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Idaho Representative Paulette Jordan Announces Her Candidacy for Governor of Idaho

Dec. 7, 2017, Moscow, Idaho – On Thursday night, Idaho Representative Paulette Jordan strode through a room packed with Idahoans and announced her candidacy for Governor of Idaho. The crowd—farmers, ranchers, teachers, business professionals, families, students, leaders, and community members—cheered.

Ms. Jordan’s fundamental message is simple: Justice for all. “As a society, we must move beyond labels which separate us and rediscover the humanity which unites us, Jordan said. “Discrimination damages lives, it harms families, and it alienates Idahoans. We want to keep our Idaho communities intact because Idaho’s future belongs to all of us.”

If elected, Jordan would make history. She would be the first woman to serve as Idaho governor and the first Native American Woman to serve as governor of any state.

Representative Jordan, 38, is a native of Idaho and an enrolled member of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe of Idaho. “I grew up in a farming family and my grandparents showed me that cultivating the land was a continuation of our ancestral traditions of caring for homelands,” Jordan said. “Coeur d’Alene peoples have cared for Idaho homelands since time immemorial and Idahoans today practice the same combination of self-sufficiency and cooperation that my grandparents did. This reminds me of how connected we are to one another, it reminds me that Idaho is my family.”

Representative Jordan is currently serving her second term in the Idaho House of Representatives. She is a member of the Idaho House Resources and Conservation Committee, State Affairs Committee, and the Energy, Environment & Technology Committee. Rep. Jordan is also an appointed Idaho Representative to the Energy and Environment Committee of the Council of State Governments for the Western Region. “It is possible to care for our lands and rivers while also supporting our farms and ranches, to engage in conservation while also fostering the business and technology development which is growing Idaho’s community and economy,” Jordan said.

The early work ethic Jordan learned on her family’s farm and ranching heritage motivated her throughout college at the University of Washington, and it drove her to complete specialized certificates at the University of Idaho and at the Harvard John F. Kennedy school of government, so that she could serve Idaho more comprehensively

as a legislator. It also led her to the stage tonight, “When I asked myself how I could serve Idaho even better, the governor’s office was my answer.”

Representative Jordan elaborated, “Idaho is a state I fall in love with over and over. This is the place that fostered me and this is the place I was raised to serve.” She continued, “Service is an inherent value in my family, from my ancestors on down to my sons, and they will carry that tradition forward in their lives. I’m proud to be part of Idaho’s family. Because of who we are and who we can become, my vision for the twenty-first century is seeing Idaho emerge as the greatest state in the history of the United States.”

Representative Jordan’s public service extends to tribal and governmental groups across the nation. This broader perspective informs her comprehension of universal issues across states, such as the economy and education. Her participation in national conversations has prepared her to work for Idaho in interstate, federal, and international settings.

Coming off her second term in the legislature, Representative Jordan plans to draw from her experience as a minority party member to inform her leadership as governor. “The majority party can be insular and keeps their circle small, because they do not need to cooperate to advance their goals,” she said. “But, members of the minority party must engage colleagues across the aisle, and develop meaningful comprehension of policies and positions held by others, so that the shared work of governing can succeed.” Jordan continued, “In my family, our circle can always get bigger, and that’s what I see for Idaho. A bigger circle is what achieving justice for all looks like.”

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