



2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

CANDIDATE NAME: **MARLA LAWSON**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **SENATE 8**

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 revamp the entire system removing a lot of executive positions. I would take a good look at how education dollars are spent. Just like any fat budget the money gets lost on unnecessary programs. I would encourage better communication with parents and encourage parental participation in the process of their child's education. I would encourage virtual education with parental participation.

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?

Getting rid of all politically biased courses and social and gender equality courses would be a start. Degree programs should only require classes which are pertinent to that degree. End tenure.

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?

Eliminate state income tax. I have been saying that for years. Property taxes are a mess. Throw them out. Counties need to provide basic services such as road maintenance and law enforcement. But funds for this should be handled locally. Take the state out of the equation.

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

Yes. Yesterday.

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?

End it!

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?

This is a mess! I honestly don't have the answers, it being voter mandated. I think we dismantle it slowly possibly through deregulation. There has to be waste product here that can be removed.

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

Law enforcement training should key more on the civil rights of the citizens. One of my pet peeves is the lack of attention on innocent until proven guilty. Investigation keys on conviction rather than truth. Law enforcement many times refers to constitutional law when they have no idea what that means.

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. The entire service industry is heavily regulated. Let's start there.

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. The first step would be to stop the making of decisions by the state should not be made with the value of federal dollars being placed before the value of citizens freedoms.

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?

Let parents decide where they send their children. Private charter or home school.

Q11. What is the proper role of state government?

To protect it's citizens life and liberty.