



# 2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

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CANDIDATE NAME: **DENNIS HARPER**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **HOUSE 7A**

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?**

This is a three-page answer. I believe in public education, charter schools and home schooling. I think we need a blend of the best of each. Some of the basic rules in the state need to be changed to allow better education. I think we need to establish a work ethic in students. We need to quit pushing all students to an academic end. It would be wise to have more vocational training.

**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 believe the state higher education schools in Idaho should regroup and not be so Top-heavy with administration. I believe they need to teach more of the states values on natural resources instead of the more liberal education they are receiving. I believe the student's that graduate in a profession that they can use could potentially could get a bonus for actually going to work. This would reduce some the student debt. It should be across-the-board to the student that actually pays for his education as they goes through school.

**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?**

At this point I'm not sure if I see a lot of changes in the tax structure. I need to really delve into the numbers deeper. To make an off the cuff comment on this would be wrong.

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

Need to look at the end results of repealing the grocery tax. I don't particularly like more taxes.

**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 have mixed feelings on urban renewal. The Counties should have the most say with Urban renewal.

**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 would like to serve on the healthcare committee. My expertise is in alternative care being in practice for 40 years in the state. One issue that needs take place is that patients need to be responsible for their healthcare. Paying for people with a cold or a sniffle or rash coming into the ER is not acceptable. I have contacted the Idaho medical Association and offered to work with them to make some significant changes in how we administer healthcare. They were open to my conversation.

**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, the recidivism rate is way too high. Also some people probably should not be imprisoned and need mental health issues dealt with. We need to have better job opportunities for people when they get out of prison. Right now is restricted because of some of the laws and stigmas people have about prison people.

**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 served on the chiropractic physicians examiners board for 12 years. I served under every Bureau chief including Mark Gregersen. The last 2 I have not served under. I helped reduce many of the issues within the Bureau. There are more issues that continually need to be dealt with. I have great passion to decrease loss of the Bureau. I think could've handled investigative processes much better. They have spent way too much money on investigations in the last 8 years.

**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?**

That's a great idea if you can figure out how to do it. I think we should be wiser with managing the federal dollars.

**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 think the funding system needs to follow students to charter schools, homeschooling or public schools. As I said above they need to be blended together for the best of each program.

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

To help administer so the local governments can better serve our needs. They need to work on roads with less control with our individual rights.