



2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

CANDIDATE NAME: **DAVID M. CANNON**

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?

I would promote school choice, accountability for educators and the concept that Idaho schools should be run by Idahoans--not by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. I would try to set up Idaho education in a way that market principles and competition "work their magic", making education more efficient and more beneficial to Idaho's youth.

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 would have to study more on this issue. However, ultimately, I would be true to free market principles. Supply and demand forces, over the long term, efficiently drive markets.

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 would have to study more on this issue in terms of any specific proposal. That said, I am a proponent of limiting government to supplying those goods and services that, for some reason, can not be effectively supplied through our economy's private sector. I would couple that "small government" approach with advocating for low overall taxes.

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

I am for low overall taxes. (See my response, above, to Question 3). Specifically what taxes, if any, should be repealed would be something I would need to study more.

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 need to study more on this issue before feeling comfortable taking a decisive stand.

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?

My views on healthcare are, at this point, fairly broad, but firmly held. Healthcare can not be provided efficiently by government. Our economy's healthcare goods and services should be provided via the economy's private sector, subject to the principles of supply and demand. Free market principles are key to efficiency in any industry-- including health care.

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, Idaho should explore further reforms. We should look at reducing long-term incarceration and at increasing rehabilitation--especially for non-violent offenders. We should figure out ways to "preemptively" provide opportunities and tools to people that put them on a track to be prosperous members of society before they get trapped in lifestyles where alcohol and drug abuse fuel criminal behavior.

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 don't know without further research.

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?

I would have to look more at the particulars before committing to a position on this issue.

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 support charter schools and home school options. I support tax credits and/or vouchers which promote parental choice in education. I believe in accountability for educators. I believe in local control/power in education (rather than "one size fits all" federal programs). As we apply free market concepts to education we will see better, more efficient results.

Q11. What is the proper role of state government?

State government should, along with local and federal government, provide people with a framework where individual rights--including the right to own property and enter into contracts--exist and are protected by law. There is a role for state government to provide goods and services (infrastructure, for example) which the free market is not capable of providing in an efficient way. Largely, the state government, other than providing a framework where individuals and businesses can exist and thrive, should "stay out of the way" of people and allow free markets and individuals' drive and innovation to power growth and gains in prosperity.