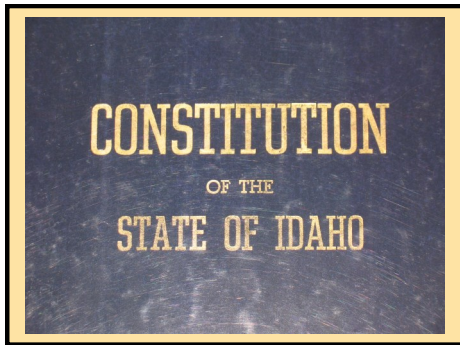


Constitution of the State of Idaho

The Idaho Constitution is the “tie that binds,” the single document whose task is to hold together the vast and diverse State of Idaho.

The facts below demonstrate the interesting changes and steps that had to be taken in order for the Constitution to be established.



The Idaho Constitution Preamble

We, the people of the State of Idaho, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings and promote our common welfare do establish this Constitution.

About the Constitution

- A constitutional convention, with representatives from throughout Idaho Territory, met in Boise between July 4 and August 6, 1889, debating every important topic covered by the Constitution.
- On October 5, 1889, Governor George Shoup issued a proclamation calling for an election on November 5 to ratify the Constitution.
- Residents of the Territory ratified the Constitution by a 7 to 1 margin.
- Fred Dubois, Idaho’s territorial delegate to Congress, propelled the admissions bill for Idaho’s statehood, which was passed in April 1890 in the House of Representatives and in June in the Senate.
- Dubois hoped that President Benjamin Harrison would sign the bill on July 4, a fitting patriotic gesture. But signing on that day would have delayed Idaho’s entry into the union.
- President Harrison signed the bill on July 3, 1890, accepting Idaho as the 43rd state.
- The Constitution includes twenty-one articles.
- Although it has been amended more than one hundred times, it remains basically as it was drafted more than 120 years ago.
- Article XX establishes two ways in which the Constitution can be altered over time, either via legislatively-referred constitutional amendments or by constitutional conventions.
- Idaho’s first state legislature met in Boise, at what had been constructed as the territorial capitol, in December 1890.