



Conservation Voters for Idaho Due Diligence Document

1.5°Climate Strategy Group: Due Diligence Instructions

Executive Summary:

While the world - and most certainly Idaho - has changed, Conservation Voters for Idaho has grown significantly as an organization. We've expanded the organization in new and exciting ways and accomplished long-lasting change for Idaho communities, including:

- Electing pro-conservation majorities in key districts and municipalities
- Laying the groundwork for Idaho communities to equitably transition to 100% clean energy and electrify its transportation sector, including the implementation of electric school buses. Through our work, Three out of four Idahoans are now living in a community or utility service area that has a clean energy commitment.
- Launching the Boards and Commissions Fellowship Program - one of the first of its kind in the country - to empower Idahoans from historically marginalized communities to serve in leadership positions
- Supporting federal policies to benefit Idaho, such as the Great American Outdoors Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and worked with policymakers to ensure investments were - and continue to be - equitably implemented
- Engaging more than a million Idahoans on key environmental issues online, at the doors, over the phone, through the mail, and over the airwaves

While we've made steadfast progress for conservation in Idaho, we know there's no time to waste. 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 have made tackling this threat all the more challenging. 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.

Fundraising:

We are seeking \$60,000 in c4 funding to unlock \$60,000 in matching funds from the League of Conservation Voters. With the additional \$120,000 in funding, CVI could expand its staff capacity to educate decision makers and mobilize Idahoans to push elected officials to accept, pursue and deploy federal climate infrastructure funding.

Theory of Change:

Our Theory of Change is grounded in the belief that electing pro-conservation majorities at every level of government in Idaho is the best approach to making meaningful progress in protecting Idaho's clean air and water, wildlife, and open spaces. Our family of organizations provides us with a unique advantage in influencing Idaho's political process, which is where most environmental issues are won or lost.

Primary Influence Tactic:

From the Idaho Governor's office to the Boise Mayor, to a coalition of bipartisan, pro-conservation legislators at the statehouse, CVI has deep relationships that span the political spectrum and key stakeholder groups.

We back up this political power with staying connected to communities through our year-round voter outreach team- connecting with Idahoans at their doors about what matters most to them and their families. This allows us to maneuver our grassroots' influence with the voices and values of everyday Idahoans more effectively.

Unique Strategy/Special Sauce:

- Bipartisan leadership: CVI is uniquely positioned to make meaningful change in Idaho due to our strong relationships with moderate Republicans, both locally and in the Statehouse.
- Innovative, year-round organizing: CVI employs a year round team of campaign staff and organizers to elect leaders and then hold them accountable for direct, innovative, and targeted campaigns.
- Locally focused: With a challenging and often extreme state legislature, change in Idaho often comes at the local level. CVI has developed strong relationships throughout the State with mayors, city council members, county commissioners, staff, utilities, partners, and voters.
- Focus on environmental justice in a red state: Through our Boards and Commissions Fellowship, our Civic Engagement Program, and our climate justice work, CVI has helped foster challenging but critical connections between environmental justice communities and conservative decision makers. We're working to ensure those most impacted by

climate change and environmental degradation are at the forefront of shaping the solutions.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Statement:

It is our responsibility to fight for environmental justice and actively work to address the adverse impacts the systems of oppression, racism, and discrimination have on Idaho communities. All individuals, particularly people of color, indigenous, low-income, and other marginalized groups, deserve safe access to clean air, clean water, green spaces, and participation in democracy.

While we recognize we are at the early stages of our racial justice and equity journey, we are committed to making the conservation movement and the political process more accessible to marginalized and oppressed communities. We must prioritize creating authentic relationships and working with and within these communities seeking input, history, and knowledge. Without feedback on our approaches and involvement in the decision-making process of our work, we will fall short of our goals.

Our efforts must consistently reflect and take into consideration the diverse identities, cultures, and lived experiences of the people we serve. We must work in partnership and support marginalized communities, centering our work on collaboratively finding the best solutions to complex issues rooted in historic and systemic barriers that impede opportunity for healthy environments. Furthermore, we must utilize the tools of democracy to make necessary and lasting change.

Leadership Team Roles + Board Members:

Number of Paid Staff: **15**

Staff Demographics (as a percentage):

Gender	%	Race/Ethnicity	%	Sexual Orientation	%
Male	33	African American or Black	6	Identifies as LGBTQ	13
Female	54	American Indian/Alaska Native	0		
Non-binary	13	Asian or Pacific Islander	0		
Other (specify)		Hispanic or Latinx	0		
		Multi-racial or Multi-ethnic	6		
		White (non-Hispanic)	88		
		Race/ethnicity not listed			

Number of Board Members: 10

Board Demographics (as a percentage):

Gender	%	Race/Ethnicity	%	Sexual Orientation	%
Male	60	African American or Black	10	Identifies as LGBTQ	10
Female	40	American Indian/Alaska Native	20		

Non-binary		Asian or Pacific Islander			
Other (specify)		Hispanic or Latinx	10		
		Multi-racial or Multi-ethnic			
		White (non-Hispanic)	60		
		Race/ethnicity not listed			

Organizations Structure & Overhead:

Our family of organizations provides us with a unique advantage in influencing Idaho’s political process, which is where most environmental issues are won or lost.

- As a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization, Conservation Voters for Idaho (CVI) can carry out unlimited lobbying on policy issues, endorse candidates for office, offer training opportunities for candidates, and hold our elected officials accountable for their votes on conservation and democracy issues.
- Conservation Voters for Idaho Action Fund (CVIAF), our affiliated political action committee (PAC), engages directly in electoral campaigns to elect endorsed candidates for state, county, and city offices.
- Conservation Voters for Idaho Education Fund (CVIEF) is the 501(c)3 nonprofit sister organization, which plays an important part in our efforts to engage our communities, build power and advance change.

Our FY 2024 combined operating budget is \$1,279,700 and our FY 2023 combined operating budget was \$1,212,563

Impact Reporting:

Over the next year, we’ll track community leader and elected official engagement, list growth in targeted counties and cities, actions taken by CVI members, campaigns won/lost, coalition reach, and number of earned media pieces placed.

Barriers/Risks:

Conservation Voters for Idaho has committed to growing our staff sustainably. With our current organizational priorities, our program staff are at capacity and unable to commit the time to our clean energy work that is required for us to meet our goals. With support from the 1.5°Climate Strategy Group, CVI would be able to hire a Clean Energy Fellow for two years who could dedicate their efforts to push elected officials to accept, pursue and deploy federal climate infrastructure funding. Funding requested would cover the salary and benefits of the fellow, any related travel costs and limited overhead related to this position. Without funding, this work will be spread between our Program Director and Program Associate. CVI’s ability to reach elected officials and voters would be severely impacted due to lack of capacity among staff.