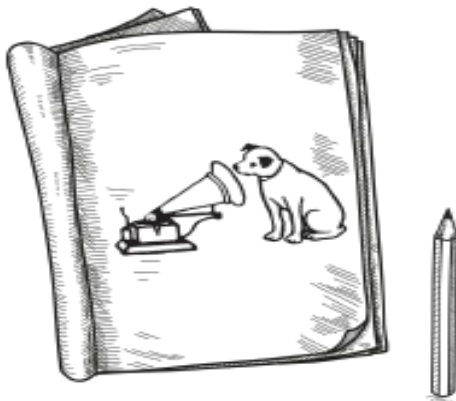


the Solari Report

Idaho 2030: A Vision of Freedom with Catherine Austin Fitts

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Transcript



Speakers:
Elizabeth Murphy
Pastor Tim Remington
Representative Heather Scott
Senator Phil Hart
Senator Ben Toews
Representative Elaine Price
Representative Josh Tanner

Catherine Austin Fitts: Ladies and gentlemen, we have an unbelievably special evening for you. We want to welcome you to **Idaho 2030, A Vision of Freedom**. This is a backcasting, and a backcasting is when we go into the future in our imagination and we celebrate our success in achieving the goals we had. And, of course, here at *Solari*, our goal is freedom. Today, we have an exceptional group for The Vision of Freedom with wonderful members of the Idaho State Legislature. I had the privilege of meeting them when I was in Idaho. This is an amazing group of people. For those of you who've never been to Idaho, it's clearly one of the most beautiful states in the country. It's a Western state where you have Washington and Oregon to the West, and British Columbia to the North in Canada. You have Montana and Wyoming to the East and Utah and Nevada to the South. So, it touches many different states. In population, it's about 2 million people and 39th in total population of the 50 states. But it is distinctly known throughout the United States as a group of people who love freedom and enjoy the freedom of the beautiful outdoors and outdoor sports. It's known for many of those things.

Leading our backcasting today will be Elizabeth Murphy, who represents *Solari* and Weston Price in front of the Tennessee Legislature and is intimately involved in our efforts to support legislators who are trying to protect sovereignty, both for the country and for individuals. And these citizen legislatures are among the leaders in doing that in the country. So, to introduce the legislature, I'll introduce Elizabeth Murphy, but first, a very special treat: the pastor, Tim Remington, who used to be a state legislator from Coeur d'Alene, will introduce us and start us with an opening prayer. So, Pastor Tim, let me

turn it over to you.

Pastor Tim Remington: Let's pray and thank you for the chance to be able to do this:

Father, it is a great privilege to meet here with such a beautiful group of people, Lord God, who have benefited from your grace and your mercy.

And Father, through these many years, Lord God, of working so diligently, we want to just stop to thank you right now to praise you for the things that have happened in our great state. We thank you, Lord God, that our children are protected now, and that parental rights are right there for all of us to be able to enjoy again without the worry of people taking our children. We thank you, Father, for our rights over our property because now we can enjoy our property without worrying about someone taking it, taking our water, taking our minerals, taking our lives. Father, I thank you, Lord God, that so much of our land has been returned to our great state. This is a beautiful thing, Lord God, after a long period of time of the federal government and everybody else trying to remove it from us; you have given it back. This is what freedom really is. Thank you for the truth, Lord. It used to be, Lord God, that we got together, and all the testimony that was given, you couldn't tell if it was truth, you didn't know if it was lies. We didn't know what to do in testimony, but today, Lord God, now it is truth. People are asking the right questions, and thank you, Lord, for being that truth, for being in our legislators.

We have more legislators now, Lord, that are saved, more legislators that are absolutely conservative.

They're not the rhinos that we used to have. These people, Lord God, are serving you, and they're serving this great state. Thank you, Father. I remember when we used to fight for gun rights, you have given us back, Lord God, our rights. You've given us back, Lord God, the ability to protect our children from pornography, Lord God, around them, pornography on their phones. Thank you, Lord, that we don't have to worry about that anymore, that it is now illegal to have pornography on the phones for our children to be able to watch. Thank you, Lord, for every single one of these people, and I thank you for their wisdom. You told us to ask of you, Lord God, if we don't have wisdom, and you'll give to every man, and we have done that Lord, and the fear of God is the

beginning of that wisdom. We can't have wisdom without the fear of God. So I thank you, and I praise you, Lord God, for pulling all of these things together, for making sure, Lord God, that all of these things line up, Lord God, with your word, and they line up with the great state of Idaho. Lord God, in our party, wants to be, Lord God, not just conservative, but moral, godly, virtuous people. And we want to show, Lord God, that we can do all of these things through Christ, which strengthens us because there is no other way to get there. So, we just stop right now to praise you and to honor you, because now, Lord God, we can; we can mention God wherever we go; we can mention Jesus wherever we go; we can bring our Bibles with us without a bunch of people trying to make fun of us. Thank you, Lord God, for getting rid of all of these other things, Lord, that were trying to destroy our families: The LGBT stuff, the Black Lives Matter, all of that, Lord God. Thank you that those things are done lawfully. They're done with. Right now, we honor you, we praise you, and we ask, Lord, that the time that we have together right now with all of these beautiful people will be spent, Lord God, serving you and just glorifying your name in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

You know, if I could say, being in the Legislature for a time and then coming back to this particular point 10 years ago in 2020 when everything went down, the churches had to shut down. We had a bunch of people in the church asking, "How did all of this happen? Where were our legislators at the time?" After that, I vowed that we were going to have town halls in the church. We started inviting all the legislators back to the churches to talk to us, to speak to us. One of the best information avenues we had back then was when you had 10,000 people going to church, and now you have 15,000 people going to church. Those 15,000 people, you can address them in two hours on a Sunday morning through their pastor because of the relationships we have built with our Legislature. So, now we talk with the Legislature. The Legislature comes, and we pray over them at our churches. We have our churches question them about who they are and what they will do. We have built such a rapport in the past 10 years that now they have access to an immediate 15,000 people overnight that they can address.

And I honestly feel that is one of the biggest, biggest things that we have done because now you have 15,000 people that can pray for you; 15,000 people that could vote on your behalf and for the virtue of this state, for the moral

excellence of this state. But one of the biggest things that we have done is build a rapport between the legislators and the churches. So, our inalienable rights come from God. And if people want to know about those particular rights, they have to go to what the Bible says they are. And to do that, they have to go to the churches. And so now that the church has made it clear up here, this is where the freedom has just exploded. And it's been a real pleasure working with the legislators all this time.

Thank you, Lord, for the time that we've had today. Thank you, Lord God, for the years spent achieving all this. Thank you, Lord God, for our liberty. Thank you for people willing to fight for it. Thank you for the many individuals we've elected, evaluating their virtue, temperament, and character above all. Thank you for finding people of character. Thank you, Lord God, for their integrity. Thank you, Lord, for the ability to maintain our freedom.

Freedom from tyranny, freedom, Lord God, from people taking away our right to be able to pray, to be able to worship like many other countries that have been taken over, Lord.

Idaho would do anything to get to America so they have the freedom. Amen.

Elizabeth Murphy: Thank you, everybody, for being here for **Idaho 2030, A Vision of Freedom**. Heather Scott, representative from District 2, North Idaho, will go first and tell us about all the wonderful things that she has accomplished in the last few years.

Representative Heather Scott: Thank you, Elizabeth. It is so fun for us to get together and celebrate what we've done. The Liberty legislators have worked hard. When we realized we were losing our Republic and our country was being undermined, we started to get serious about our goals, our vision, and our plan.

Even in Idaho, people didn't expect it, but it was because our bureaucracies were so bloated. All our jurisdictional boundaries have been broken down. And so we decided it was time that we got serious and gave God all the glory. Of course, he's used every one of us but it was a job. We started by educating and organizing our citizens. We realized that all of our power, besides coming from God, comes from the people. And so we started to organize what we do. We

got together groups of activated citizens that would help drive the legislative issues we wanted to drive and everything, so we created a plan of vision, and our main goal was to reduce the size and scope of government and to increase our self-sufficiency. We decided that so much power had been taken from the people, and our main goal was to empower them. And once we finalized our plan, we formed citizen action groups, and they were the ones that would help us drive legislation.

I wanted to touch on so many things. We had experts in law and business and health and finance. And so we would use these grassroots teams to help us run legislation and our goal to create an independent sovereign state, with property rights being the key to our success. We kind of based everything on property rights in empowering the citizens. And boy, what a success we had. Now when we look back after six years, all of these actions have definitely paid off. I wanted to share a little about some of the groups of legislation we passed. We had some packages of legislation. One of the biggest was our legislative property rights package. And what our goal was with this legislation was we were trying to stop the government's ability to take our private land. We stopped the imminent domain, and then we also made it almost impossible for them to annex property without a two-thirds vote. So, they couldn't take annexed property into cities without a two-thirds vote. We also passed one law that was quite interesting. It basically said you cannot evacuate citizens from their property. This came to be super handy. As you remember, back in 2027, the climate emergency that we all heard about over and over, they were trying to force citizens in Idaho into these urban centers, like they did in Texas and Oklahoma, and Idaho citizens didn't fall for it. We had secured our property rights.

The climate emergency didn't affect us at all. Another thing we did under this package of property rights bills is we returned our federal lands back to state control; we had had 68% at one time where the feds had complete control over the land. And we transitioned that back into the state and local communities and ended up thriving from this. Not only did we do that, but that kind of ballooned into taking back our water rights and our infrastructure. And so the dams and river systems were transitioned back into local control, which was rather exciting because we here in north Idaho, like Albany Falls dam, was now a county-run dam. We used the proceeds for that to not only generate electricity in our local communities, but also we had enough extra energy to sell to other neighboring

states.

So that was quite exciting, and that was all in our land package.

Also, due to a response from all the illegal immigration under the administration during the Biden administration that seemed to never end, all the illegal immigration and open borders, we decided we had to do something for emergency preparedness and to encourage the safety and training of our citizens.

And we had a packet of bills that were designed to empower individuals and encourage our local communities to be independent and self-sufficient.

I personally worked on a bill that returned. It forced all the government agencies to accept cash. I thought this was good because we'll keep the money back in the system. It was part of a bigger package that we started the trade; I think that is what we called it; we called it the Barter and Trade Freedom piece of this package. What this did was encourage the trading and bartering of goods; it removed taxes on anything people wanted to trade or barter or sell that was under \$2,000. And so there wasn't any taxes collected on that. And what that did was open up little communities to be centers of commerce, and it was pretty, pretty amazing. And it was fun to watch and it did some other things in the finance system. I think some other people might share about some of the other money issues.

The other thing I wanted to mention is we were trying to make citizens and empower citizens to be more self-sufficient and more prepared. And part of it was a simple bill we passed on gun safety in the schools. And so the youths got training in the schools for gun safety. But what we didn't realize at the time when we passed that legislation five years ago was that it started to get the youths to do skeet clubs and gun training. And I'm sorry, but they were doing competitive shooting, and that ballooned into our communities. The old veterans and some of the retired police officers started to get involved and mentor these youths. And it just kind of snowballed into this community. It took the place of some of the churches that had been shut down. The people were at the church, and it was quite amazing.

The other part I wanted to mention about that package, the preparedness package, is we had a piece in there about food freedoms. The food freedom part

went back to, I think, 2026. 2026 was when they had the shutdown of transportation, and there was such a problem getting food across this country. We had already set it into place; we had encouraged urban gardening, encouraged community gardening, and livestock. We had plenty of livestock legislation that reduced all the regulations. And so many family farms were self-sufficient and we didn't even notice; we didn't even notice when that food crisis came.

One other thing I wanted to mention was factoring in when we were talking about the gun training classes and what that all ballooned into. We also did preparedness, like many of the communities did preparedness, and were teaching people how to do canning and rapid response teams. They spurred up out of nowhere, and they would help when someone was going to move. We had one incident where child protective services came in and tried to take a child, and the community came together; the citizens were so tightly knit because we had built up this structure by empowering the individuals. There's so much more that I want to share, but I'm hoping we get to some in the Q and A. I know there's so much more that I want to share, but I'm hoping that there are many people who have done a lot of things to make it a success, and I'm going to stop for now and hear what others want to share about the exciting last six years and what's happened in Idaho.

I think we talk about it so much; we talk about freedom, freedom, freedom. But in Idaho, we show you what freedom is. And once you get a taste of it and you start to feel it, you don't need to talk about it anymore; you just live it.

I think one of the biggest things Representative Tanner might be able to talk more about is how our executive branch has gotten so big; you're supposed to have about 20 agencies. They have 189 commissions and agencies, and all those agencies do administrative rules. And these rules have the same force of law. I think Josh can probably get into this in much more detail. In Idaho, we have the opportunity to comment on those and direct what we want the executive branch to do. Most people don't even know about what an administrative rule is, but I know for sure that in Josh's area, they understand it. And in my area, because we talked about it. Josh, do you want to share a little of what you've done there to push back on those executive agencies through the rules?

Is it limited? Our state was being overtaken by the corporations, and the small businesses were struggling. What we didn't realize when we started the rules

process was that these corporations are pushing for more rules and regulations in our state. And they're doing that in order to shrink the small businesses. They can't; they can't keep up with all the regulations. And once they get their competition out of the way, they can relax the rules. Josh was instrumental in working with the small business community and stopping some of those rules going through, which helped our small businesses quite a bit. I'll just say that Representative Price and I are public members of the Freedom Caucus, and it's kind of the Liberty people in the state that network: they network with other states across the country. I think we're up to make about 22 across the States. And so we do network regularly. We have a retreat of freedom caucus once a year where we go to discuss the issues that we're all dealing with, but we forget that a whole country is dealing with the same issues. We sometimes get stuck in our bubbles but have the same problems we have, and other people have too.

But I can quickly add that it's networking with these groups. You meet them in church; you find out what they're involved in. We have everything from neighborhood watch groups that work hand in hand with our sheriffs to a Bible study, prayer groups, and food groups. And so there's all different kinds of networking that we do up north. I always tell people, "You don't have to do everything, and you don't have to do what everybody else is doing. You just have to do that one thing that God's called you to do. And that's all you need to do." And if everybody does that, it is the one thing God's called them to do. We'll have the body of the church working, and I'm for his glory.

Elizabeth: Thank you so much, Representative Scott. That was a fantastic recap. Senator Phil Hart is next. He is a structural engineer who's also from District 2 in beautiful North Idaho. Senator Hart, we're excited to hear your updates.

Senator Phil Hart: I'm excited to be here. It's nice to look back and see successes after so many decades of struggling. I think it was Andrew Breitbart who said, "Politics is downstream from culture." The movement toward liberty in Idaho started way before we saw its fruits in politics. It started in the 1990s. Pastor Tim's father was part of the groups of patriots that met and talked about constitutional issues, talked about where our rights came from, and talked about how to defend ourselves in front of the courts and the judges. Pastor Tim's

father wasn't just a warm body at these meetings; he was part of the tip of the spear.

What happened, I think, was we finally decided that we were going to not only just have meetings and get educated, but we got to get involved in the political process. A few of us were active in the Constitution Party. We thought that was maybe more of a debate club. A group of us left and started to get involved with the Republican Party. I was probably the first liberty-minded person elected to public office, at least in the legislature in 2004.

Then, we formed the Republican Liberty Caucus. Now, instead of having a North Idaho culture of liberty-minded patriots, we were all over the state. We were having statewide conventions; we were having seminars on sound money, taxation, and parliamentary procedure. Our chairman at that time almost worked herself to death. She tried so hard to organize all these events. Heather Scott, who you just heard from, was certainly within the first 10 liberty-minded legislators elected to the Idaho legislature. Slowly, our numbers began to increase.

I think where we saw the pendulum stop swinging in the direction of, let's just call it, klepto capitalism and start to swing back toward freedom was after the 2022 election and the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions. That pendulum stopped to swing in the wrong direction. Then we had an election in 2024, where we added to our numbers significantly, and from that point on, the pendulum started swinging toward freedom.

In 2025, we had our first real conservative head of the Joint Appropriations and Finance Committee. There are two chairmen, but the Senate chairman was a solid conservative. We finally stopped growing the government. At the same time, we grew the power of the legislative branch of government. Up until then, in Idaho, at least, the legislature was the weakest of the three branches, were the Founding Fathers considered the legislature to be the strongest branch. With the leadership of a conservative and the head of our appropriations committee, we were able to beef up the legislature.

The first thing the legislature did was started to impeach judges. Never in the history of Idaho had a judge ever been impeached. When we did that, we saw a change in the mentality of the judicial branch. We also saw a change in the mentality of the legislative branch. Now, one of the things that I think made

America so powerful was our founding fathers realized that each individual had a relationship with God.

In that sense, each individual was to have a relationship with the government. We weren't to treat our population like a monolithic mass like they had been treated by the organized church in Europe, but we were to look at people as individuals, and that's where the republic form of government came from, where we honored the rights of the individual above the rights of the mob.

One thing we realized was when we passed legislation with mandatory minimums, we were treating defendants like a monolithic mass of people. Instead, we changed our mentality, and we thought, "Each defendant needs to have a relationship with a judge so that the judge can appropriately deal with that defendant as the defendant needs to be dealt with." That was a change that was facilitated by impeaching a few judges and getting an attitude adjustment in the judiciary, which came about from a stronger Liberty-minded legislature. That was really a great improvement.

In my district, Legislative District 2, we used to believe we were the center of the universe. The reason we believe that is historically, we took a billion ounces of silver out of the ground within about 20 miles of where I live. We also even had our own stock exchange. My part of the state basically funded the state government for about 100 years. Then along came the EPA, and the EPA shut down mining in North Idaho, and instead of being the center of the universe taking a billion ounces of silver out of the ground, we are a superfund site. We didn't turn into a bunch of ghost towns, but that almost happened. Mining was shut down. We were the biggest superfund site in the history of the EPA. Mining was curtail way, way, way back.

We came up with new technologies on how to mine, and when silver stayed above \$30 an ounce, that mining sector took off again, and that part of our economy got a lot stronger. I was able, with the more liberty-minded members of the legislature, to bring back a bill I ran in 2010.

That was House Bill 633. It was going to create a silver medallion system of money. We can't call it coinage because only Congress has the right to coin money, but we created a silver medallion system of pieces of silver that's circulated in the economy.

We called it the Idaho Gem. An Idaho Gem was identical and is identical to a Silver Eagle minted by the US Mint. It has the same specifications, same thickness, and same content as silver, and by statute, it's circulated within Idaho at the same rate as the Silver Eagle circulated. You can go on the internet any day of the week and find hundreds of sources for what the market value of the Silver Eagle is, and therefore you know what the market value of the Idaho Gem is.

When the Idaho Gem was issued by our state department, the state treasurer, the state treasurer kept the premium, which was big; the premium between the issuance of the Idaho Gem and what it costs us to mint. Idaho is blessed because one of the things that we got when we were the center of the universe of the mining industry is the Sunshine Mint in North Idaho, which mints all the blanks for the silver and gold coins minted by the US Mint. They minted our Idaho Gem, they gave it to the state treasurer, the state treasurer sold it to the public, collected the premium, and not only did the Idaho Gem circulate in Idaho, but it circulated in all our surrounding states too.

We developed quite a splash fund, if you will, of premiums, but we didn't keep that premium in cash; we kept it in precious metals. Along came the federal government, who's sucking wind because they run themselves on fiat money. We've built up this big pile of precious metals, and that's how we got our federal lands back that Representative Scott mentioned, our previous speaker.

We used the surplus from the Idaho Gem to pay the federal government to get our lands back. Was it a good deal? Probably not. They're our lands, to begin with, but we did get them back. We used the ownership of those lands to collect royalties on not only silver and gold that we were getting out of North Idaho but thorium, which was recently discovered in eastern Idaho, and also copper, which was recently discovered in southwest Idaho.

With the royalties we got from that mining activity, we mimicked what Alaska does. We were able to take public schools off the property tax rolls and use the money we collected from the royalties of our mining properties to pay for the public schools. We also created a very competitive environment from schooling, but I think someone else is going to talk about that. With the public schools now off the property tax rolls, property taxes went down, down, down to the pleasure of, especially, our elderly committee because under Bidenomics and the endless inflation of the money supply, our elderly were having trouble

maintaining their homes and hanging onto their homes because they couldn't afford the property taxes.

It really was a win-win-win, and back to the Idaho Gem, we not only had the one-ounce Silver Eagle, but it was so popular we issued a half-ounce piece, a two-and-a-half-ounce piece, and we also issued a piece that was by-metallic. It had a quarter ounce of gold and an ounce of silver. The beauty of the Idaho Gem is you can't track it; it's physical precious metals. When it's in your pocket, you own it, and nobody knows you've got it. It protected the freedom of our people by giving them privacy.

The last thing I want to mention is the Health and Welfare Department. We discovered in our legislative activity that the Department of Health and Welfare had no mission statement, but it was the biggest department in state government. It had loaded up to be so huge with all these so-called entitlement payments. The Health and Welfare Department was, if you looked at it from the 30,000-foot level, it was actually anti-health and anti-welfare because it created dependency.

We rewrote, or we didn't rewrite; we, for the first time, wrote a mission statement that would really honor the health and welfare of Idahoans. We began to look at their diet, how they lived their lives, and the change in the philosophy of the Health and Welfare Department. When you look at a group of Idahos now at the shopping mall, you feel like you've gone back in time to the 1940s. We're all skinny, we're all healthy-looking, and we have a state government that is truly looking out for the health and welfare of the people. I want to say a lot more. I want to get into the income tax, I want to get into a few other issues, but we'll see if that comes up in the Q&A section of this presentation.

Elizabeth: Thank you so much, Senator Hart. That was very inspiring to hear about. Next, we have Senator Ben Toews, who is an entrepreneur from District 4, which is a very lovely area, the Port-A-Lane area. So, Senator Toews, tell us what you've accomplished.

Senator Ben Toews: Thank you, Elizabeth. It's really great to be here talking with you. I love looking back to see what we've been able to accomplish with God's help, and as a team, I want to go over some work that we've been doing and some accomplishments that we've made. For about seven years, a group of freedom focused legislators began to promote legislation to articulate parents'

God-given right to make the choices in their children's upbringing and education.

The same group worked diligently to make sure that Idaho's families would have freedom to choose the best way to educate their children, and to accommodate the unique needs and abilities of each individual child. The response was strong and coordinated to limit choice and maintain the status quo system. Teachers unions and other public school logging groups funded massive campaigns to make sure that the tax-funded monopoly would keep control of the failing system.

Despite billions of dollars of taxpayers' money being dumped into public schools with requests for huge increases every year, literacy and math proficiency continued to languish. To add insult to injury, many schools taught theories as fact, and continually undermine parents' belief systems by propagating ideologies that were in direct opposition to the family values that parents held dear. When parents spoke up at board meetings and with principals, instead of addressing the issues and working to make parents confident that their children were safe and wouldn't be force-fed harmful dogma, like radical gender theory and critical race theory, parents were treated as the enemy and marginalized and often ignored completely.

For the next three years, with the backing of parent-led organizations, legislators brought forward solutions to provide education freedom and the much needed accountability it would naturally provide to the education system. Attempts were put forward to provide education savings accounts that would provide parents to direct education funds to whatever education option would work best for their particular child. The establishment fought back labeling the freedom legislation as voucher schemes, and falsely stating that second option would lack accountability. Ultimately, a bill was passed and funded.

The establishment fought back labeling the freedom legislation as voucher schemes, and falsely stating that such an option would lack accountability. Ultimately, a bill was passed and funded in 2025 that gave all parents in Idaho the option of achieving and receiving a refundable education tax credit. This tax credit allowed parents complete discretion of how and where to educate their children by refunding them up to \$6,000 annually of proven education expenses that they incurred.

Looking back, it was one of the best decisions our state has ever made. It played out better than anyone could have predicted, and had far reaching results in the future of Idaho. First of all, instead of the dire prediction that school choice would be an existential threat to public schools, the reality was that a market based parent led accountability system improved the existing public education institutions, because when schools were forced to compete for students, they tended to respond by improving their systems and listening to parents concerns.

Numerous options were also created through a choice-based innovative system driven by demand, not government. Examples of what were created through that process include micro schools application/experience-based schools, tailored schools for various learning disabilities and trade-focused schools. The reality is that parents were more engaged than ever in their child's education, and they were invited to look at the best option for their children and empowered to weigh in instead of being told to back off.

Parents value systems were supported and built into the various options guaranteeing that children weren't indoctrinated with ideologies that were counter to the morals of their family. That cost of education for the government has actually gone down from the average of about \$8,000 per student to \$2,000 per student, while the student's proficiency in math and reading have steadily increased. This is the result of allowing market forces to bear on the system. In a healthy economic system, quality can increase and cost decrease simultaneously, especially if the previous system was ineffective and inefficient.

A great example how this has been accomplished in our current community is a micro school, which often includes 15 to 20 students per teacher and has low overhead and virtually no administration requirements. This results in more focus for students, higher salaries for quality teachers, and overall cost savings to the taxpayers. These competitive based systems actually reward efficiency, quality and results. While bureaucracies lack these natural rewards and instead tend to build the opposite. As a result, teachers that hone skills to deal with complex and oftentimes difficult learning disabilities are being rewarded with higher pay and opportunities, which attracts more and better teachers to the profession.

The graduating students more often have clarity in their future careers and what is required to build them, because instead of pushing everyone through a one-size-fits-all system, that measures success by how many students attend and/or

finish college. The new system is designed to equip students to explore their unique talents and find what they naturally have a passion for by exposing them to a wide variety of real-life experiences and options.

If a particular school isn't working for a child, the parents are encouraged and enabled to look at a variety of options that may work better for their child, thereby providing them a much higher possibility of success. The ultimate result is that we have a better educated population at a lower cost to taxpayers of Idaho with the result of citizens realizing their true potential without being weighed down by the debt and years of wasted time that we did in the previous system. I'm really excited for the future. I know that this can go even further. We'll have more innovation in the education system and it's fun to look back and see what's been accomplished and also look forward to what's to come.

Elizabeth: Thank you so much, Senator Toews. That was quite inspiring to hear about. Next up, we have Representative Elaine Price. She is a small business owner also from District 4. Representative Price, we're excited to hear what you have to say.

Representative Elaine Price: Thank you. I too feel blessed that I get to participate in this and looking back on the accomplishments that we were able to achieve throughout the years. We look at business that works best when it can grow organically given equal footing and left to regulate themselves, and get the state out of the way. One of the things that we focused on was prohibiting the one-world government and keeping the states and the businesses to take care of themselves instead of allowing the federal government to overreach and control the state and control businesses within the state.

We did this by working hard and not giving up. When we would have a bill that wouldn't be passed, we would then go back to the drawing board and find a way and find a solution to get those bills passed. We did this throughout all of these topics that we've been talking about. Several laws that we passed to help business and to keep the one world government out of Idaho was prohibiting Central Bank digital currency, which is focused on controlling people through controlling their money. We prohibited the state from participating in that, which then empowered other banks to not participate as well.

As Representative Scott talked about, we kept cash as an option for our businesses and participation within our state. We included precious metal in that

as Senator Hart talked about. We also allowed our state government to invest in precious metals, which gave us a hedge against the collapse of the economy that when you're building a trillion dollars' worth of debt at a fast pace, you have to have a path out of that if it were come to a collapse. We also encouraged cryptocurrencies as a medium of exchange so that people didn't feel tied down to just what the government was controlling.

We prohibited ESG and the practices of ESG, which once again was a government control that if you use too many carbon credits, then you won't get a loan or who knows what next was going to come up? Too many cows or just these ridiculous ideas of controlling the people? We prohibited ESG and we prohibited tax dollars going to businesses or banks that really pushed these practices on our people. We passed a law to eliminate the diversity equity inclusion in businesses and our schools; our tax funded schools. We were using taxpayer money on these programs, and that was a fight, because when global practices come into play, a lot of money usually comes with that too.

All the strings that are attached if you take these federal funds, then you have to do those things. It was almost a retraining for our schools that as Senator Toews said, we can save our taxpayers money by going in different directions, so prohibiting the DEI practices. One of our goals was to encourage businesses to self-regulate. So much of the world has, because we're used to the government doing it for us, forgotten that they can take care of this themselves; encouraging the states to get back to businesses self-regulating themselves.

You can do that by education without passing laws, but having your state legislators in the forefront encouraging these businesses to go back to the old practices and to being in the forefront instead of waiting for the government to do it for them.

Allowing the state to invest in gold and silver was a fight. It took us so many years to get that passed and being told that, "How does the state know whether they're buying real precious metal or not precious metal?" What happens if somebody tries to create their own gold and silver, which is not real? The ridiculous arguments that we were facing and trying to get that passed, but we finally got that passed and allowed our state to invest in idle funds into gold and silver. Only a small portion, not out of hand, but something that gives us that little safeguard in case something happens.

Then we worked on legislation to eliminate and regulate the appointment of friends to agencies and boards. We saw the cronyism going on that was happening with our agencies and boards, and they're the ones that control the spending and give their budgets. We encouraged the diversification of thought and made it so that conservatives had a seat at all of these tables and all of these agencies.

The tax credit that Senator Toews was talking about was made possible through the repeal of our Blaine Amendment. The Blaine Amendment is what people used as a crutch that we couldn't use taxpayer funds for religious reasons. That amendment was put in our constitution based on bigotry; it was specifically targeted towards Catholics.

Once we got that out of the way, it empowered our religious community to get into the game and to get back into help educating our children. We really needed to save our children, and a big way, to save our children is getting us back to what the schools are supposed to do: teaching reading, writing, or arithmetic. We got some huge wins, which took a lot of time to get there, but we continued the fight until we made sure that all this legislation got passed.

Elizabeth: Thank you so much for sharing about that, Representative Price. It's awesome to hear all that you have accomplished. Coming up last, we have Representative Josh Tanner. He is from District 14, a business owner. Representative Tanner, we're excited to hear what you have to report.

Representative Josh Tanner: Thank you. I appreciate you giving us the ability to go back and look and see some of the great things that Idaho has actually been able to accomplish over the years. I'd say one of the great things that we've been able to do, which Senator Hart actually touched on briefly, was pulling back the legislative's authority and going back to how the founders meant for the legislature to actually have the power they were supposed to have.

What we saw as we went into this was a lot of our power was continually been delegated out to the executive branch, and it's been done year after year, decade after decade. Finally, I think it was about 2024 when we started doing it. It was really a mentality across all the legislatures to actually try to pull back what our authority was. This created quite a bit of fighting within the executive branch and the legislative branch, but in the end, we got a better balance for Idaho; we got more of a working balance that allows the legislature to have the true power

within our government.

One of the other things that, I think, has stood out that probably has had one of the most profound changes is the federal money. I believe back then, around early in the 2020s, over 40% of our entire revenue was being done with federal money. We started to see that we were actually losing our state; we were losing our state sovereignty. We were losing the control and the decisions that we can make as legislators in Idaho.

We created a separate committee that reviewed every federal grant, and we would determine if it was feasible and what the stipulations of that grant were. We also started to pull back on many of the grants, stripping us of our authority. Then, moving forward, any agency that wanted to apply for a grant had to get approval from that committee before it was done. It slowed that process down and allowed us to gain that power and control back as a legislature and that separation from the federal government.

We saw a drastic decrease in the amount of federal money that we had been taking in, which gave us better positioning with any law that we actually passed. We saw less of a fight. We actually had a lot more control, whether it was within our school system, or whether it was within health and welfare. That was one of the bigger battles that was fruitful. Many other states are jumping on board and seeing that success and following us-Idaho-down that road.

Both Representative Scott and Senator Hart also talked about the federal lands and we being able to get that back. From an economic standpoint, that has benefited Idaho more than many of us even realized it could do. We saw, and Senator Hart had talked about, much of it was in the mining industry. We have many great resources here in Idaho. One of the big ones they didn't touch on was the timber industry. This has made our small towns boom, and re-energized them. Economically, it is nearly double the state of Idaho in economics, just in a very short period of time because we were able to use those resources that we naturally had.

We continued to watch those lands burn down year after year because the federal government wouldn't manage those lands. Now we have these thriving forests that we're able to economically continue to benefit from. From that alone, I think that has put Idaho in one of the best positions financially, comparably to any other state. Realistically, at this point in time, we don't rely

on the federal government, that federal partnership, that overarching big brother. We really have an independent state, more like our founders had meant for us to have.

The other thing that we did that has proven to be a great accomplishment was on the banking side of things. I know it was touched on briefly, but what banks were starting to do is using a social credit score to analyze us. It was no longer if you're financially capable of doing something; it became more about a social economic score than an actual how economically smart and responsible you have been.

We really put regulations that they can't use those type of things. At least many of the bigger banks are unable to use any type of credit score system that deals with any type of social aspect. From that aspect, we've seen more of a boon back into people paying attention to what they're doing economically, and how they're being fiscal responsible as an individual and not worrying about falling into the social trap.

The other thing that has shown Idaho leading the charge on was the data collection and tracking. We started seeing this in the early 2000s and all the way to 2020. Then around 2025, we actually were able to pass something that allowed the data collection and tracking. Your vehicles, any new vehicle you buy, tracks every bit of data, and they sell that data. The cell phone you carry around with you tracks your data and sells your data. Whatever you search on the internet, they track it and are able to sell that.

There have been entire business models built around that data. We allowed citizens to own that data instead of companies unable to use, sell, or store it. Still, as an individual, if you want actually to have that data tracked and shared, you're more than welcome to. You reap the benefit from it instead of some other company just benefiting from you, forcing you into something that they can continually make money on.

I think at this point, Idaho definitely has led the overall charge. What's exciting for me to see is how many states have followed Idaho's lead. Idaho has become the beacon of hope, the light of what America should be and was intended to be. It's great to see so many other states wake up and so many other legislators across the country following in Idaho's footsteps. I want to thank you and look forward for any questions.

Elizabeth: Thank you so much, Representative Tanner. We appreciated hearing from you. Catherine, do we want to pause now and look over all the questions?

Catherine: This has been a remarkable celebration. Let's take a 10-minute break and review the questions.

I'm turning it back to you, Elizabeth, but it's Ben and Heather's to review the questions and then talk with fellow legislators about how they'd like to focus on during the crosstalk.

Heather: Do you want us to answer them like they're from outside or do you want us to ask each other like, "Hey, Ben, can you explain what you meant when you were talking about that for people?" Is that how you want us to do it?

Catherine: Yes, I would keep it in the group.

Catherine: A question for Ben, which relates to the school system: When you revamped the school system, how did the state of Idaho treat federal money? And what kind of effect did it have on secondary education like the colleges and the universities?

Ben: We have, in Utah, an advocacy group for the use of precious metals called the United Precious Metals Association, and they help us out in Idaho. The Utah treasurer is very much on board with that philosophy, so is their attorney general. And they were able to influence our constitutional officers to make them more open-minded towards precious metals. But also I neglected when I talked about the Idaho gym program to point out that you could use the Idaho gym to pay your taxes, which created liquidity for the Idaho gym outside of the banking system. And the people just gobbled it up. And I think our constitutional officers in Idaho saw so much enthusiasm with the people on the precious metals issue that they dared not continue to push back. So they sort of got with the program because that was the political expediency thing to do moving forward.

I think there's networking opportunities, especially in the interim, to attend national conventions where we have like-minded legislators. And I know I've benefited a lot from what I've learned from legislators in other states, and they're benefiting from us. So, it's a constant communication and networking between like-minded people around the country that helps. But I also want to

say I think it's helped because quite a few of us have been speaking in in the public schools. And I think the average high school graduate was not seeing a bright future because in Bidenomics, we were flooding the economy with fiat money and it was driving up housing prices. But when we started to convert to precious metals, housing prices became stable, at least in precious metals, as the measuring stick. And I think the younger people, when they started to understand what money really was, they became more optimistic.

When America was founded, we benefited from the mentality of the colonists who were, to a large extent, were religious refugees who sailed across the ocean to have religious freedom. We have, as a state of Idaho, benefited from political refugees who have come here because they didn't like it where they were. And they value the freedom that we have here more because they've experienced lack of freedom. And it's been that mentality of being a refugee and wanting something better that has caused our new people to be engaged. And with new people engaged, we're able to get more done in the legislature. What do you expect the timeline to be? Okay, good.

Ben: Just for simplicity's sake, let's just go from top to bottom. That way, we don't have to jump around.

Heather: Ben is going to ask the first question to me, just in general, and I'll expand and try to answer that. Ben's first, and then maybe I'll just transition and go, " Phil, what I want to know is how did you find the judges?"

The next one was the questions for Ben. "Did you turn away any federal government money for education? How was the shortfall funded?"

Ben: The federal money one is a great one that I have a good answer for. There was no shortfall, but if the way that I said that made people think it was, it'd be great for me to answer that.

Heather: Go down the list to Carolyn Betts's question, and summarize that into a question for Ben. Then the next one, "As your efforts were successful and people move to Idaho, how did you help them embrace the commitment ?

Catherine: How did you transition everybody to the Idaho freedom culture?

Elaine: Because basically, that's just talking about the change in the culture of freedom minded people feeling less repressed and more open.

Catherine: I'd love to ask Carolyn's question to Josh, about the legislature. There's so much pension fund money and bank deposits in Boston and New York, so how did you move that money back? Or did the treasurer started to move that money back, because that's a big one?

Ben: All right. That was an awesome discussion we had. It's great to hear all of the successes. I had a quick question for Heather. What did you find was the most successful strategy for mobilizing the citizens of Idaho to the actions that you talked about?

Heather: You know, it was interesting up in North Idaho because we had all the Canadians coming down as we started building these communities, and we have many preppers and retired veterans in my area. They're big on communications and the ham operators and all that. But I think one of the most successful things was a pamphlet, 101 Things That We Put Out Up North. It was some random ideas for people to get involved and we just had a lot of competition. At the county fairs, we would have vegetable competitions and growing competitions; once we did the gun classes in the schools, we had all kinds of shooting competitions, and it just became the culture. It's amazing when the structure gets started.

It just becomes a natural competition among neighbors.

I think the big thing is when a crisis pops up, because we had our communications down because people were already talking about it at the county fairs and the gardening, and they were more of a community by then. Our barter fairs helped a lot, too. But by the time those tragedies came, we had a tight-knit community. It was rather amazing. I think the other thing I will add is what I mentioned earlier. We did a lot to try to retain the good legislators we had and the good elected officials we had and get rid of the bad ones. And we did that through our central committees and through the rating and vetting of candidates. To be a candidate anymore in North Idaho, you have to go through many questions. You get vetted pretty well. You can't 'beat around the bush' on your answers. And so that was super helpful as part of community building. And once you get good elected officials in your government, it's amazing how the culture just naturally changes. And we did let the Canadians come down a

little and enjoy our state, but we sent them back and said, “You have to fix your own country.”

My one question I had through this whole thing is back to Senator Hart. Can you just share about the judges? Because we did the vetting up here, but sometimes it's really hard to find judges. Can you talk a little bit more about how it happened that good judges came into play?

Phil: So when we impeached three judges, they realized someone was looking over their shoulder. So that helped. But the Idaho Bar Association had worked out this arrangement where if a judge didn't step out of their position three quarters of a year in advance before their term was up, when they were about ready to retire, the Bar Association would block them from getting part-time work as what they call the senior judge, which is a very nice arrangement. You make a lot of money, you get to work part-time hours, and has great retirement pay.

So, we were able to do away with that arrangement by forcing judges to fulfill their term. And what happened was when a judge steps away from his position before his term is up, the Bar Association gets to recommend the replacement of the judge. So, the Bar Association was choosing our judges, and then when the term was up and it was time to be re-elected, the Bar chosen attorney was the new judge who got on the ballot. So by forcing the judges to stay in their position to the end of their term, we were able to get the people to elect the judges of their choice. And we also moved the election of judges from May until November when there was more voter participation or more scrutiny on the candidates. So between those two things and the third thing of kind of getting a new attitude adjustment in the judiciary, we were able to get more liberty, freedom-minded judges.

I have a question for Ben, which relates to the school system. When we revamp the school system, how did the state of Idaho treat federal money? What effect did it have on secondary education like the colleges and the universities?

Ben: Thanks, Phil. That's a great question. The federal monies weren't addressed directly in the legislature, but there was a side benefit of funding of the refundable tax credits. What happened was the normal funding system would be about \$8,000 of state funds per student. Then about \$4,000 of federal

funds per student for a total of approximately \$12,000 per student per year, is what it was costing Idaho for K-12 education. When we put this \$6,000 tax credit in place, it just naturally excluded that \$4,000 of federal funding. That just went away, and students were able to be educated for that \$6,000.

We accomplished a \$2,000 savings less than the current state-funded system, and we cut out all the federal funding mechanism completely for those students. As that new system was adopted, and it was adopted fairly quickly as people learned about it, the federal funds were completely cut out of the equation and the \$6,000 worth of parent-directed resources were able to fund those students successfully, just with the \$6,000 of state money. Huge benefit. Obviously takes away the strings attached from the federal government. That means that we're less of the problem that's driving the debt at the national level.

As far as the secondary institutions, it's interesting, because this shift in how we operated at the K-12 level, it had ripple effects into the post-secondary education system. With this market-based system, it forced the post-secondary education system to respond, because we had students coming out, and they'd have ideas of what they wanted to do that were a lot more specific. There's a lot fewer general studies majors or some of the other ridiculous degrees that people go after.

The post-secondary institutions were forced to react to the demand. Students would come in, and they'd say, "I want to learn about this specifically. I've already had some experience in this area, and I want to learn more." As that demand was created, fortunately, Idaho has been able to respond, because we're the ones that are funding a lot of the post-secondary education system as well.

Catherine: Heather, can I jump in? I have a question for Elaine.

Heather: Absolutely.

Catherine: Elaine, when you introduced legislation to move the state into purchasing precious metals and the many other things that happened, what was the process by which you educated the legislature, and then the treasury staff and the auditors? It's a big education on both precious metals, and cryptocurrencies, and private currencies. What was that process and what worked to help them get educated and on board?

Elaine: Thankfully, we had a treasurer that had already done some research and was open to the idea that was helpful in that area. We did a lot of meetings and invited people to ask questions and express their concerns. Thankfully, that's something we have the ability to do in the legislature; tell people that, "Look, we're having experts here on this day, please come ask your questions. Let's help you understand this process."

We got some resistance at first, but we continued to make them available to answer questions so that people felt more comfortable with the process. Given the indication that this was not going to go away, this was legislation that we were going to continue to pursue, being persistent, I think is a big key to that because they had to accept and adapt that they needed to get to know these alternative currencies because we were going to make it happen.

Phil: Catherine, may I respond to that?

Catherine: Please, yes.

Phil: We have in Utah, an advocacy group for the use of precious metals called the United Precious Metals Association. They help us out in Idaho. The Utah Treasurer is very much on board with that philosophy, so is their attorney general. They were able to influence our constitutional officers to make them more open-minded towards precious metals.

I neglected, when I talked about the Idaho Gem program, to point out that you could use the Idaho Gem to pay your taxes, which created liquidity for the Idaho Gem outside of the banking system, and the people just gobbled it up. I think our constitutional officers in Idaho saw so much enthusiasm with the people on the precious metals issue, that they dared not continue to push back. They got with the program because that was the political expediency thing to do, moving forward.

Catherine: That's great.

Elaine: I think part of some of the issues that we were facing is once people, like Phil said, saw a push towards freedom, saw what freedom felt and looked like, they were more willing to encourage it and jump on board with it. I think once you start getting the ball rolling, people then are okay, so we aren't going to take these federal dollars and that may cost us in one avenue, but the rewards

in the other avenue were so big that it was worth taking that initial chance of getting rid of those federal funds to finding a new solution.

When we grew up, it encouraged those nonprofits back into the sectors and it encouraged those churches backed it into those sectors, that the federal government had taken over those positions. Now, it was the people coming together, forming these nonprofits, and getting back into the positions they were in before the federal government took control.

Catherine: I have to say, Elaine, because in Tennessee, Senator Niceley keeps saying that one of the things we grapple with is, "All these people are coming from California, how are we going to get them educated to our way of life?" We immediately always send them a copy of Garden & Gun Magazine and do these things like Heather said; all those great ideas about getting them with the guns in the garden.

When I was last in Idaho, I was amazed at how many people I met who had moved in the last few years, but they were so into the spirit of the culture and they had completely changed. I finally said- I forget if I said it to Matt or Pastor Tim, "You know, what is in the water here? Because freedom is infectious in Idaho. It's unbelievable."

Elaine: I think we talk about it so much, we talk about freedom, freedom, but in Idaho we show you what freedom is. Once you get a taste of it and you start to feel it; you don't need to talk about it anymore; you live it. I think one of the biggest things, and probably, Representative Tanner might be able to talk more about this, is our executive branch had gotten so big. They're supposed to have 20 agencies, but they have 189 commissions and agencies and all those agencies do administrative rules, and these rules have the same force of law.

What happened, and I think Josh can probably get into this in much more detail, is in Idaho, we have the opportunity to comment on those and direct what we want this executive branch to do. Most people don't even know about what an administrative rule is, but I know for sure that in Josh's area, they understand it, and in my area they do because we've talked about it. Josh, do you want to share a little of what you've done there to push back on those executive agencies through the rules?

Josh: Yes, we've continually grown and we've led the country in a sense of

reeling in that administrative rule process. One, we passed legislation that limited what they're able to write administrative rules for. Many states have the ability to write rules and Idaho was one of them in the early 2020s, on almost any aspect. We've limited what they're able to write a rule for, and it is a temporary type rule; it has to be temporary, it is non-permanent. Two, we've also made it to where they actually have to come up every other year.

I'd say the biggest benefit is we've made it so both bodies have to actually pass that rule to become law. Almost any other state, and it used to be that Idaho fell into that same trap, but only one body. If the Senate were to say, "Yes, we're okay with it, it automatically was passed." Now, we've required both the House and the Senate to actually have a chance to both vote on those. What we're seeing is the Senate maybe make a few cuts on things they don't like. It goes to the house to concur, but if we don't like some other language in there, we can take some additional things out. It has to go back to the Senate to get concurred.

It takes both bodies at this point, same as every other piece of legislation, to get passed. By doing that, we've stripped them and their ability to control one body or the other and pushing through these administrative rules. Before this, that was how they were controlling the state of Idaho. These agencies had such immense power, and we've stripped them of their ability to do almost anything, unless we as the legislators, tell them we want them to go down that road.

Elaine: I think too, it is limited. Our state was being overtaken by the corporations. The small businesses were struggling. I think when we started down this rules process we didn't realize these corporations were pushing for more rules and regulations in our state, and they're doing that in order to shrink those small businesses. They can't keep up with all the regulations. Once they get their competition out of the way, then they can relax the rules. Josh was instrumental in working with the small business community and stopping some of those rules going through, which helped our small businesses quite a bit.

Josh: Yes, the licensing aspect was a huge win for the state of Idaho. It limited the type of licensing that was required. The government is good at growing and creating more and more regulations. You go out throughout the entire country, and you can see that. I'd say that Idaho led that charge again on limiting what that licensing can do before and what authority they can have to enforce any of

that. When you take the enforcement ability away, the licensing aspect starts to shrink significantly.

I'd say that that is a tremendous win for Idaho. It set us on a path to finding out why businesses want to come to Idaho. We continually see a growth in people coming up with innovative ideas because we're unrestrictive. We let their imagination go to where we can actually create a new product to be able to better society in general. We're in the cultivating era of the 1940s throughout our country, where we saw this industry booming. We see that here in Idaho, and why it stopped in so many states is because of all those licensing and those regulations that were put upon them.

Ben: One thing I liked that you, Josh, mentioned earlier, is the leadership role Idaho has taken and how it's been really adopted by many other states. I wanted to open it up to the group and see what are some of the strategies that each of us have used to be able to take these messages and these strategies and take them to other states so they could adopt them and have some of the same freedoms that we enjoy.

Phil: I think there's networking opportunities, especially in the interim, to attend national conventions where we have like-minded legislators. I know I've benefited plenty from what I've learned from legislators in other states, and they're benefiting from us. It's a constant communication and networking between like-minded people around the country that helps.

I also want to say that I think it's helped because quite a few of us have been speaking in the public schools. I think the average high school graduate did not see a bright future because, under Bidenomics, we were flooding the economy with fiat money, which was driving up housing prices. However, when we started to convert to precious metals, housing prices became stable. The precious metals is the measuring stick. I think the younger people, when they started to understand what money really was, became more optimistic.

Ben: I agree. That shift away from Biden economics when Trump won in 2024, was pivotal to where we're at now.

Heather: I'll say that Representative Price and me are public members of the Freedom Caucus. It's the liberty people in the state that network. We network with other states across the country. I think we're up to 22 or something, across

the states; we network regularly. We have a retreat; a Freedom Caucus retreat once a year where we discuss the issues we're all dealing with. We forget that a whole country's dealing with the same issues. We sometimes get stuck in our bubbles, but the same problems we have, other people have too.

Elaine: Once they see a state have success, people reach out to us as well and ask, "How did we get to the spot we're at?" They ask questions on how they can take what we've done and apply it to their state. People reach out to us, seeking information and trying to figure out how they can replicate it in their state as well.

Ben: I think it's clear that it's not any one of us that was able to accomplish this. I think much of the credit goes back to the citizens being involved. I was going to see what have you all done to engage with your local citizens and how have they supported the legislation and the changes that we've been able to see in the last few years?

Elaine: I think it's important that you get your message out on what you stand for and what your platform is. They're the ones that elect those legislatures to the positions so they can accomplish these goals. It's grassroots; it's not anything I've done specifically. It's the fact that my constituents had the faith to put me in this position to be able to get this legislation passed, and that's how we have so much success and so much strength, through these grassroots, through these churches, through these people that encourage us and get behind us and show us what they want to be passed, and show us that we're on the right track to fulfilling where they see the freedoms in Idaho going. They're the ones that really direct us. It's not us doing it. They're directing us on what they want to see done.

Phil: When America was founded, we benefited from the mentality of the colonists who were, to a large extent, religious refugees who sailed across the ocean to have religious freedom. As the state of Idaho, we've benefited from political refugees who have come here because they didn't like it where they were, and they value the freedom that we have here more because they've experienced lack of freedom. It's been that mentality of being a refugee and wanting something better that has caused our new people to be engaged. With new people engaged, we're able to get more done in the legislature.

Josh: For me, one of the large things that I've been able to do that really

resonated with my constituents was creating many classes. One, we did the US constitution, the Idaho Constitution, the budgeting process, the rules process. I found that we've built out an entire team within my community, that now, they understand how government works, how the state of Idaho functions, and where to find the information. I don't know how many people that I have, and even across the state, are reading legislation as they are being written and presented in committees.

We've seen such a large engagement from the community itself; from the citizens and just wanting more that liberty minded style legislation, more freedoms, less restrictions. I think that is one of the things that has shown huge fruit and large benefit across the state.

Pastor Tim: If I could say, being in the legislature for a time and then coming back to this particular point, 10 years ago, in 2020, when everything went down, the churches had to shut down. We had a group of people in the church that were asking, "How did all of this happen? Where were our legislators at the time?" After that, I vowed that we were going to have the town halls in the church. We were going to start inviting all the legislators back to the churches to talk to us, to speak to us.

One of the best information avenues we had back then, when you had 10,000 people going to church, and now, there are 15,000 people going to church. You can literally address those 15,000 people in two hours on a Sunday morning through their pastor because of the relationships now that we have built with our legislature. Now, we talk with the legislators, the legislators comes and we actually pray over them at our churches. We have our churches question them about who they are, what they're going to do. We have built such a rapport in the past 10 years, that now, they have access to an immediate 15,000 people overnight that they are able to address.

I honestly feel that is one of the biggest things we have done, because now, you have 15,000 people that can pray for you, 15,000 people that can vote on your behalf for the virtue of this state, and for the moral excellence of this state, but it's been one of the biggest things that we have done; we have built a rapport between the legislators and the churches.

Our inalienable rights come from God, and if people want to know about those particular rights, they have to go to what the Bible says they are. To do that,

they have to go to the churches. Now that the church has made it clear here, this is where the freedom has exploded. It's been a real pleasure working with the legislators all this time.

Heather: I can quickly add: It's networking with these groups. You meet them in church, and you find out what they're involved in. We have everything from neighborhood watch groups that work hand-in-hand with our sheriffs, to bible study prayer groups, to food groups. There's all these different kinds of networking that we do up north. I always tell people, "You don't have to do everything and you don't have to do what everybody else is doing. You just have to do that one thing that God's called you to do, and that's all you need to do." If everybody does that and does that one thing God's called him to do, we'll have the body; we'll have the body of the church working for His glory.

Elizabeth: Are there any other questions that we wanted to ask or are thinking that this crosstalk section is wrapping up?

Catherine: I think we have about 100 questions. If you see all the questions that have been pouring in as people have been listening, and all the questions I have. I think this has been an amazing conversation, because it never ceases to amaze me at the complexity the state legislators deals with, particularly when they're also running a business. If they're doing legislation part-time and they're also doing a business, I have to tell you all, the command you have of the Idaho economy, and the Idaho life is amazing.

One of my favorite videos is when a group of the yellow jackets in the street of Paris tried to engage Macron in a discussion about the economy, and they had a look of horror as they realized he had no clue how the economy worked. It's always gratifying when I'm with a group like you, because your command of the nuts and bolts of leading and managing and running Idaho. You've clearly spent decades building this incredible literacy, and your leadership is so deeply appreciated.

I think the one question I have is that there's so much effort to persuade people that freedom is not possible and to give up hope. Yet you are so effective and so persistent, and you have endured and achieved amazing things. How is it that you keep moving forward with that level of endurance and persistence? Tell us how you do it so we can do it too.

Phil: Catherine, on the Liberty Bell, there's an inscription. It's a verse out of Leviticus. It says, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. Where the Lord is, there's liberty." I think liberty is the status of human existence that we need to strive for. It hasn't been the normal status over the thousands of years, but I think it's what we need to strive for. Religious liberty and economic liberty, they're really tied together. I don't think you can have one without the other. I guess as believers, we're motivated to exercise our freedom and not let anyone stop us.

Elaine: Well said, Phil. I agree that if you don't have God, you don't have hope. Because we have a belief in God, we have hope that if we fight, he's going to be right there with us and His will will be done. It's just easy to have faith that our freedom's going to win when you have faith in God.

Ben: I'll just add that when you see the results of freedom on the people, I think it's a beautiful motivating factor. You see that, and you see it play out in people's lives and you see it play out in society. I don't know how you cannot be involved and engaged in helping continue that.

Heather: I'll add that both of my grandfathers were in World War II. My dad was a Vietnam vet. I know what they went through. I know what they brought back with them. What they did for this country, and I feel like this is just such a little part when I look at the sacrifice they made with their families and what they did, I have no choice but to try to do whatever I can to help honor what they did for us and what they gave us in this wonderful country.

Elaine: I just want to add too, that I hear this saying quite often is that if we're in a future where freedom is not there and your grandchild looks up at you and says, "Grandma, what did you do to advance freedom?" If you don't have an answer, how devastating that would be. I agree that I want to be able to say that I gave everything to advance freedom.

Catherine: Elizabeth, should we ask Pastor Tim to close this in prayer?

Elizabeth: I think we should.

Pastor Tim: Thank you, Lord, for the time that we've had today. Thank you Lord God for the years that has been spent, Lord God, getting all of this accomplished. Thank you Lord God for our liberty. Thank you that there are

people willing to fight for it. Thank you for the many, many people, Lord God, that we have put in office, Lord God, through our election process that we have here, that we check their virtue who they are, their temperament, their character more than anything, Lord.

Thank you we found people that are full of character. Thank you Lord God, they are honest men of integrity and women of integrity. Lord, we thank you that we have been able to sustain freedom: Freedom from tyranny, freedom, Lord God, from people taking away our right to be able to pray and to be able to worship like many other countries that have been taken over, Lord.

People would do anything to get to America so they have the freedoms and the liberties that we have. We just want to stop and we want to say thank you for all of it. Thank you for every one of these people that have been a part of it. Bless the great state of Idaho and bless all of our legislators in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Josh: Amen.

Ben: Amen.

Elizabeth: Fantastic. Thank you all so much for joining us today. If you have any questions, feel free to send into the group, text, or email me. We'll get a copy of the recording to you once it's ready.

Josh: What do you expect the timeline to be?

Catherine: It will probably take a one to two weeks to get something that's sufficiently well edited to get it to you for checking.

Josh: Okay.

Catherine: We're going to have make a transcript right away. Elizabeth, as soon as we have the transcript, if the video isn't ready, let's get the transcript to everybody, because that way, if you want to check and edit, it makes it easier. The edit will be tighter than the transcript, and then the final transcript will come out from the edited version. We should have something to you in about one to two weeks. Okay?

Josh: Okay, good.

Heather: Thank you.

Catherine: Thank you everyone. That was a great job.

Elizabeth: Thank you.

Heather: All right, bye.

MODIFICATION

Transcripts are not always verbatim. Modifications are sometimes made to improve clarity, usefulness and readability, while staying true to the original intent.

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