



2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

CANDIDATE NAME: **ADRIEL MARTINEZ**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **SENATE 17**

PARTY: **DEMOCRAT**

Q1. The K-12 Education budget is the state's largest by far, yet some people still believe that we are not spending enough. What would you do to help Idaho's K-12 students receive a stellar education?

I would try to make a public-private partnership that helps invest in our public education system. This proposal would help relieve the tax burden of the citizens in this state. I would also promote bonds and levies at the local level, thus helping to keep the state budget under control. My view is that we need to utilize every state and federal dollar we get in the most efficient way possible.

Q2. Graduation rates at Idaho's four-year universities are stagnant while tuition continues to increase (with the exception of the one-year tuition freeze). What would you do to bring down the cost of higher education and help students graduate with less debt?

I will work to cap tuition increases via the inflation rate. Tuition will always get more expensive, but why at such an exponential rate compared to the cost of living index? Public universities say they are not for profit, but this is unfortunately not true. I attended Boise State using my GI Bill and only because of that. BSU's tuition rate and overall cost of attending is far too high for their middle of the road education. I would never have paid out of pocket to go there.

Q3. Idaho has both an income tax and a sales tax, while five of our six neighbors have only one or the other. Idaho also has high property taxes. What changes do you suggest, if any, to Idaho's state tax structure?

I would not change our current tax system, as it is already very low and barely keeps the state running. I will work to get rid of the grocery tax though, as this is very unnecessary. As a legislator I would propose legalizing marijuana to bring in more tax revenue and privatizing liquor sales so the state could save millions while adding even more revenue.

I will also work on capping property tax hikes for a few years while also adding tax relief for homeowners.

Q4. The grocery sales tax has long been debated in Idaho. Should Idaho repeal the tax on groceries? If yes, when?

Yes! Hopefully we can get this done next session because we are one of the only states still taxes a necessity.

Q5. Urban renewal districts receive all the increases in property tax revenue within their borders, which forces other property owners to fund increased service requirements. Should Idaho end urban renewal? If not, should state lawmakers change urban renewal law?

Urban renewal districts can be a good thing if used right, which they currently are not. They need a major overhaul and several need to be suspended like the CCDC.

Q6. Healthcare is a significant expense in Idaho's state budget, rivaling education in total appropriations. How would you tackle ever-increasing state Medicaid costs? More broadly, what ideas do you propose to help make quality healthcare more affordable for all?

Legalizing marijuana and privatizing liquor sales are the first step, they will both rake in millions for the budget. Healthcare is a right so we must work to make it available to those who qualify while also budgeting for it.

Q7. Criminal justice reform has become a bipartisan issue in recent years. Should Idaho explore further reforms? If so, which reforms would you support?

I support emptying the jails and prisons of non-violent offenders to save the public tax money. I would work to decriminalize marijuana which is costing our criminal justice system money. Part of CJ reform is fixing our bail system, which penalizes poorer members of the community and our public defender system which is stretched thin at the moment.

Q8. In 2020, Idaho saw some reduction in occupational licensing mandates. Should Idaho continue to identify and implement alternatives to licensure burdens? If yes, which licenses should be reviewed or repealed?

We should always cut the extra red tape on anything to do with government oversight, but we must also remember some things need to be heavily regulated in this country. Upon getting into office I would review any legislation pertaining to this issue and make my judgement when educated on a bill.

Q9. Federal dollars always come with strings, yet a significant portion of Idaho's annual state budget is funded with federal money. Should Idaho work to reduce its dependence on federal funding? If yes, how?

Our state is small and has a low tax haul from the citizens so we will always need federal money. We should be more dependent, but that would require more taxes within the state, especially on businesses. Part of this would also involve my plan to legalize marijuana and end government control of liquor.

Q10. Education choice allows parents and students to choose the education that best suits their needs. What policies would you support to strengthen education choice in Idaho?

Parents should always have the choice in where and how their children are educated. They need a healthy choice of public, charter, private, and home school. They also need to understand there is a standard of education and Idaho ranks almost dead last in the country so they must step up to the plate ready for change.

Q11. What is the proper role of state government?

State government is there to manage the budget, provide services, and to cater to the people whom it serves. The state must protect individual liberty and respect freedom in general while ensuring fairness to all citizens.

