



2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

CANDIDATE NAME: **CHAD H. COLE**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **HOUSE 31A**

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?

Encourage innovation and options like charter schools and home schooling.

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?

Promote more technical and vocational training. Not everyone needs a four year degree.

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 need to study the funding structures in neighboring states more before answering.

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

I support eliminating the grocery sales tax.

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 need to study this question more before answering.

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?

Telemedicine, reduced bureaucracy and regulation, and fraud prevention.

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'm not familiar with specific reform proposals, but the percentage of the population that is incarcerated is an indicator that the current system is broken.

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 If yes, which licenses should be reviewed or repealed?

Yes - I'm not opposed to reviewing all state licensing requirements.

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. Reduce expenditures as much as possible. Because of the high percentage of federal lands in Idaho, we should seek for ways to get more state control of federal lands within the state.

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?

School choice with more options for vocational and technical training seems like a good direction.

Q11. What is the proper role of state government?

Allow citizens as much freedom as possible while maintaining the rule of law.