It is heartening to reflect on another year of steadfast progress made for conservation in Idaho; yet it is balanced with the knowledge that the challenges that make our work so vital continue to present themselves. The impacts of a changing climate are becoming more extreme with each passing year, and the rise of political extremism, unprecedented population growth, and ongoing attacks on our democracy threaten the Idaho way of life. Idaho's communities of color, low income, and rural residents face the brunt of these impacts, and it is essential Idaho does not leave them behind.

Conservation Voters for Idaho plays a unique role in defending Idaho's natural environment and keeping our democracy healthy by building an informed and empowered electorate, securing electoral wins for conservation candidates, and holding politicians accountable. Through this work, we will build the political foundation to protect public lands and working landscapes, create climate-resilient communities, advance environmental justice, and more.

There is much to be gained in the subsequent years if we act today - and much to be lost if we don’t. Like you, we envision a future where all Idahoans can safely and equitably enjoy Idaho’s stunning landscapes, wide open spaces, abundant wildlife, and endless outdoor recreation opportunities. Like you, we want a future where the air we breathe is free of pollutants, our drinking water is abundant and clean, and our streets are safe for travelers of all kinds. Like you, we strive for a healthy democracy that all Idahoans are encouraged to take part in. By building this future together, we take strides in creating a more sustainable, livable present.

Thank you for being a part of our work.
Conservation Voters for Idaho is the statewide political voice for the environment. As a 501(c)(4) 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 501(c)(3) 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 conservation groups working on policy issues; however, Conservation Voters is the only one 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.
POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT
In 2023, CVI worked on over 100 bills, resolutions, and memorials, out of a total 636 presented throughout the legislative session. Governor Little signed S1196, which represents the single largest significant investment in Idaho’s state parks by allocating $95 million for outdoor recreation expansion, improvements, and future conservation projects. CVI was also instrumental in halting SJR101, which would have manipulated Idaho voters into making the ballot initiative process more restrictive. We also protected the current vote-by-mail process from attempted restrictions, kept partisan politics out of the Ada County Highway District, and provided Idaho’s outdoor outfitters and guides with new protections against frivolous lawsuits. We accomplished these victories by educating and mobilizing Idahoans on these issues; voters contacted their legislators more than 1,200 times through our action tools.

With all 104 legislative seats up for election, we ultimately saw a nearly 50% turnover of our state’s representation. In the 2022 general election, CVI successfully supported the campaigns of 21 endorsed candidates for the Idaho legislature, including the District 15 Senate seat, which CVI has worked to elect a pro-conservation candidate in for over ten years. Senator Rick Just (D15) sponsored record funding for Idaho state parks through the Senate in this first term. In addition to three successful county commissioner races, CVI endorsed and successfully elected two commissioners to the Ada County Highway District, creating a pro-conservation majority in our state’s largest transportation infrastructure commission. We also celebrated the success of Phil McGrane, who we endorsed in the 2022 primary election for his common-sense approach to Idaho’s safe and secure election system. In the 2022 general election, CVI’s Voter Outreach Specialist team knocked on over 28,000 on behalf of these candidates, and leveraged contact by mail, phone, text, and digital resources to directly communicate with over 303,000 voters.
CVI EDUCATION FUND
Our third Boards & Commissions Fellowship concluded with 22 graduates, with fellows submitting applications for leadership positions including with Nampa Planning & Zoning, Caldwell Planning & Zoning, Anser Charter School, and more. Fellows from previous years continue to serve in leadership positions, including Jane White and Renee Hill who now serve on the Board of Directors for CVI and CVIEF. Not only have several graduates applied and been appointed to public boards and commissions, but they frequently get engaged in other areas that have great positive impact on our communities, including workforce-related leadership, school boards, private nonprofits, and more.

CVI supported the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which along with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, are providing once-in-a-generation opportunities to invest in an equitable transition to clean energy. CVI is helping cities, counties, schools, utilities, the state, and Idahoans take advantage of these funds to meet the climate goals that we have set together over the last five years.

CVI continued our work on the Garden City Climate Action Art Walk. In partnership with the Garden City Placemaking Fund, CVI unveiled two additional murals in the series and hosted a live mural painting during the inaugural Flipside Fest in 2022. The opening celebration of these murals included visits from several local elected officials and created conversations about the need for more walking and biking paths in the area.

With Idaho transitioning into post-pandemic life, CVI has had the pleasure of returning to in-person community events to connect Idahoans with voting resources, including on-site voter registration assistance and materials to encourage participation in elections.

We have made it a priority to support partner organizations like PODER of Idaho, which organizes and empowers the Latinx and immigrant communities in Idaho for social, racial, gender, and economic justice. Through a joint organizer position led by PODER, we are bringing voting resources to Latinx and Hispanic communities, who historically have faced barriers to engaging in decision making processes.
### By the Numbers - 2022 General Election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At their door</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By mail</td>
<td>52,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By digital ads</td>
<td>154,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>By text message</td>
<td>86,000</td>
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In an exciting development for our team, CVI reimagined our Voter Outreach Specialist Team (VOS Team) to provide more experience in movement building, civic engagement, and public policy, encouraging young professionals to learn the ropes before determining the trajectory of a full-time career in the political sphere.

In addition to contacting thousands of voters on priority initiatives such as supporting our endorsed candidates in elections and providing positive and negative accountability to legislators, VOS team members spend time writing op-eds on current issues, researching public service openings for our Fellowship, and connecting communities with grant opportunities through the Inflation Reduction Act.

The new vision of the VOS team supports our goal of keeping young political and advocacy talent within our state, and provides CVI with continued partnerships with like-minded organizations.
Your donation makes a difference, now more than ever!

Smart politics lead to meaningful policy for everyone in Idaho now, and for future generations.

We hold public officials accountable. We ensure strong conservation policies are enacted. We elect public officials. We look after Idaho’s environments, clean air and water and public lands - for all individuals that depend on them.

But our work doesn’t stop at the border; state-level conservation victories across the nation as part of the Conservation Voter Movement are building momentum for climate action. With the right officials and policies, Idaho can lead our country towards a cleaner future.

We can’t do this work without you.

Your gift makes an impact! Help us reach across the aisle, to make protecting our natural legacy a priority, and to educate decision-makers and future leaders! Help us bring conservation to the forefront of political decisions in Idaho and across the nation!

Your support is vital to CVI and to the ongoing success of Idaho’s Conservation Voter Movement. Please consider making a donation to CVI to ensure that this work will continue now and into the future. Whether you are a first time donor, or ready to renew your support or make an additional gift, visit cvidaho.org/donate or contact me directly at shane@cvidaho.org to learn more about supporting CVI.

Thank you for your thoughtful and meaningful commitment and generous support.

PS - Want to make a difference year round? Consider an ongoing monthly donation of $10, $25, $50 each month to support the continued work of CVI!
Your support is key to the ongoing success of Idaho’s conservation voter movement. Please consider making a donation today at cvidaho.org/donate, or contacting our Development Director Shane Chariton at shane@cvidaho.org.

cvidaho.org
info@cvidaho.org

Follow us on social media at @cvidaho