

# Idaho Republican Party Redistricting Committee

## Committee Report

Submitted by Branden Durst, Chair

January 6, 2023

### Committee Members

Branden Durst, Chair

Doyle Beck, Vice-Chair

Lauren Walker, Secretary (alternate for Colton Boyles)

Nick Wood

Judy Boyle

Valerie James

Wayne Hurst

Trent Clark (*absent*)

Shellie Blanchard

Tammy Payne

Matt Feemster

Lyle Johnstone (alternate for Ryan Davidson)

## **State Party Rule Governing Committee**

### Article III, Section 7

**Section 7:** After the completion of each decennial census, a committee shall be formed to consider the census data and the results of the subsequent redistricting, and shall report to the next occurring State Party meeting. Such report shall include the making of recommendations for any changes in region boundaries, which may include creation of additional regions. Such committees shall consist of one representative from each region, appointed by the Region Chair, and shall also include a Chair to be appointed by the State Party Chairman. The State Party Chairman may also appoint up to five additional members at the Chairman's sole discretion.

### **Committee Procedures**

The Committee held three meetings. The introductory meeting was held on Thursday, January 5, 2023 from 4:00 PM MST to 6:00 PM MST at the Idaho Republican Party offices in Boise. At the introductory meeting the committee adopted the special rules of the committee and began discussions around priorities and non-binding criteria for regional plan, which will be further enumerated in the Committee Findings section of this report.

The second meeting was held on Friday, January 6, 2023 from 2:00 PM MST to 4:00 PM MST in the Cinnabar Room at the Riverside Hotel in Garden City. The purpose of this meeting was to receive public comment and to discuss possible plans for future consideration. The committee heard public comment from several interested parties.

The final meeting was held on Friday, January 6, 2023 from 6:00 PM MST to 9:00 PM MST in the same location as the prior meeting. The committee had a total of six plans for consideration, which included five plans that would expand the total number of regions from seven to ten and one plan that mirrored the existing region plan.

After the committee thoroughly reviewed each proposed plan, the committee began the process of selecting to plans for recommendation. The process of selecting plans was in a rank order basis whereby the top half of plans advanced. After the first round of voting, there was a tie for the third most preferred plan and the chairman cast the tiebreaking vote.

The second round of voting commenced and two plans, E and B (*Addendum A*), prevailed in that order, which will be further discussed in the Recommendations section of this report.

Once voting was completed, the committee discussed findings and then adjourned.

## **Committee Findings**

1. There was general agreement that boundaries of other entities would be useful to aid in the designing of the Party region boundaries. These included, in no particular order, legislative districts, health districts, judicial districts, transportation districts and others.
2. The committee was in unanimous agreement that geographic considerations should completely outweigh population considerations when designing Party region boundaries.
3. The committee discussed the importance of amplifying the voices of party members from our rural communities.
4. Creating more regions would provide more party members the opportunity to participate and subsequently build the leadership capacity of more people and in more communities. Doing so will strengthen the Party in the long term as demographic changes inevitably make the more urban areas of Idaho less hospitable to Republican politics.
5. Absent an affirmative vote for another plan, the Party will continue to operate under the current regions.
6. The Party rules clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of the region chairs and as such more regions and/or regions better aligned with legislative districts may aid in the effective implementation of these roles and responsibilities.

## Recommendations

After extensive discussion, public testimony and deliberations, the Committee, by rank order vote, recommends the State Central Committee of the Idaho Republican Party adopt one of the following region plans (in order of preference).

- 1) “Plan E”
  - a. Region I – Bonner, Boundary and Shoshone Counties
  - b. Region II – Benewah and Kootenai Counties
  - c. Region III – Adams, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties
  - d. Region IV – Canyon, Owyhee, Payette and Washington Counties
  - e. Region V – Ada County
  - f. Region VI – Boise, Custer, Elmore, Gem and Valley Counties
  - g. Region VII – Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls Counties
  - h. Region VIII – Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Power Counties
  - i. Region IX – Butte, Clarke, Freemont, Lemhi, Madison and Teton Counties
  - j. Region X – Bingham, Bonneville and Jefferson Counties
  
- 2) “Plan B”
  - a. Region I – Bonner, Boundary and Shoshone Counties
  - b. Region II – Benewah and Kootenai Counties
  - c. Region III – Adams, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties
  - d. Region IV – Canyon, Owyhee, Payette and Washington Counties
  - e. Region V – Ada County
  - f. Region VI – Boise, Custer, Elmore, Gem and Valley Counties
  - g. Region VII – Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls Counties
  - h. Region VIII – Clark, Freemont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton Counties
  - i. Region IX – Bannock, Bingham, Butte and Power Counties
  - j. Region X – Bear Lake, Bonneville, Caribou, Franklin and Oneida Counties

**Addendum A**



