Conservation Voters for Idaho’s Boards and Commissions Fellowship Program aims to increase diversity on boards and commissions by recruiting women, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented groups to serve on appointed boards and commissions.

**MISSION**

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Over six months, the CVI Boards & Commissions Fellowship Program is designed to:
- Develop community leaders to serve on public boards and commissions
- Increase the representative diversity on local boards and commissions
- Develop civic leadership skills and build policy expertise
- Provide one-on-one coaching with a personal mentor
- Train fellows in conservation policy, including land use, clean energy, development, and more

For more information and how to apply, contact Toni Belknap-Brinegar at toni@cvidaho.org | 208.703.3063 and visit cvidaho.org/boards-commissions/

**Program Objectives**
- 100% percent of fellows will apply to serve on a local board or commission
- 50% of current fellows will return to serve as mentors and trainers for the following cohort
- 100% will work with a mentor to navigate successful board and commission service and build their networks of people and resources.

Now Recruiting Fellows!
- Program runs annually from March to August
- Applications open October annually
- One in-person training per month
- One virtual training per month
- 15-20 hours per month time requirement
- Once-a-month meeting with mentor for personalized coaching.

No previous experience in policy and/or conservation required!
Q: What do public boards and commissions do?
A: Each public body (city, county, state, school or municipal district) has citizen boards and commissions that make recommendations and occasionally policy decisions. Some of these boards are advisory in nature and some make important zoning and land use decisions. The work of these bodies informs policy decisions, the implementation of policies and oversight of public funds.

Q: Who is eligible to participate in the Boards and Commissions Fellowship?
A: Recruitment will focus on individuals who are ready and motivated to make change in their home communities. Recruitment will include: individuals from the environmental movement organizations and allied organizations with a focus on women and people of color residing in Idaho. Individuals with an intention to stay in Idaho and make change for the betterment of Idahoans will be given preference.

Q: What information will be included in the Fellowship?
Learning about conversation and environmental issues and the importance of these protections will be presented during each training session. Fellows will be encouraged to explore a conservation mindset and carry these issues forward when appointed to their chosen board or commission. Trainings will include presentations about parliamentary procedure, how decisions are made, public meeting law, involving community in decisions, conflict management and other topics pertinent to being an informed board member or commissioner.

Q: What is the time commitment for leaders in the program?
A: The fellowship is a five-month program, with eight hours of training monthly, coaching sessions with their chosen Mentor and homework that is to be completed between sessions. Additionally, there is time involved in the process of applying to serve on a board or commission, which is expected of each participant. The 2024 cohort begins in March and finishes in August, with a graduation ceremony for family and friends in September.

Q: Does it cost anything to participate in the fellowship?
A: This program is available for no cost.

Q: Is the fellowship paid?
A: No, participation is voluntary. Fellows will receive modest stipends that are intended to help with child care and transportation costs, to make participation accessible to everyone. For individuals residing outside the Treasure Valley - reimbursement for mileage OR arrangement for transportation (if they don't drive) and potential hotel stay (depending on need)

Q: What happens after fellows complete the program?
A: We will continue to work with graduates of the program to gain appointment to a board or commission, and to support them once appointed. Alumni will be encouraged to support future cohorts by becoming mentors, volunteering to present at future BCFP trainings or assisting the new Fellows with networking so they may gain appointment to their chosen board or commission.

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