANIE MICKELSEN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 32, SEAT A

BIOGRAPHY AND BACKGROUND

Stephanie Mickelsen was born in Idaho Falls and graduated from Blackfoot High School. She has farmed for 34 years with her husband, Mark. They own with their partners: Mickelsen Farms, LLC, Yellowstone Seed, LLC, Rigby Produce, Inc., and Potato Products of Idaho. She is Chief Financial Officer for Mickelsen Farms, LLC. Stephanie graduated with an Associates of Arts and Science in Economics from BYU-Idaho.

Stephanie currently serves as: State Director with the Idaho Farm Insurance and Idaho Farm Bureau; Co-Chair of the Idaho Groundwater Users; President of the Bonneville Groundwater District; Treasurer for Groundwater District 120; Vice-Chair Board of Trustees for the College of Eastern Idaho; Chair of the American Farm Bureau Labor Committee; and Director on the Board of Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.
Stephanie has had numerous opportunities to communicate about agriculture. These include:
• Panelist/Presenter at the Land O'Lakes "Food Effect" SXSW Conference Austin, Texas in March 2018
• Panelist at Winfield United Grower Convention in January 2018
• Panelist/Presenter for BASF in Raliegh NC 2019
• Panelist/Presenter for Rabo Bank 2019
• Bonneville Historical Society Presenter on "Agriculture through the Years in Bonneville County"
• Farm Credit Services Nomination Committee for Board of Directors
• Testified in front of Idaho House and Senate Ag Committees on various agricultural, labor, and tax issues
• Multiple interviews with local news organizations (tv and newspaper) on agricultural and labor issues

Stephanie learned early on that being involved in your community was necessary in their farming business. Stephanie and her husband Mark have 4 children and 12 grandchildren (all under the age of 5.)

TOP 3 ISSUES

ISSUE 1

Responsible Growth: Growth cannot be ignored; the future of our area is dependent upon quality leadership and vision. We have the opportunity, through careful and clear minded planning to protect limited resources while promoting business friendly policy. Private property rights reign supreme · Protect limited resources to ensure the future for agriculture, recreation, businesses and cities · State and Federal mandates are harmful to local control and best outcomes · Affordable housing should be encouraged through incentives to private business not by government mandate · Vision for Future Growth that includes Appropriate Infrastructure

ISSUE 2

Education Properly Funded: Idaho has done a great job in efficiently utilizing our education dollars. Recent years have exposed the cracks in the delivery of education in our state. The demands of industry have changed but schools have failed to adapt. Businesses are looking at skill proficiency rather than degrees. Our education system must offer diverse opportunities to Idaho students. This is a challenge that we must meet. · "Go-on" program in Idaho needs to help students better meet the demands of the future · Mission of the community colleges are critical to Idaho's future · Rethink the delivery of education to meet the changing needs of the Idaho job market · Educational decisions are best made at the local level – Limit State and Federal Government Mandates.

ISSUE 3

Fiscal Responsibility: Idahoans expect the most efficient use of their tax dollars. I am a committed fiscal conservative and am of the belief that taxpayer funds should be treated with incredible care and respect. The future of Idaho will require trusted and experienced leadership. · Create a competitive tax structure that supports long term Idaho vision · Property taxes equitable and fair · Idaho's general fund has doubled in the last 10 years from 2.2 billion to 4.4 billion. We need to make good investments for Idaho's future with this money.

INTEGRITY IN AFFILIATION

Submission: **Yes**
"I have read the Idaho Constitution and the Idaho Republican Party Platform. Except for the provisions specifically noted below, I support the Idaho Republican Party Platform and accept it as the standard by which my performance as a candidate and as an officeholder should be evaluated. I certify that I am not a candidate, officer, delegate or position holder in any party other than the Republican Party."

"I don't support Article I Section 4 on the federal reserve and currency."

Allegation 1:

HB 24; Amendment SB 1167 – "Idaho Launch Grant"

The vote on HB24; SB1167 Amendment expands the existing Idaho Launch program to give $8,500 ($102M, overall) to each high school graduate to get trained in "in-demand careers", as determined by the government-appointed Workforce Development Council. This significantly expands a government program, subsidizes corporate training programs, and distributes money to certain industries, as determined by the unelected Workforce Development Council. The money comes from general fund taxpayers, meaning all Idaho businesses and employees will be paying for the workforce training of other businesses' employees selected to participate in the Idaho Launch program.

A violation of IRPP:
Article I – Responsibility of Government – Section 1 – Fiscal Responsibility – Paragraphs (A)(D)(E)
Article I – Responsibility of Government – Section 2 – Taxation – Paragraphs (A)(B)(C)
Article XII - Economy, Section 2 – Support for Small Business – Paragraph (A)

- Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A – "We believe the size and cost of government, as well as the national debt, must be reduced."
- Article I, Section 1, Paragraph D – "We believe the unnecessary growth of government has a negative impact on both the conduct of business and our individual lives."
- Article I, Section 1, Paragraph E – "We expect the government entity, which mandates a program to provide the funding for its implementation."

- Article I, Section 2 – Paragraph A – "We support lower federal, state, and local taxes. High taxes are a burden on businesses, families, and individuals.
- Article 1, Section – Paragraph B – "We believe that tax reductions can be achieved by cutting spending on every level: federal, state, and local. We believe that lower taxes will result in increased revenue to the government, as the private sector will thrive."
- Article I, Section 2, Paragraph C – "We believe Idaho's tax structure should be predictable, fair, and balanced; and that the combination of our income, sales, and property taxes will continue to provide a stable, dependable source of income for governmental needs."

- Article XII, Section 2, Paragraph A – "We recognize the important role of small businesses in Idaho's economy and that we must maintain a regulatory environment where small business is allowed to thrive. Excessive regulatory requirements must be reduced and eliminated."

The state general fund increased by 12% from the previous fiscal year. House Bill 24; SB1167 Amendment contributed to the spending increase.

Organization positions:
- **Idaho Freedom Foundation (IFF): -6**
- **Idaho Association on Commerce and Industry supported this Bill.**

Roll call by party; HB24:
Democrats: 11 Ayes; 0 Nays / Rep. Mickelsen, Aye
Republicans: 25 Ayes; 34 Nays

Allegation 2:

HB 91 – "Prohibits State Government Paying Membership Fees or Dues with Public Funds"

The vote on HB 91 adds to existing law to prohibit the state government and its employees from paying membership fees or dues with public funds and to provide exemptions

A violation IRPP of Article I – Responsibility in Government

Article I, Section 1 – Fiscal Responsibility – Paragraphs (A)(D)(E),
Article I, Section 2 – Taxation – Paragraphs (A)(B)(C)
Article I, Section 3 – Reform of Congress – Paragraph (B)

Article 1, Section 1, Paragraph A – "The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that all government is financed by taxing its citizens. We believe the size and cost of government, as well as the national debt, must be reduced."
Article 1, Section 1, Paragraph D – "We believe the unnecessary growth of government has a negative impact on both the conduct of business and our individual lives. We endorse the review of all government programs and encourage their assumption by private enterprise or local government where appropriate and workable. Programs which are not cost effective or have outlived their usefulness should be terminated."
Article 1, Section 1, Paragraph E – "We expect the government entity which mandates a program to provide the funding for its implementation."

Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph A – ""We support lower federal, state, and local taxes. High taxes are a burden on businesses, families, and individuals."
Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph B – "We believe that tax reductions can be achieved by cutting spending on every level: federal, state, and local. We believe that lower taxes will result in increased revenue to the government as the private sector will thrive."
Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph C – "We believe Idaho's tax structure should be predictable, fair, and balanced; and that the combination of our income, sales, and property taxes will continue to provide a stable, dependable source of income for governmental needs."

Article I, Section 3, Paragraph B – "Idaho Republicans will continue to lead the fight to reduce the growth of government bureaucracy and promote private enterprise and individual initiative in the marketplace as the solution to our domestic policy challenges."

Organization positions:
IFF +1 Freedom Index
Idaho Association of Cities: opposed

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 0 Ayes, 11 Nays / Mickelsen, Nay
Republicans: 31 Ayes, 27 Nays

Allegation 3:

HB 138 - "Consolidation of March Presidential Primary Election with May Primary Election Date"

The vote on HB 138 repealed the state's presidential preference primary, which was in March of presidential election years.

A violation IRPP Article II – Citizen Involvement in Government.

Article II of the Idaho Republican Party Platform: "The Idaho Republican Party believes that government works best when its citizens become actively involved. ... We believe Primary elections in the Idaho Republican Party should be open to all people who have affiliated as Republicans at least one year prior to the primary election and who support a vast majority of the Idaho Republican Platform."

Organization positions: N/A

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays / Mickelsen, Aye
Republicans: 50 Ayes, 6 Nays

Allegation 4:

HB 155 – "Prohibition of the State from Requiring Proof of Certain Vaccinations"

The vote on HB 155 would have prohibited, with exceptions, the state from requiring proof of certain vaccinations to receive government services, enter a government venue open to the public, or be employed by the State.

A violation of IRPP:

Article III – Education - Section 10 – Parental Rights.
Article XIII – Health and Welfare - Section 3 – General Principles for Health Care (C) (D),

Article III – Education - Section 10: "We believe that in order for public education to be successful, schools and families should work together with mutual respect and cooperation. We believe parental rights are paramount and that parents have the God-given right to direct their child's education. This includes the right to decide what their children are learning and the right to inspect any educational materials used in the education of their child; the right to determine their child's health, safety, and medical treatment including masks and vaccinations; and the right to visit their child's classroom with limited restrictions. These rights should be enumerated in Idaho Code."

Article XIII, Section 3, Paragraph C – "We support freedom of choice and personal responsibility in all medical decisions, including providers and treatments. Medicine should have a "level playing field" for all treatment and branches of medicine.
Article XIII, Section 3, Paragraph D – "We support, as supreme, the authority of parents in all medical decisions for their children, including providers and treatments."

Organization positions:
IFF: +1 on the Idaho Freedom Index

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 0 Ayes, 11 Nays / Mickelsen, Nay
Republicans: 49 Ayes, 10 Nays

Allegation 5:

HB 259 – "No Absentee Ballot Shall Be Sent Out without Request from Voter"

The Vote on HB 259 would have amended Section 34-1003, Idaho Code, to say, "No election official shall distribute absentee ballot applications or absentee ballots to a voter without first receiving a request from the voter for such application or ballot, except in the case of voters in a mail ballot precinct designated pursuant to section 34-308, Idaho Code, or unless otherwise authorized by state or federal law."

This provision should prevent the troubling practice, used in some states, of mass mailing absentee ballot applications to large numbers of voters. These mass mailings significantly increase the number of absentee ballots disseminated, increasing the risk of malfeasance. To make things worse, sometimes the applications are filled out before they are mailed, making fraud that much easier.

A violation of IRPP Preamble
Preamble: "We believe the protection of individual rights is upheld when personal responsibility for behavior is exercised."

Organization positions: N/A

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 0 Ayes, 11 Nays; Mickelsen, Nay
Republicans: 47 Ayes, 10 Nays

Allegation 6:

HB 265 – "Restricts Access of Minors to Sexual Exhibitions"

The vote on HB 265 would require reasonable efforts to prevent minors from accessing sexual performances and prohibit the use of government facilities or funds for such performances. This new chapter would say, "Any person or institution that knowingly promotes, conducts, performs, or participates in a show, exhibition, or performance by a live person before an audience must take reasonable steps to restrict the access of minors if:

- The person or institution has reason to believe that minors are likely to be present;
- The show, exhibition, or performance involves live persons engaged in sexual conduct; and
- The show, exhibition, or performance is patently offensive to an average person applying contemporary community standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors."

All three parts of this standard must be met to trigger the provisions of this statute.

A violation of IRPP Article XIV – American Family - Section 4 - Children

Article XIV, Section 4: "The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that children are a heritage of the Lord. We believe parents, not the state, have a sacred duty and a legal right to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their temporal and spiritual needs, and to teach them to be law-abiding citizens. We believe biological gender to be an essential characteristic of a child's identity and purpose. We call upon parents, responsible citizens, and officers of government to promote measures that respect and protect the biological gender of children. We strongly oppose any person, entity, or policy that attempts to confuse minors regarding their biological gender."

Organization positions:
IFF: +1 on the Idaho Freedom Index

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 0 Ayes, 10 Nays; Mickelsen, Nay
Republicans: 48 Ayes, 11 Nays

Allegation 7:

HB 273 "Property Tax Amendment"

A vote on HB 273 would have clarified that voters can use an initiative or referendum to reduce the property tax base budget of a city or county.

A violation IRPP Article 1 – Fiscal Responsibility, Section 2 – Taxation - (A)(B)(C).

Article I, Section 2A – "We support lower federal, state, and local taxes. High taxes are a burden on businesses, families, and individuals."

Article I, Section 2B – "We believe that tax reductions can be achieved by cutting spending on every level: federal, state, and local. We believe that lower taxes will result in increased revenue to the government as the private sector will thrive.

Article 1, Section 2C – "We believe Idaho's tax structure should be predictable, fair, and balanced; and that the combination of our income, sales, and property taxes will continue to provide a stable, dependable source of income for governmental needs."

Organization positions:
IFF: +1 on the Idaho Freedom Index

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 0 Ayes, 11 Nays / Mickelsen, Nay
Republicans: 36 Ayes, 22 Nays

Allegation 8:

HB 293 "Election of State Board of Education Members"

The vote on HB 293 amends and adds to existing law to provide for state Board of Education member elections.

A violation IRPP of the Preamble.
Preamble of the Idaho Republican Party Platform: "We believe the protection of individual rights is upheld when personal responsibility for behavior is exercised."

Organization positions: IFF + **2 Education Index /** No other groups are recorded expressing a position in committee

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 0 Ayes, 11 Nays / Mickelsen, Nay
Republicans: 34 Ayes, 24 Nays

Allegation 9:

HB 313 "All Public Schools and Charter Schools Require Feminine Hygiene Products"

A vote for HB 313 would have required all public district and charter schools to provide feminine hygiene products for students in grades 6-12. The bill would have increased discretionary spending by at least $735,400 on public schools for product dispensers and products. This bill would have had the effect of growing the government's role in the private lives of students.

A violation IRPP:

Article I – Responsibility in Government – Section 1 – Fiscal Responsibility (A) (D),
Article I – Responsibility in Government – Section 3 – Reform of Congress (B)
Article III – Education – Section 8 – Social Justice Indoctrination

Article I, Section 1, Paragraph A – ""We believe the size and cost of government, as well as the national debt, must be reduced."
Article I, Section 1, Paragraph D – "We believe the unnecessary growth of government has a negative impact on both the conduct of business and our individual lives."
Article I, Section 3, Paragraph B – "Idaho Republicans will continue to lead the fight to reduce the growth of government bureaucracy and promote private enterprise and individual initiative in the marketplace as the solution to our domestic policy challenges."

Article III, Section 8. "We are strongly opposed to any social justice indoctrination that may occur at any level of Idaho's education system and support policy and financial measures to prohibit universities, colleges, or public schools from incorporating social justice indoctrination theories (i.e. critical race theory, transformative social emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, replacement theory, queer theory, etc.) into their policies, curriculum and/or course materials."

Organization positions:
IFF: -2 Idaho Education Index

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays / Mickelsen, Aye
Republicans: 24 Ayes, 35 Nays

Allegation 10:

HB 314 "The Children's School and Library Protection Act"

The vote on HB 314 would have prohibited any public or private school or public library from promoting or making available "material harmful to minors."

According to Blaine Conzatti, President of Idaho Family Policy Center in Boise, and one of the authors of HB 314:

"There are more than 50 public schools and community libraries across the State of Idaho currently making 'obscene' materials available to minor children."

*"Pornography in Public Schools and Libraries" Report
Blaine Conzatti, President/Report Author
Idaho Family Policy Center
February 27, 2023

This bill would have allowed minors who obtained harmful materials in violation of the law, or their parents or legal guardians, to bring a civil lawsuit if school or library personnel distributed the materials or if the school or library "failed to take reasonable steps to restrict access to material harmful to minors."

A violation of IRPP is a violation of XIV, Section 4 – American Family.

Article XIV, Section 4: "The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that children are a heritage of the Lord. We believe parents, not the state, have a sacred duty and a legal right to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their temporal and spiritual needs, and to teach them to be law-abiding citizens.

Organization positions:

Idaho Freedom Foundation (IFF): +2
Idaho Library Association opposed this Bill.

****IDGOP Central Committee Issued A Vote of NO Confidence in 2023 Summer Meeting – see page 36.**

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 11 Nays, 0 Ayes / Mickelsen, Nay
Republicans: 42 Ayes; 15 Nays
Vetoed by Governor; veto sustained: 46 Ayes; 24 Nays

NOTE: Representative Mickelsen, during a hearing on HB314, said,

"This Bill is the first step toward Nazi book burnings, and Nazi-style genocide is just around the corner."

***See Appendix "A" to view "Pornography in Public Schools and Libraries...a statewide problem". Notice in this Report's "Appendix A", page 39, the Idaho Falls Public Library (IFPL) has all five "obscene" books, which was the subject of this Report, for minors to read in its open-area third floor. This number has escalated to approximately 53 damaging-to-our-youth books/materials in the IFPL.**

Allegation 11:

HB 339 "Advisory Question Placed on Ballot before Voters Regarding the Diversion of Public Tax Dollars for Certain Private Schools"

The purpose of this legislation is to allow Idaho voters the opportunity to indicate their support of, or opposition to, the question: Should the State of Idaho, the Idaho Legislature, or any state agency direct, or appropriate, public tax dollars to private K-12 schools, including private religious schools, and for-profit schools? The advisory vote would take place during the November, 2024, statewide general election.

Organization positions: N/A

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays / Mickelsen, Aye
Republicans: 16 Ayes, 43 Nays

Allegation 12:

SB1147 "Appropriation of Funds to WWAMI Program"

The Vote on Senate Bill 1147 appropriates $27,215,100 and 44.65 full-time positions to Health Education Programs for fiscal year 2024. This bill funds the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program, a joint medical education program between, in this Bill, the University of Idaho and the University of Washington School of Medicine.

The University of Washington School of Medicine allows the use of faculty and students to staff Planned Parenthood clinics in Washington state. These faculty and students would encourage women who plan to get abortions to donate their unborn children to the school for research purposes. Then, the School sells the body parts of those deceased children to other institutions across the country.

In addition to their stances on abortion, the WWAMI program is also guilty of promoting LGBTQ, Critical Race Theory, and transgender-based medicine. These concepts are found in both basic courses that all students must take in the "Foundations Phase" of their medical studies and as electives that they take later on when they specialize. This indoctrination of woke ideology is an issue that Idaho is funding to import into the healthcare system, statewide.

A violation of IRPP is a violation of:
Article I – Fiscal Responsibility - Section, Paragraphs (A) and (D)
Article III – Education - Section 8.
Article XIV – American Family - Section 3

Article I, **Fiscal Responsibility** - Section 1, Paragraph A: "We believe the size and cost of government, as well as the national debt, must be reduced."
Article I – **Fiscal Responsibility** - Section 1, Paragraph D: "We believe the unnecessary growth of government has a negative impact on both the conduct of business and our individual lives."

Article III – **Education** - Section 8: "We are strongly opposed to any social justice indoctrination that may occur at any level of Idaho's education system and support policy and financial measures to prohibit universities, colleges or public schools from incorporating social justice indoctrination theories (i.e. critical race theory, transformative social emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, replacement theory, queer theory, etc.) into their policies, curriculum and/or course materials."

Article XIV – **American Family** - Section 3: "We affirm that abortion is murder from the moment of fertilization. All children should be protected, regardless of the circumstances of conception, including persons conceived in rape and incest. We oppose the expenditure of any Idaho taxpayer funds by any unit of government, including federal, state, county, and municipal government, to any provider of abortion and strongly support legislation to enact the same."

Organization position: Idaho Freedom Foundation (IFF): -3

The state general fund increased by 12% from the previous fiscal year. House Bill 1147 contributed to the spending increase.

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 11 Ayes; 0 Nays; Mickelsen, Aye
Republicans: 33 Ayes; 25 Nays

NOTE: Representative Mickelsen claimed that, *"rights are granted by government" and lamented the idea of taking away "abortion care" from medical school curricula."*

Brian Almon
"The 2023 Legislative Awards

Allegation 13:

SB 1176 "Appropriation for Colleges and Universities"

The Vote on Senate Bill 1176 appropriates $678,550,500 and 4,840.68 full-time positions to Colleges and Universities for fiscal year 2024. The budget allows colleges and universities to continue wasting money on social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Researchers at the Idaho Freedom Foundation's Center for American Education determined that there are approximately 56 positions costing more than $4.8 million in salaries and benefits across Idaho's four higher-education institutions. Funding for colleges and universities — both appropriated and unappropriated by the legislature — are public funds that should not be utilized for the indoctrination of the workforce.

Senate Bill 1176 also permits funding for all these social justice and DEI positions working at institutions ranging from gender equity centers, women's centers, LGBTQ offices, cultural centers, and offices of equity and inclusion. These centers only further Marxist identity warfare that hinders the development of Idaho's workforce. This is a wasteful use of public funds being that it is counterproductive to the very purpose of sustaining colleges and universities. The budget also continues taxpayer funding for Idaho's radio stations airing federally funded National Public Radio.

A violation of IRPP is a violation of Article III - Education, Section 8 – Social Justice Indoctrination.

Article III – Education - Section 8: "We are strongly opposed to any social justice indoctrination that may occur at any level of Idaho's education system and support policy and financial measures to prohibit universities, colleges or public schools from incorporating social justice indoctrination theories (i.e. critical race theory, transformative social emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, replacement theory, queer theory, etc.) into their policies, curriculum and/or course materials."

Organization position:
Idaho Freedom Foundation (IFF): -2
Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI) supported this Bill.

The state general fund increased by 12% from the previous fiscal year. House Bill 1176 contributed to the spending increase.

Roll call by party:
Democrats: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays / Mickelsen, Aye
Republicans: 30 Ayes, 28 Nays

IDAHO FREEDOM FOUNDATION

THE IDAHO FREEDOM FOUNDATION
AN OVERVIEW OF
REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE MICKELSEN'S VOTING RECORD

The Freedom Foundation has a reputation as an accurate, independent source for liberty-minded policy innovation and as a tireless watchdog against government waste and marketplace intervention.

The organization watches three types of indexes: "Spending", "Education", and "Freedom".

Please see, in the forthcoming pages, the IFF summary in these three groupings relative to:

Representative Stephanie Mickelsen

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE MICKELSEN
IFF LEGISLATOR 2023 PROFILE/SCORECARD
RATING OVER TIME

PROFILE NAME	SCORE, 2023	LIFETIME SCORE
Spending	15.3%	15.3%
Education	38.4%	38.4%
Freedom	51.5%	51.5%

Allegation 14:

The Idaho Freedom Foundation Spending Index:

IFF utilized the following metrics in analyzing and rating Appropriation Bills. The Legislators' Ratings are a direct result of how they vote on the previously rated Appropriation Bills.

1. Does the agency requesting these funds serve a proper role of government?
2. Has wasteful or duplicative spending been identified within the agency, and if so, has that spending been eliminated or corrected?
3. Does the budget examine existing spending to look for opportunities to contain spending, e.g., through a base reduction?
4. If there is a maintenance budget, is that maintenance budget appropriate?
5. Are the line items appropriate in type and size, and are they absolutely necessary for serving the public?
6. Does the budget contemplate the addition of new employees or programs?
7. Does the appropriation increase dependency on the federal government?

Idaho Republican Party Platform:
The Platform preamble says: "The proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions, which individuals or private organizations cannot perform."

Article I, Section 2 of the Platform says, "We believe that tax reductions can be achieved by cutting spending on every level: federal, state, and local."

Article XIV of the Platform says: "We believe that state and federal social and fiscal programs should reinforce parental responsibility and authority, and not promote or reward the disintegration of the family."

Article I, Section 5 of the Platform says: "State lawmakers can keep government small by 'refusing to grant excessive demands for increased spending'." With respect to federal funding, the Platform says, "We recommend that the State of Idaho continue to request funding and assistance from the Federal Government, which complies with the Constitutional provision of the 10th Amendment, and recommends that the State of Idaho resist the withholding of federal funds as a means of forced compliance with the unconstitutional federal mandates and laws."

- **Representative Mickelsen voted "yes" on 107 spending bills and "no" on 6, with 2 missed.**
- **Representative Mickelsen voted "no" on 4 of 75 negatively rated bills on the IFF Spending Index**

The State general fund increased by 12% from the previous fiscal year.

Mickelsen Score 15.3% **Democrats Scores**, Burns 15.9%,Chew 15.0%, Necochea 17.5%, Roberts 16.6%, Galaviz 16.2%, Mathias 18.8%, Rubel 18.8%, Green 17.5%, Nash 22.3%, Berch 20.4%, Gannon 18.8%

Allegation 15:

The Idaho Freedom Foundation Education Index:

The IFF Education Index recognizes that the state constitution mandates certain education activities as a part of state government. This includes the Legislature's mandate to create and maintain a system of common, free schools, the creation of a State Board of Education, and the existence of the State's land grant university, the University of Idaho.

In recognizing the existence of these constitutionally required programs, the Education Index seeks to balance the state's education obligations against Republican values in support of education choice, family involvement and flexibility, academic freedom, and the notion that even school-government bureaucracies should be limited. The Education Index is broken into two parts: one for the State's K-12 system, and one that covers public higher education.

K-12 education metrics

1. Does the bill expand the existing government monopoly on education and shrink family and student choice or agency? Conversely, does the bill expand the ability for families and students to choose the educational options that best meet their needs free of government intervention or coercion?

2. Does the bill finance education based on the student, rather than the institution? Conversely, does the bill finance education based on an institution, or system?

3. Does the bill allow schools to be more flexible, improve feedback mechanisms, and decentralize decisions to the family or individual level? Conversely, does the bill add to the existing education bureaucracy?

4. Does the bill decrease barriers to entry for teachers and other education professionals or services, thus incentivizing entrepreneurship and increasing the supply of options for education services in the marketplace? Conversely, does the bill create barriers to entry into the education marketplace?

5. Does the bill create more transparency or accountability in public education institutions? Conversely, does the bill reduce transparency and accountability in such institutions?

6. Does the bill reinforce the idea of equal treatment under the law, merit, individual responsibility, personal agency, and expectations of academic excellence? Conversely, does the bill allow for any type of discrimination against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group for any purpose on the basis of race, sex, color, economic class, ethnicity, national origin, geographic area, legacy status, or other identity group?

7. Does the bill protect freedom of speech in teaching or learning? Conversely, does the bill restrict freedom of speech in teaching or learning?

The Idaho Freedom Foundation Education Index (continued):

Higher Education Metrics

1. Does the bill reduce or eliminate layers of bureaucracy, allowing universities to be more flexible, improve feedback mechanisms, and decentralize decisions to the individual level? Conversely, does the bill create or increase layers of bureaucracy?

2. Does the bill protect free speech and academic freedom in research, teaching, and learning for the purpose of the advancement of truth and the pursuit of knowledge?

3. Does the bill increase transparency or accountability in public education institutions? Conversely, does the bill decrease transparency and accountability in public education institutions?

4. Does the bill reinforce the idea of equal treatment under the law, merit, individual responsibility, personal agency, and expectations of academic excellence? Conversely, does the bill allow for any type of discrimination against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group for any purpose based on race, sex, color, economic class, ethnicity, national origin, geographic area, legacy status, or other identity group?

5. Does the bill remove barriers to entry, thus incentivizing entrepreneurship and increasing the supply side of education services in the marketplace? Conversely, does the bill create or increase barriers to entry?

Idaho Republican Party Platform:

The Idaho Republican Party Platform devotes more than 900 words to the topic of education. The platform places a premium on the idea that government should not have a monopoly on education, but rather that "successful education is a joint responsibility of the individual, the family, and the community. As with government in general, we believe the most effective, responsible, and responsive educational system is that system closest to the people." The platform says, "Only in the rarest situations should government assume the responsibilities reserved to parents."

The platform also says the party supports "curricula whose foundation, text and supplemental documentation are the original founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and Founders' writings." The platform calls for the government to not infringe on Idaho school students' and staffs' First Amendment rights to "pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property without government interference."

The State Republican Party is one of the State's biggest proponents of education choice stating, "We believe in improving the quality of education for every child by maximizing parental choice. This will be accomplished through money following students to their parents' school of choice. We support all educational environments desired by parents, including public charter schools, public virtual charter schools, homeschools, schooling at home, micro schools, learning pods, co-ops, private and parochial schools, and accountable public-school systems."

Regarding higher education, the platform says, "We recognize the importance of Idaho's higher education system in continuing the education of our citizens. … We are strongly opposed to any social justice indoctrination that may occur at any level of Idaho's education system and support policy and financial measures to prohibit universities, colleges, or public schools from incorporating social justice indoctrination theories (i.e., critical race theory, transformative social emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, replacement theory, queer theory, etc.) into their policies, curriculum and/or course materials."

The Idaho Freedom Foundation Education Index (continued):

Representative Mickelsen has a decidedly mixed record when it comes to education/free market alternatives to the education system. Her record (38.4% on the Education Index) tends to favor established education paradigms. For example, rather than support education savings accounts or other proposals that might expand education choice in the current year, Representative Mickelsen voted in favor of HB 339 ("Advisory Question Placed on Ballot before Voters Regarding the Diversion of Public Tax Dollars for Certain Private Schools") (-4 on the Education Index), which would have placed a biased question (in opposition to education choice) on the 2024 election ballot, which would have delayed action on the issue until at least 2025.

Representative Mickelsen IFF Education Index Score: 38.4% **Democrats Scores**, Burns 18.6%, Chew 30.2%, Necochea 19.8%, Roberts 27.9%, Galaviz 23.3%, Mathias 30.2%, Rubel 26.7%, Green 33.7%, Nash 15.4%,Berch 14.0%, Gannon 16.3%

NOTE:

"I was pleased to see so many eastern Idaho legislators affirm their commitment to free public education.

Janice Brown
State Committee Woman
Bonneville County Democrat Party
"The Post Register" – March 11, 2023

Allegation 16:

The Idaho Freedom Foundation Freedom Index:

The Freedom Index examines all policy legislation presented to lawmakers and analyzes based on 12 points in general alignment with the Idaho Republican Party Platform. The analyses basically ask the question: Is a person more free or less free from the passage of the legislation?

The Index recognizes that from time to time, a lawmaker may side with less freedom, in certain instances, for the benefit of an orderly society, but the question is, at what cost to freedom? This voting record is whether lawmakers have the propensity to support or abandon free-market principles, constitutionally protected rights, and limited government ideology in their votes.

Idaho Freedom Foundation's Freedom Index and its alignment with the Idaho Republican Party platform:

1. Does it create, expand, or enlarge any agency, board, program, function, or activity of government? (Article I, Section 1: Fiscal Responsibility: "We believe unnecessary growth of government has a negative impact on both the conduct of business and our individual lives.")

2. Does it transfer a function of the private sector to the government? (Article 2, Section 3: Reform of Congress: "We will continue to lead the fight to reduce the growth of government bureaucracy and promote private enterprise and individual initiative in the marketplace as the solution to our domestic policy challenges.")

3. Does it give the government any new, additional, or expanded power to prohibit, restrict, or regulate activities in the free market? (Article XII, Economy: "A competitive market, free of undue governmental competition, restriction, coercion or interference is critical to Idaho's economic well-being.")

4. Does it increase barriers to entry into the market? (Preamble: "We believe free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this Nation and State opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.")

5. Does it directly, or indirectly, create or increase any taxes, fees, or other assessments? (Article 1, Section 2: Taxation: "We support lower federal, state, and local taxes. High taxes are a burden on businesses, families, and individuals.")

6. Does it increase government redistribution of wealth? (Article 1, Section 2: Taxation: "Municipal laws that allow public dollars to be converted to private use and government entities to compete against the private sector or divert public money to special projects without the support of the taxpayer must be repealed" and "we support a comprehensive overhaul of the federal tax system requiring universal participation.")

7. Does it increase government spending (for objectionable purposes) or debt? (Multiple sections: "We believe that tax reduction can be achieved by cutting spending on every level: federal, state and local." "We recognize that more Government spending does not necessarily generate improved schools." "We believe the approval of voters should be required to approval of debt-financed city projects." Preamble: "We believe Government must practice fiscal responsibility, and that taxpayers should allow the Government only money necessary to provide appropriate functions.")

The Idaho Freedom Foundation Freedom Index (continued):

8. Does it in any way restrict public access to information related to government activity or otherwise compromise government transparency or accountability? ("We support
Government transparency allows the public to review all local, state, and federal government expenditures, contracts, and audits online. We support uniform accounting systems that allow taxpayers to compare and analyze government spending trends.")

9. Does it violate the principle of equal protection under the law? (Preamble: "We believe in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.")

10: Does it directly, or indirectly, create or increase penalties for victimless crimes or non-restorative penalties for non- violent crimes? (Article XVI, Law and Order with Justice: "We support creative alternative sentencing, such as drug courts, and treatment for nonviolent drug offenders." "We support programming and education in the corrections system to rehabilitate offenders."

11. Metric: Does it violate the spirit or the letter of either the US Constitution or the Idaho Constitution? (Preamble: "We believe the United States Constitution is the greatest and most inspired document to govern a nation, and the republican form of government it gives us is the best guarantor of freedom in history.")

12. Does it violate the principles of federalism by increasing federal authority, yielding to federal blandishments, or incorporating changeable federal laws into Idaho statutes or rules? (Article 1 – Responsibility in Government, Section 5 – State Legislature – paragraph D: "We believe the State of Idaho should strongly assert its sovereignty under the 10th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.")

The accumulated usurpations by the federal government of Idaho's state sovereignty has reached a point of complete intolerance. The Idaho Republican Party hereby recommends that the Idaho Legislature and Governor nullify any and all existing and future unconstitutional mandates and laws, funded or unfunded, that infringe on Idaho's 10th amendment sovereignty."

Representative Mickelsen IFF Freedom Index Score 51.5% **Democrats Scores**, Burns 16.9%,Chew 25.2%, Necochea 20.7%, Roberts 26.3%, Galaviz 24.8%, Mathias 18.1%, Rubel 28.9%, Green 30.8%, Nash 15.4%, Berch 19.6%, Gannon 27.8%

CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY (CPAC) RATING 2023

RERESENTATIVE STEPHANIE MICKELSEN
(will be sent by CPAC by November, 2023)

"Dem Lawmakers Vote for Leftism in Lockstep, while Republicans Routinely Abandon Conservatism, Analysis Finds

...among the 10 least-conservative states, when it comes to how Republican lawmakers actually vote, were Mississippi, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Idaho..."

Luke Rosiak
"Daily Wire"
September 7, 2023

Democrat state lawmakers are more unified and committed to a leftist ideology than Republican lawmakers are to conservatism, according to a report from the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Republicans voted for conservative policies 77% of the time, while Democrats voted for liberal policies 87% of the time, according to the analysis of all 7,400 lawmakers in the 50 statehouses during last year's legislative sessions.

The study by CPAC's affiliated Center for Legislative Accountability concluded that Democrats were more likely to "stick together" on issues important to the party's base, while Republicans "broke apart."

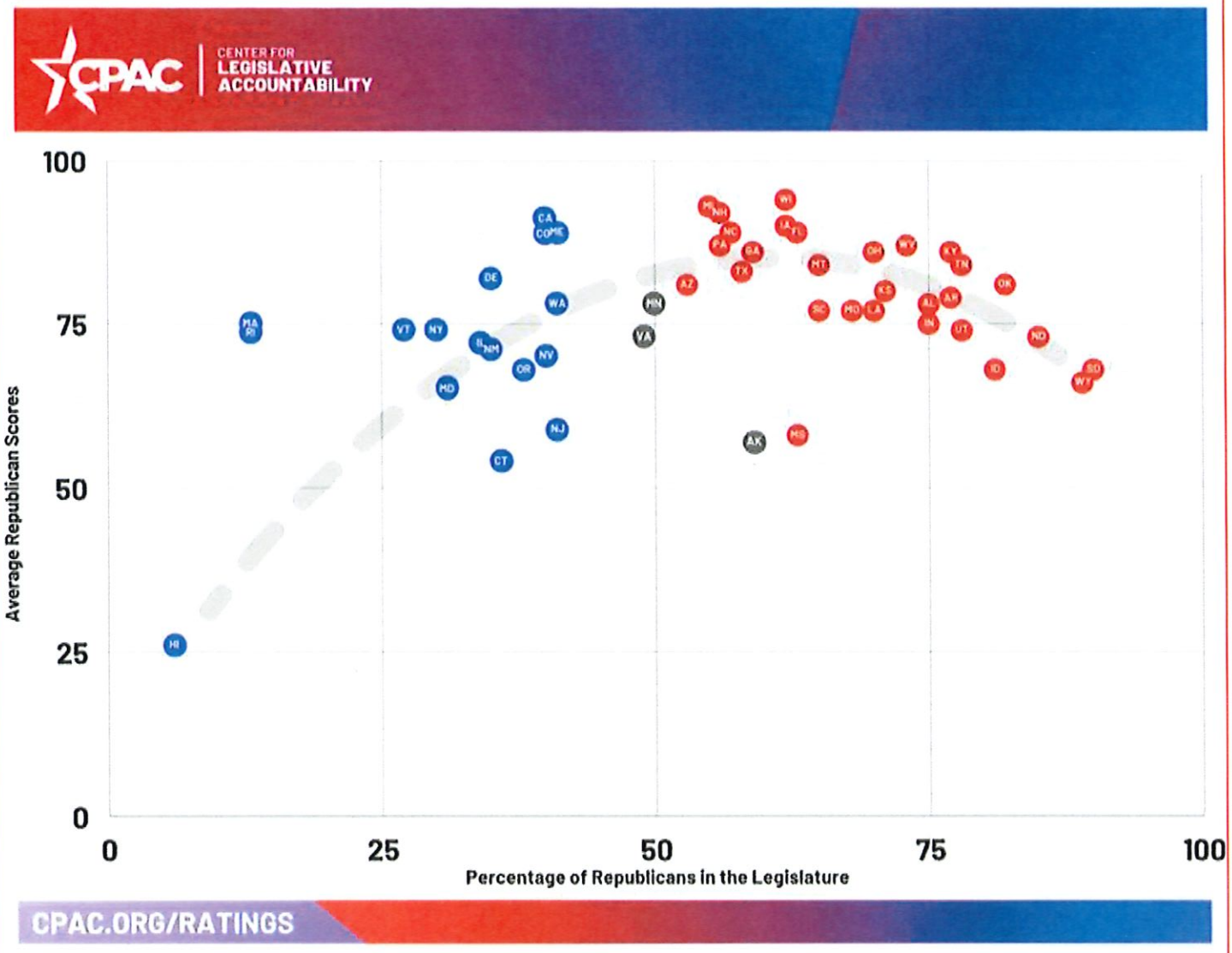
"Republicans run on conservative promises, but after they win more of them abandon the tough votes on key conservative policies when compared to Democrats whose first rule is to stick together," the group said. "Our analysis shows how moderate Republicans broke apart on key issues like parental choice in education, securing strong voter ID, or putting a stop to COVID mandates."

The analysis found a mismatch between the desires of the populace and how state representatives acted.

Ranking among the 10 states with the most liberal Republican lawmakers were Mississippi, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Idaho. That's despite Republicans holding strong majorities in those legislatures, and the state's population overwhelmingly voting for Republican in election after election.

As a group, Mississippi Republican lawmakers had an average conservative score of 58%, making them less conservative than Republicans in New Jersey, Maryland, and Oregon. The state where Republicans voted most conservative was a swing state: Wisconsin.

The findings emphasize that the states advancing conservative legislation are not doing it because of legislative dominance, but because of committed policymaking. Florida, for example, is a traditionally swing state in presidential elections, and Republicans don't hold nearly the percentage of seats in the state legislature that they do in places like Wyoming. But those Florida Republicans take full advantage of the majority they do have, with a conservative score of 89%.



Looking at state lawmakers regardless of party, West Virginia was rated the most conservative in the country. Not only did Republicans dominate the chamber, but they were also complemented by Democrats who were not particularly liberal.

The most-radical Democrats were in New Jersey, where they had a 0% conservative ranking, followed by Colorado, Wisconsin, Illinois, Maine, and Oregon, at 1%.

A 2021 analysis by The Daily Wire, which relied in part on CPAC's categorizations of state bills, led to similar conclusions.

"The red states are actually the worst" when it comes to moderate Republicans, Andrew Roth, president of the State Freedom Caucus Network, told The Daily Wire in 2021. "A lot of Democrats know they can't get elected with a D next to their name, so they put an R next to their name and then vote like liberals."

The exact reason for the failure of the most conservative state legislatures to behave like conservatives is unknown. Candidates who are more apolitical tend to run as Republicans, since it's the only way to win elections in deep red pockets of the country. The result is that statehouses in 2022 follow a similar pattern as local school boards: Often liberal even in conservative places, with few voters paying enough attention to local politics to notice.

Activists say that if the goal is conservative policy rather than just winning elections, voters and big donors alike should shift their focus from congressional seats and the presidency to state laws in red states, where they can notch wins and show the rest of the nation the result of conservative policies.

"Conservatives need to get real that maybe spending all this money on congressional races to get one vote that doesn't actually affect policy is not nearly as meaningful as spending money in states where the money goes further and they can actually implement policy," Thomas Bradbury, CPAC's director of policy and advocacy, said.

Related: **19 Statehouses Have Bigger Republican Majorities Than Florida. This Group Is Making Sure They Act Like It.**

Related: **Why Did Wyoming Kill School Choice? Deep-Red States Often Don't Act Like It, Data Shows**

Related: **Why Legislatures In The Deep-Red States That Sent Romney And Cheney To Washington 'Vote Like Liberals'**

How conservative were the Republicans in your statehouse in 2022?

1. Wisconsin: 94%
2. Michigan: 93%
3. New Hampshire: 92%
4. California: 91%
5. Iowa: 90%
6. Maine: 89%
7. Colorado: 89%
8. Florida: 89%
9. North Carolina: 89%
10. Pennsylvania: 87%
11. West Virginia: 87%
12. Georgia: 86%
13. Ohio: 86%
14. Kentucky: 86%
15. Montana: 84%
16. Tennessee: 84%
17. Texas*: 83%
18. Delaware: 82%
19. Oklahoma: 81%
20. Arizona: 81%
21. Kansas: 80%
22. Arkansas*: 79%
23. Alabama: 78%
24. Washington: 78%
25. Minnesota: 78%
26. Louisiana: 77%
27. Missouri: 77%
28. South Carolina: 77%
29. Massachusetts: 75%
30. Indiana: 75%
31. New York: 74%
32. Vermont: 74%
33. Rhode Island: 74%
34. Utah: 74%
35. North Dakota*: 73%
36. Virginia: 73%
37. Illinois: 72%
38. New Mexico: 71%
39. Nevada*: 70%
40. **Idaho: 68%**
41. South Dakota: 68%
42. Oregon: 68%
43. Wyoming: 66%
44. Maryland: 65%
45. New Jersey: 59%
46. Mississippi: 58%
47. Alaska: 57%
48. Connecticut: 54%
49. Hawaii: 26

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE MICKELSEN

OPINION ARTICLES

Opinion:

Written by Rep. Jerald Raymond, Rep. Rod Furniss, Sen. Van Burtenshaw, Rep. Josh Wheeler, Sen. Mark Harris, Rep. Britt Raybould, Sen. Dave Lent, Rep. Marco Erickson, Rep. Stephanie Mickelsen, Rep. Jon Weber and Sen. Kevin Cook.

"When It Comes to School Funding, You Do the Math"

- **"The Post Register"; Mar 11, 2023**

During Idaho's legislative session, we've heard a lot of discussion about school choice, vouchers, education savings accounts and public education in general. The debate on this issue keeps producing the same questions with few answers.

How do we account for where and how parents will spend your taxpayer dollars? How can we protect rural schools with fixed costs and lack of access to private schools? How does Idaho indefinitely run two school systems without it eating through the entire public school budget?

Let's ignore those questions for the moment and focus on the one we all ask, "How much will it cost?" Senate Bill 1038 proposed creating a universal education savings program. Other states have adopted similar programs with ballooning, outrageous costs. Within a short amount of time, we can see the financial obligation that weighs on those taxpayers and what a similar program would cost Idahoans.

Starting in July 2023, this program would cost Idahoans $44 million on the assumption that 6,600 students would participate in the first year. In the following year, that price tag jumps to an unthinkable $363.8 million. That's a 726.8% increase. How can that happen? By looking at other states, we can see how program participation and costs spike when it comes with no strings attached.

Imagine what our state budget (and taxes) will look like if we allow that kind of growth in government in a single year. When senators in the Idaho Legislature voted no on SB 1038, they stopped a

program that lacked accountability and transparency. They defended Idaho taxpayers from a boondoggle.

The numbers don't lie. This is an expensive and irresponsible approach to funding education. Idaho currently ranks third in the nation for educational freedom. We do offer school choice, but we don't use your hard-earned tax dollars to pay for private schools.

Additionally, Homeschool Idaho, the largest homeschool organization in the state, and many other alternative schooling groups strongly opposed SB 1038. Contrary to what many would have you believe, it is not a fight between homeschoolers and public school. You can learn more about their position on ESAs on their website at homeschoolidaho.org/esa-faq.

Idahoans would like to see all students educated well. The school voucher debate is being funded by out-of-state groups who don't understand Idaho.

Our public education system absolutely needs improvement. But the solution isn't to destroy it. Thankfully we can learn from the mistakes of other states and reject a short-sighted and costly government program from a small group of people that want the rest of us to foot the bill.

CHALLENGE:

Out of all the bills passed in the 2023 Idaho Legislative Session, all the Charter/Public Schools bills passed; not one school-choice bill was passed.

Opinion:

Signed by Sen. Van Burtenshaw, Rep. Marco Erickson, Rep. Rod Furniss, Rep. Dustin Manwaring, Rep. Stephanie Mickelsen, Rep. Britt Raybould, Rep. Jerald Raymond, Sen. Julie VanOrden, Sen. Kevin Cook and Rep. Jon Weber.

"HB 314 Would Censor Library Books"

- **"The Post Register"; March 25, 2023**

Last week, the Idaho House debated House Bill 314. Concerned parents argue that this bill will keep pornography away from minors in Idaho libraries. The challenge with this claim is that such materials are not allowed in Idaho libraries. That said, you may find books in your local library that don't support your values or that you don't want your children to read.

You have every right as a parent to monitor and manage what your child reads. It's why your child can't get a public library card without your permission. It's why you can limit the books your child can check out of the public library. It's also why schools must respect the request to restrict your student's access to the school library.

But under the First Amendment, we must be careful not to cross the line into censorship. The Supreme Court established an obscenity test in Miller v. California (1973) that still governs our laws today. Unless a book, "taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value," it does not qualify as obscene. The First Amendment protects it from censorship. Even if you find a book on a library shelf containing material you find offensive, the Constitution protects it unless it passes the test.

Of course, we don't believe that every book belongs in the hands of children. It's why libraries create different sections for adults and children. Many libraries block kids from the adult sections unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

It's also why libraries have challenge policies that allow us to request the removal of certain books to another section or from the library entirely. A process exists for the community to participate in what materials end up on our library shelves. But

we don't have a right to censor or block other library patrons from books we personally don't like.

Lost in this debate are the books themselves. Yes, we've seen the snippets floating around the internet. We would be upset if an unaccompanied child stumbled across these books. But we owe it to our kids to teach them how to navigate this world safely. Books are a way to see worlds that don't always look like our own. They provide a window into the experiences of other people. Sometimes, they offer a mirror that helps us learn more about ourselves. Books are magic.

But taking kids to the library looks quite a bit like taking kids to the swimming pool. Even with a lifeguard present, we'd never consider leaving children alone at the pool until they're older and know how to swim. The same holds true with libraries. Our librarians do a fantastic job helping patrons do everything from finding books to applying for a new job. But it's not their job to read parents' minds and make the judgment call about what books you consider appropriate for your kids.

In a rush to protect children, which we all want, we've neglected the most essential part of the debate about what does belong in libraries. Parents belong in libraries with their kids. Parents should make the ultimate decision about a child taking a book home. Under our existing policies and law, both things are possible without ever censoring a book or threatening a library with a lawsuit.

Opinion:

Rep. Stephanie Mickelsen, Guest Columnist.

"Proud to support Idaho Launch, a game-changer"

- **"The Post Register"; February 18, 2023**

As a new state representative for District 32, finding a solution to our workforce shortage sits at the top of my to-do list. Earlier this year, Gov. Little proposed a pathway for Idaho students to pursue skills and certifications needed for in-demand careers from Idaho employers. Last week, the Idaho House voted to update the Launch program to help address this issue.

Students can still choose a university or community college through Launch. But these changes increase education opportunities by offering students access to technical training, a freedom not available in the original Launch program. I'm committed to helping Idaho's students find a path to success beyond high school. It's why I'm proud to support House Bill 24.

This legislation matters for east Idaho. Many of our students want to train for these in-demand careers. But resources like Pell Grants and merit scholarships aren't available for kids pursuing skills-based, technical training. Idaho Launch provides a much-needed bridge of $8,500 for hard-working students who want to pursue successful careers that don't require a traditional diploma.

For any programs that receive these dollars, we expect results. If a student fails to finish for whatever reason, we pull the money back. We're holding programs accountable for student success. Plus, very few programs can be completed for $8,500. This valuable "startup" investment helps students get started, but they'll still need to contribute financially to their education. Every year, the Legislature can weigh in and determine if the program is working as needed.

We've all seen our local businesses' help-wanted signs. Many of us have gotten the bad news it will be weeks before we can get an appointment with a plumber or electrician. Our community will benefit from students who want to pursue these jobs and live close to family and friends in Idaho.

I'm proud to support Idaho Launch. It's a game-changer for Idaho students, families and employers. As east Idaho continues to see historic growth, we must consider innovative options to address our workforce needs. This program provides a hand-up to our Idaho students, not a handout. Our future success requires we remain competitive and produce a better-trained, more well-rounded workforce. For students who want to build a future in Idaho, this is your opportunity.

Stephanie Mickelsen represents District 32.

In Their Own Words: Rep. Stephanie Mickelsen

- REP. STEPHANIE MICKELSEN | Guest columnist Apr 15, 2023

1. What legislation are you most proud of passing this session and why?

Idaho's fast-paced growth in recent years has put pressure on all of us, but property tax burdens should not be a barrier to homeownership and economic prosperity. HB292 provided a solution, delivering $350 million in property tax relief starting in July. The funds were allocated for homeowners' property tax relief, which will go towards bonds and levies for school districts in the future, with the hope of increasing support over time. This is a significant step in alleviating the burden on school districts and property tax payers.

2. What legislation are you most disappointed that failed to pass this session and why?

I am deeply disappointed that HB67, aimed at addressing fentanyl drug trafficking and implementing mandatory minimums, did not pass this session. Fentanyl poses a lethal threat to our youth, and law enforcement recognizes its devastating impact. Despite fierce opposition, I believe we must take decisive action against fentanyl traffickers, including mandatory minimums. One small pill could kill our children. If we want to protect our youth, we must get tough on fentanyl traffickers.

3. What will you be working on in the interim for the session next year?

I have several goals for this off-season. I will be diligently addressing minimum sentences for abusers of women and children, ensuring that justice is served for vulnerable members of our community. As a true conservative, I am also committed to removing outdated statutes and unnecessary laws that hinder progress and our corner of this great state. I will be proactive in making meaningful changes to improve our laws and protect those in need.

Stephanie Mickelsen is a representative for District 32

Opinion: Keeping Idaho safe for all that we care about

- REP. STEPHANIE MICKELSEN | Guest columnist Apr 8, 2023

For the first time in 40 years, an incumbent mayor lost reelection in Chicago. The reason? Skyrocketing crime. In a recent poll, over 60% of residents stated that they did not feel safe in their own city. Violent crime in Chicago went up 40% during the last four years, and homicides reached a 25-year high. Chicago isn't the only big city with issues.

In neighboring Oregon, Portland saw a spike in crime with shootings in the city tripling and homicides increasing from 36 in 2019 to 97 in 2022. Even the number of stolen vehicles almost doubled from 6,500 in 2019 to more than 11,000 in 2022. In that same year, voter confidence that the city was headed in the right direction dropped to 11%, a shocking decrease from 36% in 2020 and 76% in 2000.

In eastern Idaho things are different. We don't face such staggering crime statistics and most of us feel safe in our communities. But we can't take that safety for granted. A short conversation with Bonneville County Sheriff Sam Hulse will open your eyes to the issues that our law enforcement deals with every day. The population growth in our region also brings more crime and dangerous criminals.

Like many of you, I cringe when I read about the horrible offenses that happen in our community. It angers me to see predators walk out of the courthouse with a slap on the wrist after they've done so much damage. I believe in rehabilitation. Without second chances, we are all lost. But I also believe in restitution. Justice demands that people who hurt others, especially women and children, need to acknowledge their crimes and experience the consequences of their painful actions.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Legislature to review minimum and maximum sentences so that judges can properly sentence those who should not be on our streets. As the voices to defund the police grow louder, we owe it to our dedicated law

enforcement to ensure they have the resources to do the job we've asked them to do. It's up to us to back the blue and remind people we have zero interest in becoming Chicago or Portland.

We each play an important part in keeping our communities happy, healthy and safe. I'm committed to ensuring that your families and my grandchildren get to grow up in an Idaho that is just as safe as the one from many of our childhoods.

Stephanie Mickelsen represents District 32A in the Idaho House of Representatives

Opinion: Protecting American farmland helps maintain national security

REP. STEPHANIE MICKELSEN | Guest columnist Jun 24, 2023

Foreign nations love America. They love it so much that the Department of Agriculture reports a modern-day land grab with nearly 200,000 acres of U.S. farmland owned and controlled by Chinese entities. Valued at $2 billion, the Chinese investments alone should have us all concerned. We know how tightly the Chinese Communist Party leadership controls money leaving China. Supporting these land purchases suggests party leaders see a national interest in owning American farmland.

Foreign ownership in U.S. agriculture by countries with unclear motives creates a national security issue. It represents a threat to our supply chain, food systems, water supply and military operations. Because of the need for space, multiple military installations sit next to agricultural communities. We've got an example in our backyard with Mountain Home Air Force Base in rural Elmore County.

Farming already comes with challenges. The weather is far from predictable. Farmers have no guarantee that what they plant in the spring will turn into a successful crop in the fall. I wouldn't want to farm anywhere else. We're blessed to have neighbors who keep an eye on our fields, and we do the same for them. We share the same goal — feed our families and help feed this nation. The addition of these new neighbors represents an unwelcome change to American agriculture.

A proposal introduced before the House Appropriation Committee would prohibit the purchase of agricultural land by companies owned by China, Russia, North Korea or Iran. Democrats in Congress branded it a "phony proposal" that was unnecessary and prejudiced. Thankfully, our Rep. Mike Simpson defended the proposal as essential to our national security.

In the Senate, Sen. Mike Crapo co-sponsored similar legislation to prevent purchases or investments of U.S. farmland by China, Russia, Iran and North Korea. The Senate bill also adds the secretary of agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. If the executive branch opts to grant a waiver to a prohibited country, the president must submit a report to Congress.

These tighter controls reflect the goals of legislation we passed in the Idaho Legislature last session. House Bill 173 blocks ownership of certain property in the state by foreign governments or state-controlled firms. Our land represents one of the richest natural resources, capable of providing physical, economic and national security. We need to ensure this asset doesn't end up in the hands of countries that seek to undermine our free economy and liberty.

I'm grateful to see Republicans like Congressman Simpson and Sen. Crapo demonstrating leadership on such a critical issue. We cannot sit back and watch nations who wish to do us harm purchase land close to our sensitive military installations with the potential to disrupt and control our food supplies.

Ours is a friendly and welcoming state. We look out for each other. But on this issue, we must remain united. Idaho farmland is not for sale to nations with ulterior motives and dangerous intentions.

Rep. Stephanie Mickelsen represents District 32 (Bonneville County) in the Idaho House.

Proposed Resolution 2023-43
A Resolution for Vote of No Confidence for Representatives for voting against HB 314 Veto Override and to Governor Brad Little for his veto of HB 314

Submitted by: Dan Bell, KCRCC Youth Committeeman, **Presented by:** Dan Bell, KCRCC Youth Committeeman
Passed by: Resolutions Committee June 23rd 2023

WHEREAS, fourteen Republicans who were elected by voters on November 8, 2022, to serve in the Idaho House of Representatives, voted "NO" on House Bill 314 veto override after Governor Brad Little vetoed the bill and causing the override vote to fail **by one vote**.

WHEREAS, most of these Representatives answered "YES" to the Idaho Republican Party Questionnaire: "I have read the Idaho Constitution and the Idaho Republican Party Platform. I support the Idaho Republican Platform and accept it as the standard by which my performance as a candidate and as an officeholder should be evaluated. I certify that I am not a candidate, officer, delegate, or position holder in any party other than the Republican Party."

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 4 of the Republican Party Platform, which was adopted July 16, 2022, declares that "The Idaho Republican Party recognizes that children are a heritage of the Lord. We believe parents, not the state, have a sacred duty and a legal right to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their temporal and spiritual needs, and to teach them to be law-abiding citizens... "

WHEREAS, House Bill 314, known as "The Children's School and Library Protection Act", requires public schools and community libraries to take reasonable steps in restricting children's access to obscene or harmful material. A parent or guardian of a minor child who accessed such material in violation of this policy would be entitled to bring a civil action against the school or library for damages and injunctive relief. House Bill 314 was brought before the House of Representatives on April 6, 2023, to override the governor's veto. These Representatives (listed below) voted against House Bill 314 veto override on the last day of the Legislative Session.

WHEREAS, testimony was given in committee and on the House floor that such obscene and harmful materials have been found in the libraries of over 50 Idaho cities, on some school websites, in school libraries, and classrooms.

WHEREAS, if anyone outside of a school or public library gave these books to a minor, they could be charged with disseminating material harmful to minors (IC 18-1515).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in the interest of our children, our most precious gift and resource, the Idaho Republican Party hereby issues a vote of "no confidence" to Governor Brad Little and for the following Representatives:

- Matthew Bundy, D8; Valley, Elmore, Custer, and Boise Counties
- Richard Cheatum, D28; Power, Bannock, and Franklin Counties
- Chenele Dixon, D24; Camas, Gooding, and Twin Falls Counties
- Rod Furniss, D31; Lemhi, Clark, Jefferson and Fremont Counties
- Dan Garner, D28; Power, Bannock, and Franklin Cuonties
- Greg Lanting, D25, Twin Falls County
- Lori McCann, D6; Latah, Nez Perce, and Lewis Counties
- *Stephanie Mickelsen, D32, Bonneville County
- *Jack Nelsen, D26; Blaine, Lincoln, and Jerome Counties
- *James Petzke, D21, Ada County
- Jerald Raymond, D31; Lemhi, Clark, Jefferson, and Fremont Counties
- Mark Sauter, D1, Boundary and Bonner Counties
- Kenny Wroten, D13, Canyon County
- Julie Yamamoto, D11, Canyon County

*These legislators answered "no" on the Integrity in Affiliation question on the Idaho GOP Platform.

BE IT **FURTHER RESOLVED,** this vote is being issued due to their misleading the general public that they are Republicans, and claiming to support the Idaho Republican Party Platform during the election but voting in direct conflict with the Idaho Republican Party Platform during the 2023 Legislative Session.

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE MICKELSEN

RESPONSIVE TO ELECTORATE

FAILURE TO

REPRESENT DISTRICT

...legislators will receive fewer votes,
if they fail to represent their districts...

(We need a write-up about Rep. Mickelsen's lack of responsiveness.)

Appendix "A"

WARNING: THIS REPORT CONTAINS SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIALS

February 27, 2023

PORNOGRAPHY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES: A STATEWIDE PROBLEM

Blaine Conzatti

It's safe to say that not too long ago, many parents considered Idaho public schools and community libraries to be "safe places" for children. For a long time, parents blissfully assumed that schools and libraries worked to impart critical thinking, robust civic engagement, and traditional community values. But this perception has been eroding changing in recent years, largely due to heated debates over the place of that critical social justice and radical gender ideologies should hold in public school instruction and materials.

The increased scrutiny of schools and libraries has revealed other problems as well, most notably the availability of obscene books and instructional materials to minor children. Across the country, parents are now raising their voices, demanding that their local schools and libraries remove or restrict children's access to these harmful books

KEY POINTS:

- *More than 50 public schools and community libraries across the state of Idaho currently make obscene materials available to minor children*
- *Legislative reform like the Children's School and Library Protection Act is necessary to protect children from accessing obscene materials at taxpayer-funded public schools and community libraries*

This parent-led movement has gained steam in Idaho, where isolated reports of sexually explicit materials in school and community libraries have generated the formation of local community groups dedicated to shedding light on the issue. Some of these parents have sought to remove these objectionable books through library materials reconsideration policies, with varying degrees of success.

A WIDESPREAD, STATEWIDE PROBLEM

Local anecdotes about sexually explicit materials in school and community libraries have caused parents and policymakers alike to wonder whether the problem is truly widespread. Could this be simply a localized issue, the fault of a few rogue schoolteachers or librarians?

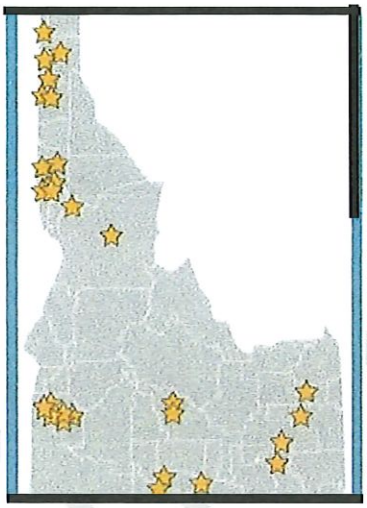
To answer this question, Idaho Family Policy Center researchers scoured dozens of school and public library catalogues, looking for five commonly available titles that fall under the umbrella of "obscene" for children and teenagers.

The results were shocking: Public schools and/or community libraries in nearly thirty cities across the Gem State are currently making one or more of these pornographic books accessible to children. See "appendix A" for more information.

To make matters worse, many of these libraries even stock obscene books in their children's or young adults sections, and the libraries that keep the books in other sections made no effort to restrict the access of children.

WHICH OBSCENE BOOKS?

For the purposes of our investigation, we searched library catalogues for five specific titles, detailed below:



Public schools or community libraries in nearly thirty Idaho communities make obscene books available to children.

Gender Queer: A Memoir - Maia Kobabe.

This graphic novel details the main character's journey to discover and define her own nonbinary, asexual self-identity. It includes obscene images of both gay and straight sexual encounters.

Though initially marketed to adults, Gender Queer was introduced to high school and middle school libraries after it received an award from the American Library Association designating it as having "special appeal to young adults."

WHOSE STANDARD IS USED TO DETERMINE WHETHER A BOOK IS OBSCENE?

All five of these titles would likely satisfy the requirements of a modified version of the obscenity standard that was promulgated by the U.S. Supreme Court in its Miller v. California (1973) decision and subsequent cases.

The so-called "modified Miller test" includes three criteria for determining whether speech can be classified as obscenity or harmful for minors:

> *1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors;*
>
> *2. The work depicts or describes, in a manner patently offensive with respect to minors, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable state law; and*
>
> *3. The work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.*

Although federal courts have ruled that children have the right to receive information under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, children do not have a First Amendment right to access or receive material that is harmful to minors according to the modified Miller test.

Therefore, any legislation or policy that restricts obscene material would need to rely upon the Miller test in determining which materials should be prohibited.

HOW THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL AND LIBRARY PROTECTION ACT IS THE SOLUTION

Current state law prohibits the promotion, distribution, or dissemination of material harmful to minors under section 18-1513, Idaho Code. Violators could be charged with a misdemeanor and face a $1,000 fine and jail sentence not exceeding one year.

However, school, libraries, and their employees are exempted from criminal prosecution for disseminating material harmful to minors. This loophole is now regularly exploited, with dozens of schools and community libraries throughout the State distributing obscene materials to children.

The "Children's School and Library Protection Act", which was drafted by Idaho Family Policy Center, would close

that loophole.

Importantly, the Children's School and Library Protection Act would create a statewide policy prohibiting schools and community libraries from distributing obscene and harmful materials to minors that satisfy the three prongs of the modified Miller test.

And contrary to the false claims of critics, the bill would not ban any books. Schools and public libraries would still have the prerogative to make all of these books available to adults, so long as they take reasonable steps to restrict children's access to obscene and harmful titles.

A PATHWAY FORWARD

Idaho parents should reasonably expect that their children will not encounter material harmful to minors while making use of taxpayer-funded school library services.

Sadly, such is not the case in Idaho. Schools and community libraries must be held accountable. Without legislative reform like the Children's School and Library Protection Act, parental and public distrust toward schools and public libraries will only continue to intensify.

Blaine Conzatti serves as president of Idaho Family Policy Center.

IDAHO FAMILY POLICY CENTER

APPENDIX A

ADA COUNTY

- Ada Community Library - Lake Hazel [1,3]
- Ada Community Library – Star [4]
- Ada Community Library - Victory [1,2]
- Boise High School [1,2,3]
- Boise Public Library - Bown Crossing [1,2,4,5]
- Boise Public Library - Cole and Ustick [1,2,5]
- Boise Public Library – Collister [1,2,5]
- Boise Public Library - Hillcrest [2,5]
- Boise Public Library – Main [1,2,3,4,5]
- Borah High School [2,3,5]
- Capital High School [3,4]
- Eagle Public Library [3]
- East Junior High School [3]
- Frank Church High School [2,3]
- Garden City Public Library [2]
- Hillside Junior High School [5]
- Kuna Library [2]
- Les Bois Junior High School [2]
- Meridian Library District - Cherry Lane [1,2,3]
- North Junior High School [1,3]
- Timberline High School [2,3]
- West Junior High School [2]

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Marshall Public Library (Pocatello) [1,2,3,5]

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Blackfoot Public Library [5]

BLAINE COUNTY

- Community Library (Ketchum) [1,2,3,5]
- Hailey Public Library [5]
- Wood River High School [3]
- Wood River Middle School [5]

BONNER COUNTY

- East Bonner Library – Sandpoint [1,2,5]
- Priest Lake Public Library [1,3]
- West Bonner Library - Priest River [5]

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Idaho Falls Public Library [1,2,3,4,5]

CANYON COUNTY

- Caldwell Public Library [2,3,5]
- Middleton High School [3]
- Nampa Public Library [1,5]

CASSIA COUNTY

- Burley Public Library [5]

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Soda Springs Public Library [5]

IDAHO COUNTY

- Elk City School [4]

JEROME COUNTY

- Jerome Public Library [5]

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Coeur d'Alene Public Library [2,3,5]
- Post Falls Community Library [2]
- Spirit Lake Community Library [4]

LATAH COUNTY

- Deary Community Library [1,4]
- Juliaetta Community Library [5]
- Moscow Public Library [2,3]

LEWIS COUNTY

- Nezperce Community Library [3]

MADISON COUNTY

- Madison Library District – Rexburg [2,3]

NEZ PERCE COUNTY

- Lapwai Community Library [1]

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Canyon Ridge High School [4]
- Twin Falls Public Library [1,2,3,4,5]

KEY: (1) Gender Queer; (2) fun Home; (3) All Boys Aren't Blue; (4) Dreaming in Cuban; (5) It's Perfectly Normal.

NOTE: This list only contains titles that are part of print collections, not ebook collections