



# 2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

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CANDIDATE NAME: **SCOTT SYME**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **HOUSE 11A**

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 closely monitor what is being taught in our schools.  
Promote a system where students move at their own pace after demonstrating competency. Focus on the basics of education.

**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?**

Continue to cut their budgets as enrollment declines so they will eliminate redundant layers of management.

**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?**

Limit county spending to a maximum increase of the chained consumer price index. Also, don't allow the county to include the new construction values in setting their budget until it is occupied by an owner.

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

Repeal the tax on basic groceries as soon as we have recovered from the pandemic.

**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?**

Yes, end urban renewal. It shifts taxes to other businesses and residential property owners.

**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?**

Promote tele-health and develop incentives for healthy lifestyles.

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

We need to further develop intervention centers so we are not putting as many parole violators back in prison.

**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?**

We need to continuously review license requirements for their validity.

**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?**

We can reduce our reliance on federal spending by cutting non-essential programs.

**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?**

Provide a system of support to maximize freedom of choice for parents. Eliminate common core and carefully track what books are being used to educate our children.

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

To only exercise those powers given to it by the people.