



# 2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

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CANDIDATE NAME: **SCOTT BROCK**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **SENATE 11**

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?**

I would like to put an emphasis on two aspects within the educational system. 1) I would like to focus on a pathway for students into trade or technical type fields. Kuna is leading the way by building a state of the art technical school. Idaho is traditionally a blue collar state, and I would like to help rejuvenate this lost part of Idaho culture, while giving students a pathway to better paying "essential" type jobs, with less combined debt. 2) I would like to focus on helping our students and Idaho, by having a checks and balance system on the return on the monetary investment. However I do understand the complexities of collecting the data to get a true understanding of why salaries and educational costs continue to rise, yet graduation rates are below projections, along with many other scoring standards. Maybe, just maybe, point number will help with that.

**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?**

The cost of higher education will continue to rise until it is treated like a business. Unless a business looks and quality control, manages a budget, and has strict obtainable benchmarks that employees and owners meet together, it will fail. Schools will not fail, just ask for more money. I would like to see the universities look within their own budgets for cost cutting measures, that could help cut costs and in return help cut tuition rates. I would also like to develop a program to cut tuition for students who get, and use their education in state. Teach them here and keep them here. This model keeps skilled workers in the local force and keeps tax money here.

**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?**

1st off I could care less what other states do. I believe they can be used as an example of what not to do in most cases. Property taxes are high for a few reasons. 1) The layers of waste within cities and counties. 2) Schools 3) Assessed home values have risen, due to the layers of bureaucracy and red tape needed in order to put a single home on the ground. The more hands are out, the more the consumer pays for that new home, as an example. That new home then as a rule raises the assessment rate in an area. Affordable housing is an impossibility when city and counties have an insatiable appetite.. I have more info on taxes on my website.

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

Yes, but from my talks with senior members of the legislation, it is easier to give a larger credit back to the individual versus eliminating it. Without 1st hand knowledge on the in's and out's of why not, I would just be speculating. I think it should go.

**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 would like to see an end to urban renewal districts.

**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?**

I have and still remain in favor of work requirements. With that being said, I am not sure that this ball will ever stop rolling. Frankly this area of government is by far the most complicated in my opinion. What is quality healthcare? What is a decent deductible? How much federal help with strings do you want? I don't pretend to have the answers for this complicated issue, only personal feelings and wishes from people I talk to. The current situation with COVID 19 will probably change the healthcare system forever. I just do not want to become a welfare state.

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

Yes. I was disappointed that HB 384 was not signed. I think we owe those folks at least what the bill requested. I also want to work to get firearm privileges returned for those in certain cases allowing them to hunt and provide for their families.

**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 would like to see more reductions, but on a case by case basis. Sometimes having a license is truly meant to protect the consumer. I have a few licenses and have found applying and keeping them relatively simple here in Idaho, as opposed to other states I have been licensed in. The Sec State website for applying for a business license, DBA, etc. is easy and fast making it simple for someone with the desire to start a business easy.

**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?**

Yes. However political pressure from our folks in Washington make that hard to do sometimes. I do think a state who has been loyal to a President should reap the benefits when those funds are available with the minimal amount of restrictions. The current stimulus package is an example of that. Political pressure from above combined with "free" money may very well have forced the stay at home policy. Just a guess.

**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?**

Honestly, I do not care how you choose to educate your children. If you want to home school, have at it. My concern comes with funding. I want tax payer monies to be utilized without waste, fraud, and abuse. Educating our children and preparing them for the world can come in many forms. As long as the end result is a young adult ready to enter the work force or continue their education, and hopefully not making a pit stop at the county jail we will all be the better for it.

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

To oversee the collected state tax money, and ensure that it is being utilized to the highest of standards for the residents of the state, and to be a voice for the residents of the state, and to give that voice at the national level. Not to think for them.