

# It is Legal in Idaho

But do you want:

For smaller boards, i.e. those that only have three or four positions to fill, **a couple could tip the scales. Having two people with presumably the same motivations and goals on the board would mean that certain decisions would always get the majority vote. Allowing spouses on smaller boards is equivalent to letting them essentially control the association.**

This, of course, sows distrust between the board and the rest of the community's members. **When a single unit or household automatically gets two votes on issues,** it can produce an unfavorable atmosphere. Pretty soon, members will start questioning the board's decisions. They will wonder whether or not the decisions are good for the community or simply good for the couple.

Even if the spouses have good intentions, that is not always how other owners will interpret it. Simply permitting them to be on the board together can create the appearance of misconduct or dishonesty. Owners will think that the spouses are conspiring specifically to benefit their interests by influencing the voting scale. And while it is entirely possible for spouses to have differing opinions on issues, they are more likely to be in agreement.

## **UNDERSTANDING VOTING POWER**

Obviously, a big part of why it is generally not recommended to allow spouses (single household) on the same board is due to an imbalance in voting power. It is essentially giving a single household the ability to tip the scales in their favor when the board is voting on issues.

When it comes to elections and issues where the membership gets a vote, the rule is usually one vote per household — that much is true. But, the one vote rule does not apply when it comes to issues placed before the board. If your HOA permits spouses to serve on the board simultaneously, they each get one vote when the board votes on association matters. And therein lies the problem for most members.

**All Meadowcrest Homeowners, YOUR VOTE COUNTS!! But a quorum must be met at the May 22, 2023 HOA Meeting!!**