



2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY

CANDIDATE NAME: **RANDY JACKSON**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **HOUSE 13B**

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 think one thing that could be done is to give more control to local districts, as well as give schools greater flexibility in how they spend their budgets. This way, if they have an excess in one line item but a shortage in another, they can transfer over to cover what they need instead of always looking for constant increases in funding. I would also like to see an end to common core, as it has not lived up to the expectations; rather, it has done more harm than good. Finally, I would make every effort to encourage school choice without government interference, or "strings attached" assistance.

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?

The best option is always to lessen government involvement in universities... Outside of that, I would explore the rising cost of education, and see if there are ways to work with universities to stabilize cost of tuition. One possible way is to see universities move to self funding in some areas, like student-led programs or newspapers, and cutting back unnecessary class requirements for graduation/degrees. Finally, I feel it is very important to encourage more enrollment in trade schools.

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 think the most important tax structure that needs to be addressed is property tax. It is time we stop talking about making changes, and actually follow through with helping

the citizens of Idaho. I would propose looking into either impact fees, capping property taxes by keeping the taxable value at when it is sold, without reassessment until the property is sold again (as opposed to the current annual reassessment), or possibly a combination of both.

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

I believe we should take definite steps to reducing all taxes, including the grocery tax; and we should begin immediately as opposed to talking about it every year.

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, Idaho should end 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 see more competition in health care and health insurance, by eliminating restrictions from buying insurance across state lines. Also, we need to work towards removing government from healthcare.

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, we need to continue working on reform of the criminal justice system. I would like to see prisoners prepared for re-entry into society upon completion of their sentence. If we adequately prepare them, it will save taxpayers money in the long run, as many in the prison system end up in a cycle of offending-serving time-reoffending-serving time. If we can break the cycle, it will be most beneficial not only to them, to society as a whole, and to the taxpayer. Also I would like to explore the idea of expanding work release for non-violent/minor offense inmates, for the purpose of generating revenue to help reduce taxpayer burden.

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 absolutely believe we over-regulate businesses, and require many unnecessary licenses. I believe all occupational licensing should be reviewed to determine if they

are absolutely necessary for the health and safety of others, and if not, should be immediately removed. "

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 believe that too much reliance on federal money is a dangerous thing. Instead of helping the people of Idaho, it can instead render a type of slavery to the desires of those who do not know what is best for our citizens. Working together with all agencies that use federal funding to implement common sense strategies to become more self sufficient is absolutely a must to remove undue burden to federal agencies.

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 ANY and ALL legitimate policies to strengthen school choice. Parents, at the end of the day, are the ones granted by God the right to raise and educate their children in the way that best fits their children. A parent's right to educational choice should never be infringed upon. Examples of infringement of said rights include government interference, regulations, or "strings attached" vouchers that would seek to control what curriculum a parent may or may not use in homeschooling or private education.

Q11. What is the proper role of state government?

Because all functions should be handled at the lowest governmental level possible, The proper role of state government is to secure the rights and freedoms of the individual citizens in matters that the local county and city governments cannot themselves handle. In the same respect, it is most important that all elected officials remember that they are a voice of their constituents; they are at the statehouse to represent, NOT to rule. The only way they can fulfill this is to be open and accessible, having good communication with the people of their district. If elected, I will form a committee of citizens from District 13 that I will be able to discuss ideas and concerns of the people, as well as brainstorming common sense solutions, in an effort to bridge that gap of communication and ensuring that the voice of the people of District 13 is very clearly heard and respected when it comes to issues that concern them.