
IDAHO VOTERS' PAMPHLET

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GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday ★ November 6, 2018

ELECTION DAY VOTING FROM 8 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Last Day for Voter Pre-Registration

Friday, October 12

Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot

Friday, October 26

- Proposition One: Historical Horse Racing
- Proposition Two: Medicaid Eligibility Expansion
- Voter and County Clerk Contact Information

VOTER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION » IdahoVotes.gov



PROPOSITION

2

**MEDICAID
ELIGIBILITY
EXPANSION**

AN INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE SHALL AMEND ITS STATE PLAN TO EXPAND MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY TO CERTAIN PERSONS.

Relating to Medicaid; amending Chapter 2, Title 56, Idaho Code, by the addition of a new Section 56-267, Idaho Code, to provide that the state shall amend its state plan to expand Medicaid eligibility to certain persons and to provide that the Department of Health and Welfare is required and authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the provisions of this section; and amending Section 56-262, Idaho Code, to provide a correct code reference.

WHAT YOUR VOTE WILL DO

YES

A **YES** vote would approve the proposed law to expand Medicaid eligibility in Idaho.

NO

A **NO** vote would make no change to Idaho's current law.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION TWO

Voting YES on Proposition 2 will help more than 62,000 Idahoans access healthcare. These are working Idahoans who make less than \$17,000 a year as an individual, or a family of three making less than \$29,000 a year. They work in jobs that don't offer healthcare and they make too much to qualify for Medicaid. This initiative will help hard-working Idahoans who can't afford life-saving care for asthma, diabetes, or cancer, or even simple, preventative care.

Voting YES on Proposition 2 lets the people of Idaho decide what's most important in our healthcare. As politicians fight over the issue, this measure gives Idahoans a real voice. A yes vote says that no one should be forced to choose between life-saving care and putting food on the table.

Voting YES on Proposition 2 will also bring Idaho taxpayers' dollars back from Washington. Right now, Idahoans send hundreds of millions of dollars in federal taxes to Washington, D.C., but, instead of coming back here, our taxes are redistributed to the 33 other states that have

expanded Medicaid. That's money we've left on the table for years. By voting yes on Proposition 2, we'll finally be able to bring OUR money home to Idaho.

Voting YES on Proposition 2 is the smart choice for Idaho taxpayers who are already paying for the uninsured. By forcing the uninsured to access care through the emergency room after their health reaches a crisis point, we provide care in the least efficient manner and drive up insurance premiums for the rest of us. Instead of raising taxes on property owners and businesses to pay for hospital visits, Idaho could reduce taxes while creating jobs and a healthier workforce.*

Vote YES on Proposition 2. Proposition 2 has the support of two-thirds of Idahoans, including a majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

Vote YES on Proposition 2 along with Idaho business owners, doctors, nurses, law enforcement officials, and teachers who all agree that Medicaid expansion makes good economic sense and it's the right thing to do.

Please vote "YES" on Proposition 2.

**A recent, non-partisan report on Proposition 2 showed "significant savings to state and local governments due to lower costs from emergency medical services." The same report showed "net taxpayer savings" of more than \$15 million/year if existing, overlapping programs are eliminated. – Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy, "Fiscal Impacts of Medicaid Expansion", July 19th, 2018*

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION TWO

Vote No on Proposition 2. Proposition 2 will expand Obamacare by putting tens of thousands of able-bodied, childless adults on Medicaid.

In states that have expanded Medicaid, more than half of the able-bodied adults added to the rolls are not working.

Here's an idea: Instead of expanding Medicaid to able-bodied people, let's help them find work, pay taxes, and get health insurance – like most Idaho families do.

Medicaid expansion is a bad gamble for taxpayers:

The numbers never work. California, Oregon, and almost every other state that has expanded Obamacare have experienced skyrocketing enrollments, massive cost overruns, and higher taxes. Let's not jeopardize Idaho's finances with a Medicaid expansion that will take money away from roads and schools.

The most vulnerable will lose. If we expand Obamacare, able-bodied adults start

competing for the same pool of medical resources as children, pregnant women, and the disabled.

The "free money" from the feds isn't free. The federal money for Medicaid expansion is just more deficit spending. We will borrow from foreign governments to pay for Medicaid expansion for able-bodied adults. These are NOT your tax dollars at work, they are debts you will pass on to your children.

Don't be fooled. Proposition 2 is an attempt to prop up Obamacare by funneling borrowed dollars into Big Medicine and Planned Parenthood. Let's not become more dependent on D.C. Let's keep Idaho working and stop this scheme at the Idaho border. **Vote no on Proposition 2.**

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION TWO

Proposition 2, Medicaid expansion, would not lower the cost of medical care for the average Idahoan. Instead, Medicaid expansion, a cornerstone of Obamacare, would put Idaho one step closer to a top-down, federal-government-run, taxpayer-funded healthcare system. If Medicaid expansion occurs, it would be nearly impossible to reverse. Below are the top reasons why Idahoans should vote NO on Prop 2.

- Medicaid expansion would take funds away from education, roads, and other budget priorities. During the past 12 years, Medicaid spending in Idaho has more than doubled, thereby taking money away from classrooms, roads, and other items. Should Proposition 2 pass, either more funds would be diverted to Medicaid, taxes would be increased, or both could occur.
- Proposition 2 would expand healthcare coverage to people who are able to work. They and low-income individuals already have options to help them obtain affordable healthcare.
- The truly needy, who currently receive Medicaid assistance, could find themselves harmed if Medicaid expands to cover the able-bodied. The state shouldn't prioritize the care of childless adults above that of pregnant women, children, and the disabled.

Other reasons to vote NO on Proposition 2 include:

Medicaid expansion would add to the national debt, because of increased federal government support for the program. After expansion, nearly half of Idaho's budget would come directly from federal funds. Additionally, expansion would help entrench the failed results of Obamacare.

Further, as California, Oregon, and other states have found, future Medicaid costs would likely be far higher than expansion proponents and the government estimate.

States that have expanded Medicaid, on average, have seen enrollments more than double what was initially projected. This is not surprising. Of the 12 million able-bodied adults added to Medicaid through expansion in other states, more than half are not working. We don't want to make Idaho attractive to those who don't want to work.

You might have heard that large hospital associations, doctors, and other medical professionals support Medicaid expansion. Why? These large medical providers seek an injection of taxpayer funds and want to off-load the costs of care onto taxpayers. Many of these same groups supported Obamacare, with all of its false promises to lower the cost of healthcare.

We advocate a NO vote on Proposition 2 because it would mean less money for other budget items—education, roads, and other priorities—or tax increases. Or, expansion would mean program cuts and tax increases. Further, Proposition 2 would provide health coverage to people who could obtain subsidized healthcare. Finally, this initiative jeopardizes care for the truly needy. Vote NO on Proposition 2.

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION TWO

Proposition 2 gives hard-working families the chance to access life-saving healthcare and brings our taxes back to Idaho, where they belong.

While opponents of Medicaid expansion have tried to politicize this issue, the truth is 33 other states (including 17 states led by Republican governors) have already implemented it for a simple reason—it works.

In 2015, our neighbors in Montana expanded Medicaid through a bipartisan effort. Since then, nearly 100,000 people have gained access to healthcare – many for the first time.¹ In Arkansas, expansion is projected to have a net positive impact of \$637 million on the state's budget.² In Kentucky, uncompensated care dropped by 60 percent in just six months, helping rural hospitals keep their doors open.³ In Colorado, Medicaid expansion has generated more than 31,000 new jobs, increasing the average annual earnings per household by \$643.⁴

Proposition 2 will deliver similar benefits for Idahoans. It will help anyone earning less than \$17,000 a year get access to healthcare. It's the fiscally responsible decision too, bringing nearly \$400 million of our money home from

Washington, D.C.⁵ — funds that will help create jobs in Idaho and boost our economy. Proposition 2 is a good deal for our state, and it's the right thing to do for our friends, family, and neighbors.

Vote "YES" on Proposition 2.

Footnotes:

- 1 – Montana Healthcare Foundation
- 2 – Medicaid expansion: Just the facts
- 3 – State Health Reform Networking
- 4 – Colorado Health Institute
- 5 – Milliman: Financial Impacts from Medicaid Expansion