WHO WE ARE

Conservation Voters for Idaho is the statewide political voice for the environment. As a 501c4 nonprofit organization, Conservation Voters for Idaho is able to carry out unlimited lobbying on policy issues, hold our elected officials accountable for their votes on conservation and democracy issues, and elect candidates to office who will support our clean air and water, wildlife, and natural places.

Conservation Voters for Idaho Action Fund, our affiliated political action committee, engages directly in electoral campaigns supporting candidates running for state, county, or city office. Through our Action Fund, we are able to carry out independent expenditure campaigns, which allow us to spend an unlimited amount to help elect or defeat a candidate. CVI Action Fund enables us to put the full force of the organization’s strength behind a candidate and maximize our contact with voters.

Conservation Voters for Idaho Education Fund is the 501c3 nonprofit sister organization. Through CVIEF, we educate voters on conservation issues and provide nonpartisan resources on how to vote. We raise awareness about decisions that our elected officials make and how those decisions impact Idahoans’ health, economy, and quality of life.

WHAT SETS US APART
Conservation Voters for Idaho was created in 2005 as an independent voice for the conservation values that define our state. Idaho has a number of fantastic conservation groups working on policy issues. Conservation Voters, however, is the only Idaho organization working to elect pro-conservation candidates to office and to hold elected officials accountable for their votes. We do what others cannot - we do conservation politics.

CONSERVATION VOTERS FOR IDAHO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBIN NETTINGA, CHAIR
BRAY BELTRÁN, VICE-CHAIR
MARK RUPP, TREASURER
HEATHER KIMMEL, SECRETARY
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EMILY ERICKSON
MIKE MCINTYRE
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CONSERVATION VOTERS FOR IDAHO EDUCATION FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ALEJANDRO FLORES
JOHN RADFORD
SHELLEY ZIMMER
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Conservation Voter,

For 17 years, our mission has been to create the political environment in order to protect the natural environment. As you can imagine, Idaho’s particular political environment can be challenging...especially these days. Yet with every election, we continue to win. We continue to successfully defend our public lands and Idahoans’ right to clean air and water from a small yet vocal minority of extremists who aren’t afraid to wield violence and intimidation to get what they want.

This small but vocal group is unfortunately growing in political might. But, we know their values do not represent Idaho. Their way is not the Idaho way. Idahoans believe in common sense decision-making. We believe in taking care of each other. We believe in coming to the table together to solve our problems. I was recently reading through some of our archived newsletters and found a poignant quote that our first Executive Director Lee Flinn shared back in 2010 which still rings true today.

“Many people fail to realize that big success is the result of little successes achieved, often over a very long period of time.”

How very true this statement is, especially looking back with 17 years under our belt. By closely working with both rural and urban communities across Idaho, 3 out of 4 Idahoans now benefit from 100% clean energy commitments by either their city, county, or utility.

Our work to elect pro-conservation champions like Boise Mayor Lauren McLean and a pro-conservation majority on the Boise City Council has resulted in Idaho’s largest city advancing one of the most robust climate action initiatives in the country.

And now, just after two years of its inception, our innovative and widely successful Boards and Commissions Fellowship Program has graduated over 40 Idahoans to better serve their communities. This program has been so successful, our program coordinator is being asked to work with other states who want to replicate our program.

Our successes of building a conservation voter movement in Idaho continue to build - what Robert Kennedy once described as “tiny ripples of hope” ultimately forming a strong current which can bring back the Idaho values we all hold dear - protecting our quality of life, providing a safe haven for all Idahoans, and ensuring everyone has access to clean air and water, open and green spaces, and the right to vote in a healthy and fair democracy.

The continued support of people like you encourages and challenges us to push our boundaries and expectations of what we can do to accomplish powerful and positive change for our state.

Together, we are building a better Idaho. Thank you for your continued support of the conservation voter movement.

For Idaho,

ARIO FLORES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONSERVATION VOTERS FOR IDAHO
CONSERVATION VOTERS FOR IDAHO EDUCATION FUND
UN MUNDO MEJOR Y MAS VERDE ES POSIBLE

Climate Action Art Walk artist Miguel Almeida. Photo by Vision Kit Studios
Together, we’re building a better Idaho.

With every petition you sign, dollar you donate, and election you cast your vote in, you’re part of a statewide conservation voter movement committed to making Idaho a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Together, we’re showing what Idahoans are capable of.

- **CALLED**: 79,000 VOTERS
- **KNOCKED**: 15,000+ DOORS
- **REACHED**: 350,000 VOTERS
Electoral work is at the heart of how we accomplish our mission.

With every year, our political might grows stronger. In fact, Conservation Voters for Idaho engaged in our organization’s largest electoral program to date in this year’s Republican primary election. We secured 30 legislative seats and 5 top-of-ticket races thanks to years of careful planning, research and polling, recruiting and training suitable candidates, and coordinating a large coalition of diverse stakeholders to work together.

Our work didn’t end there. In the previous 2021 municipal election cycle, we elected 13 candidates to office, including pro-conservation members of the Boise, Hailey, Ketchum and Idaho Falls city councils and Idaho Falls and Caldwell city mayors.

We know that Idahoans support conservation – no matter what party – and together, we can keep making sure we elect candidates who will defend bedrock conservation policy, protect our public lands, and advance pro-climate initiatives.

Our Voter Outreach Team gives us a unique advantage by keeping a firm pulse on voter sentiment year-round. We reach voters from across the state to hold one-on-one conversations, persuade out the vote, and provide information on how their elected officials are (or are not) representing their values while in office.

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<th>YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS</th>
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<td><strong>26</strong> ELECTORAL WINS</td>
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<td><strong>60,500+</strong> CALLED &amp; TEXTED</td>
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<td><strong>VOTERS</strong></td>
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VOTING FOR CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE WATER

In the 2021 municipal election, Conservation Voters went to work to raise public awareness and encourage Boise voters to pass a water renewal bond that would help fund necessary improvements to the city’s wastewater infrastructure. Boiseans responded with a resounding “yes”, passing this $570m climate and water infrastructure bond with over 80% support.

SECURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Efforts to protect our public lands and clean air and water hinge upon the ability of Idahoans to vote their values through a fair and transparent election process. Idaho’s next secretary of state will oversee our elections process, along with enforcing our elections laws. In the 2022 Republican primary election, CVI knocked on well over 10,000 doors on behalf of our endorsed candidate Phil McGrane for the Republican nominee for Secretary of State, which proved critical to his success - winning by a margin of over 4,000 votes.

A WIN FOR IDAHOANS BY IDAHOANS

Idaho can oftentimes make the national spotlight for our politics. With a significantly new playing field due to redistricting, these past two election cycles spurred historic levels of out-of-state political spending and ugly campaigning. Thankfully, we were overwhelmingly successful in our electoral efforts. Despite underhanded and ugly attacks from extremist candidates, Idahoans proved that when it comes to local elections, they consistently choose those who support conservation values.
Building the next generation of leaders.

Ensuring that our democracy is inclusive and accountable to all communities, especially those most impacted by environmental pollution, is critical to advancing conservation solutions. Our Boards and Commissions Fellowship is intended to develop the skills and capacity of Idaho leaders and build the power of underrepresented groups to serve on relevant boards and commissions.

Boards and commissions are powerful governing bodies with the ability to influence important local policy. However, appointees to these bodies do not necessarily reflect all voices from all communities. Far too often, underrepresented communities in Idaho have faced enormous barriers to serving on these governing boards and commissions. CVIEF wanted to build a program that helped remove those barriers, provide guidance and education on how to effectively serve, and provide the confidence needed to successfully apply and secure appointments.

“Far too often I’ve felt invisible and unimportant in Idaho schools, jobs, and other spaces. But this fellowship did for me what I’ve never seen in any other space, and that was to listen with the intention of creating change through the leadership of folks in marginalized communities.” - Tatiana Morales, 2021 Fellow

Our Boards and Commissions Fellowship Program and civic engagement work are conducted through our c3 organization, Conservation Voters for Idaho Education Fund. Consider donating today by scanning our QR code.
BUILDING REPRESENTATION

Our vision for Idaho is that all communities will stand together to protect the natural heritage we love. In order to achieve our vision, Idaho will have a functioning and representative democracy where all Idahoans have the right to vote and a seat at the table where important decisions are being made. While everyone is welcome to apply, our Fellowship program is designed to build representative diversity on Idaho boards and commissions by recruiting women, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQIA+ and other underrepresented groups in Idaho to serve on appointed boards and commissions.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPING SKILLS

The Boards and Commissions Fellowship program helps our fellows develop civic leadership skills by providing monthly trainings, pairing fellows with one-on-one coaching with mentors and providing hands-on experience with parliamentary procedure, how decisions are made and more. Over 40 community leaders, including legislators and city council members, have volunteered to serve as mentors to our fellows Over 1/3 of our fellows have successfully been appointed to Idaho boards and commissions, such as the Boise Parks and Recreation Board.

POLICY TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Boards and Commissions Fellowship program helps our fellows develop civic leadership skills by providing monthly trainings and providing hands-on experience with parliamentary procedure (including holding mock public hearings), how decisions are made and more. While applicants are not required to have previous conservation policy experience, our Boards and Commissions fellows gain critical conservation policy knowledge during the program, in order to give them the tools they need to successfully advance conservation policy while serving on a local board or commission.
Idahoans deserve a healthy, sustainable future.

This past fiscal year was another banner year for clean energy, as our work to actively elect pro-conservation candidates at both the local and state level continues to result in tangible action: pro-climate policies and 100% clean energy commitments. This past year, we continued to collaborate with Boise Mayor Lauren McLean and the City of Boise to help them achieve the goals outlined in the Climate Action Roadmap plan. We also continued to mobilize Boise residents to provide input around Boise’s Canal Pathways Plan, as well as their zoning code rewrite process.

Although Idaho continues to lead the nation in pushing bold climate policies, we need action and partnership at the federal level. This past year, we joined conservation voter affiliates from across the country in calling on Congress and the Biden Administration to take action and pass bold climate legislation.

All Idahoans deserve clean air, and together we’ll get there by ensuring we secure a 100% clean energy future.

“If we don’t act on the climate crisis quickly, these incredibly wild and beautiful places will not be around for much longer.”
- Climate Action Art Walk artist Lorelle Rau

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

1 PRO-CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE BILL

9 CLIMATE ACTION PLANS

MOBILIZED 5,000+ IDAHOANS RE: CLIMATE

ELECTED 23 PRO-CLIMATE CANDIDATES
PROTECTING IDAHO’S FUTURE

25 million children in the U.S. who ride dirty diesel buses to school face exposure to dangerous toxins that can cause asthma, heart and lung disease, and cancer. That’s why we connected Idaho school districts with information and financial resources to help them make the transition to electric school buses. To support these efforts, we worked behind-the-scenes with legislators from both sides of the aisle during the 2022 legislative session to pass SB1319, a proactive bill that will enable school districts to utilize federal funding to assist their electric transition.

CREATING A VISION FOR CLIMATE ACTION

With Idahoans’ growing concern over our changing climate, we wanted to find a way to generate a larger conversation around the need for our leaders to pass bold climate policy. Hence, our Climate Action Art Walk was born! We partnered with the Garden City Placemaking Fund, local artists, and local businesses to create a five mural art walk centered in Garden City’s Live-Work-Create District, which acts as a route that leads bikers and pedestrians to nearby businesses and inspires further action to protect Idaho’s great outdoors. If you’re in the area, check it out!

UPLIFTING THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP

Boise Mayor Lauren McLean invited CVI Executive Director Rialin Flores to join her in a meeting with President Joe Biden during his visit to Boise. During the meeting, CVI uplifted how Idaho communities like Boise have been leading on climate action policy, but emphasized how new partnerships and investments at the federal level could ensure we protect Idaho for future generations, build a clean energy economy, and leave no community behind.
Empowering voters. Empowering Idahoans.

A strong and resilient democracy is deeply connected with the fight for protecting our natural resources and quality of life. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution, our commitment is to create a long term, sustainable effort to engage and empower Idahoans across the state in the civic act of voting and serving their community.

In the past fiscal year, we had an enormous opportunity to mobilize Idahoans to participate in the democratic process. In 2021, with the arrival of new data from the 2020 Census, Idaho joined the nation in the process of redistricting. During this process, Idaho’s 35 legislative districts and two congressional districts are redrawn to ensure that they represent roughly equal numbers of people. CVI set to work to ensure that Idahoans knew how to share their thoughts and ideas with the redistricting commission - which included public testimony and submission of fairly drawn maps.

As always, we provided year-round nonpartisan voting information, in both English and Spanish, so all Idahoans could get to the polls.

As your voice in the Statehouse, we monitor and engage with the good - and the bad - at our state’s capitol. We were hard at work during the 2022 legislative session to defend your right to vote, defeating several bills aimed at overhauling our voting process.

**YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS**

- **DROVE TURNOUT TO**
  - 18 PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **DEFEATED**
  - 6 ANTI-VOTER BILLS

- **CALLED**
  - 9,000 IDAHOANS

- **SUBMITTED**
  - 190 VERBAL TESTIMONY
DEMYSTIFYING REDISTRICTING

Some aspects of our democracy can be complicated and intimidating to participate in. With redistricting being our once-in-a-decade opportunity to shape Idaho’s political future, we knew we had to get to work to inform, educate, and engage with Idahoans during the process. In coordination with our partners, we provided bilingual in-person and digital workshops, made over 9,000 calls to drive turnout to public meetings, and mobilized Idahoans to engage with the commission to ensure fair maps were drawn.

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

Unfortunately, some extreme legislators during the 2022 legislative session worked incredibly hard to introduce numerous bills designed to restrict your right to vote and add countless bureaucratic hurdles to the voting process. By closely working with our partners in and out of the Statehouse, we successfully defeated all of the voter restriction bills that were introduced. Thank you to all of the conservation voters who reached out to their legislators in opposition to the voter restriction bills that were introduced this past session.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF VOTERS

A crucial part of building and sustaining Idaho’s conservation voter movement is inspiring the next generation of voters. Treefort Music Festival, a five-day music festival held in the heart of downtown Boise, has been the perfect avenue to reaching the younger generation. This past year, we launched Vota Mariposa, or Vote Butterfly, a new program to engage voters at TreeFort. It’s been amazing to watch Vota Mariposa evolve to become a truly creative and collaborative space designed to inspire attendees to make a difference by participating in our democracy.
Over 60% of Idaho is public land. We’re determined to keep it that way.

For decades, the “Sagebrush Rebellion,” made up of staunch anti-public land advocates like Ammon Bundy, have tried to seize control of Idaho’s public lands and sell them off to the highest bidder.

But thanks to tireless advocates like you, together, we’ve been able to defend our public lands and Idaho’s way of life. CVI works to not only defend and protect Idaho’s public lands, but work to elect local and state leaders from both sides of the aisle who support keeping public lands in public hands.

As one of the fastest growing states in the country, Idaho is also grappling with the immense pressures of growth. This past fiscal year, we’ve worked with counties and cities to ensure open space, public land access, and farmland are protected for future generations, while also beating back anti-open space bills in the legislature.

We can’t stop growth, but we can ensure we grow in a way that balances open space, conservation, and outdoor recreation.

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<td>20K VOTERS RE: SALMON RECOVERY</td>
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<td>10K VOTERS RE: LAND &amp; WATER</td>
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83% of Idahoans say that issues involving clean water, wildlife, and public lands are important in deciding whether to support an elected public official.

A vast majority of Idahoans want their elected officials to protect land, water, and wildlife. Over 70% of Idahoans support a national goal of protecting 30% of our nation’s lands and waters.

Source: Colorado College’s State of the Rockies Project. 2022 Conservation in the West Poll, Idaho.
SAVING A SPECIES ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

In early 2021, Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson put forward a comprehensive plan to recover salmon throughout the Pacific Northwest. The proposal would breach the four lower Snake River dams and increase funding for salmon habitat recovery, irrigation and transportation infrastructure upgrades, economic development, and energy storage and optimization. CVI has been working closely with our regional network of organizations and tribal partners to amplify the campaign and mobilize residents to support the plan. If achieved, this proposal protect a keystone species that’s been on the brink of extinction for far too long.

KEEPING THE PUBLIC IN PUBLIC LANDS

Public lands continue to be a wedge issue between extreme and common sense candidates here in Idaho. CVI knows that public lands remain a priority for an overwhelming majority of Idahoans - that’s why we work so hard to elect candidates on both sides of the aisle who know and understand the importance of keeping public lands in public hands. With several pro-public land victories under our belt this year, we’ve been able to secure the future of pro-public land policy in Idaho, as well as send a strong message to future anti-public lands candidates that they do not represent Idaho values.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Earlier this year, the Biden administration laid out plans to conserve 30 percent of our land and water by 2030. Known as the America the Beautiful Initiative, the goal is to safeguard America’s lands, water, and wildlife by supporting the efforts of people across the country, including rural communities, tribal nations, private landowners, and others on the frontline of conservation, stewardship, and restoration. CVI continues to work with local, state, and federal officials along with on-the-ground stakeholders to uplift the importance of collaboration in these efforts.
Your support is critical to the ongoing success of Idaho’s conservation voter movement. Please consider making a donation to CVI today to ensure that this work will continue now and into the future. To donate, visit cvidaho.org/donate, scan the QR code below, or contact our Development Director Shane Chariton at shane@cvidaho.org.