



# 2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

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CANDIDATE NAME: **AARON VON EHLINGER**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **HOUSE 6A**

PARTY: **REPUBLICAN**

**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?**

Eliminate common core, and streamline administration costs so the funds already being directed to education are spent on the education of children. Not the salaries of needless administration employees.

**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?**

State funded colleges and universities should go through a full and required forensic audit and productivity checkup every two years by a taskforce that reports to the Idaho Legislature, who then sets the necessary budget. This will help bring down costs. Getting rid of unnecessary positions like diversity coordinators would be good start. Accountability is absolutely key to this issue. We must end the leftist social engineering of Idaho's college students, and get back to educating job ready students.

**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?**

We must reduce spending on the local, county, and state level. I would like Idaho to get to the point where eliminating the property tax is realistic. This would allow people to truly feel the pride of home and property ownership, instead of really only being a renter from the state.

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

Yes. Now. It should have been done this year already.

**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?**

I want to ban the existence of urban renewal boards in the state of Idaho.

**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?**

Transparency in medical billing is definitely one of the answers to this question. As for Medicaid, we must get government out of our healthcare. Free market competition and loosened restrictions on insurance companies to cross state lines more freely would help.

**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 believe Idaho should implement a prisoner work program for non violent convicts. The prisoners would be out working the fields and the dairies in southern Idaho. This would alleviate the need for illegal alien labor in the state of Idaho. Prisoners could receive a reduced sentence based on their behavior and productivity. A job training and placement program would also be beneficial as convicts transition back into society.

**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?**

I am in favor of repealing as many licensure mandates as safely possible. Obviously there are some that need to stay in place like medical professionals, electricians etc.

**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?**

Idaho should try to reduce its dependence on federal funding where it can. Reducing spending would help the state to be able to do this. Eliminating common core should possibly be the first part of reducing Idaho's Federal dependence. Every agency in

the state of Idaho should initially be reviewed to determine if it's existence is crucial, and truly beneficial to the citizens of Idaho. If they are not, the agency should be terminated. Every agency that survives the initial cut should be audited annually or semi annually to ensure accountability.

**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?**

I support abolishing common core, and the issuance of tax vouchers for parents who decide to homeschool their children.

**Q11. What is the proper role of state government?**

To preserve the individual liberty and rights of it's citizens, free markets, private property rights, and to adhere to the state constitution.