



THE COMMON INTEREST

Government by the People

Today, in the country at large and in Idaho, our political process is marked by bitter partisanship and increasingly dominant special interests.

In his farewell address George Washington warned us about the tendency of political parties and factions to “render alien to each other those who ought to be bound by fraternal affection.” Less than one hundred years later Abraham Lincoln asked a country wracked with the internal divisions of which Washington spoke to renew its resolve that government “by the people...not perish from the earth.”

Now, the challenges of deeply partisan politics and special interests summon our generation to renew that resolve once again. We ask you to join us in a new effort to preserve and promote government by the people here in Idaho.

WHO WE ARE

We are common citizens of Idaho—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—who have organized to improve our state government.

OUR GOALS

We aim to make government more responsive to the common interest by:

- Reducing the influence of special interests.
- Recognizing that good ideas and people come from more than one party.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ONE HOUR

Here’s how we make it work:

- Each of us commits one hour of our time a year to the organization—**THE COMMON INTEREST.**
- Each of us commits to vote in both the primary and general elections.

- **THE COMMON INTEREST** assembles relevant information on each major issue before the state legislature into a set of materials that takes one hour to review.
- **THE COMMON INTEREST** randomly assigns each member to review one issue. Perhaps 1,000 of us will be assigned to a given issue.
- Each of us reviews the briefing materials on our issue and then offers our considered opinion about what should be done.
- The majority view on a particular issue becomes the position of **THE COMMON INTEREST.**

SHARING OUR JUDGEMENT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

THE COMMON INTEREST will communicate the majority opinion of our members to our elected officials and ask that they vote accordingly.

MAKING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE

- **THE COMMON INTEREST** will keep a scorecard of how responsive legislators are to our positions.
- **THE COMMON INTEREST** will publish this scorecard and endorse candidates accordingly.
- We hold candidates responsible by voting in both the primary and general elections.

MAKING IT ALL FEASIBLE THROUGH THE INTERNET

We share briefing materials and register our views through our website—**THECOMMONINTEREST.ORG**—and e-mail.

**GO TO THECOMMONINTEREST.ORG TO
FIND OUT MORE AND JOIN.**