

# Watchmen Voter Guide for North Idaho College, Trustee Zone 4

*\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \**

Question	<a href="#"><u>Dr. Joe Dunlap</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Gregory McKenzie</u></a>
<p><b>2.</b> How could North Idaho College be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>1) Expand Meyer Heath Science labs to accommodate more students into sciences and medical career fields.                      2) Restore adequate state level funding. State funding to NIC was reduced by \$1,400,000 this past year.                      3) Increase enrollment</p>	<p>a. The college is experiencing budgetary pressures. Reining in operational costs to sustain the college's mission is necessary.                      b. The board is not currently soliciting community involvement and feedback. I want to be available to community members and believe the board should be held accountable through transparency in its decisions.                      c. Ensuring students are taught <i>how</i> to think, not <i>what</i> to think. I believe in healthy debate and want to ensure teaching is not one-sided.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?</p>	<p>My educational philosophy is to provide all students a myriad of opportunities to acquire knowledge, skills and abilities that meets their educational goals, which includes career and technical programs, transfer opportunities and short term training that meets the needs of business and industry as well as our community. As a comprehensive community college, North Idaho College provides accessible, affordable, quality learning opportunities and meets the diverse educational needs of students, employers, and the northern Idaho communities it serves through a commitment to student success, educational excellence, community engagement, and lifelong learning.</p>	<p>a. My educational philosophy is "learn by doing," and I want students to be provided balanced, engaging, and interactive learning programs.                      b. I plan to implement this philosophy by ensuring vocational programs are retained and not cut solely due to budgetary pressure or lack of foresight in planning.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?</p>	<p>No. I believe that at NIC we provide equal opportunity and access for all students regardless of race, age, creed, color, religion or disability. Accreditation standards require educational opportunities in "...effective communication skills, global awareness, cultural sensitivity, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis and logical thinking, problem solving, and/or information literacy." Students are free to choose from electives that meet these requirements.</p>	<p>No. I do not support any theory that teaches racism or grievance attitudes.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing student fees or tuition? What would be your reasons for this decision?</p>	<p>As a fiduciary for the college we face major budget decisions each year and must balance spending, several revenues sources, student fees and tuition. Over the past several years state level funding has been reduced by \$1,400,000. In response we have significantly reduced spending while honoring a commitment to not raise tuition for students.</p>	<p>a. NIC has for the 3rd year pulled from their reserves. I suspect budget pressures will continue, especially with scrutiny and restrained funding from the state due to higher education's overall support for government-sponsored social justice endorsements. I would be digging deep into why personnel operating costs are so high, and from what I have already discovered, it has only generated more in-depth questions.                      b. There is a direct correlation between responsible government spending and responsible government taxation.                      c. I am still coming up to speed with regards to tuition costs relative to other similar community colleges, but raising student fees would certainly be much lower on my priority list than making sure the spending is responsible.                      d. Historically, the state has not provided enough with regards to CTE, which is reimbursement related to technical educational.</p>

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<b>6.</b> How do you view the role as a trustee member in regard to public policy like taxes?	The NIC Board of Trustees is fiscally conservative, mindful, and committed to keeping any tax increases to a minimum. This year for the first time in over a decade NIC Board decided to take a 3% increase in allowable allocation that raised \$486,000 to help off set the \$1.4M state reduction. Because of significant new housing construction your taxes on a \$300,000 home were reduced by 8%. We would not have taken a 3% increase in allocation if it meant increasing your taxes. In the most recent accreditation visit NIC received a commendable rating for its fiscal stewardship.	a. Trustee member role is to be a fiduciary for the taxpayers. It is taxpayer money being spent and ensuring the priorities and associated budgets appropriately reflect such priorities. I am fiscally conservative and would strive to make the budget reflect the needs of the students and community. b. With the large student enrollment changes NIC endured, what the college needs right now is an objective community member representative.
<b>7.</b> Do you support the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members' paychecks to finance political activities, why or why not?	No. Employees should have a choice whether or not to contribute to unions	No, all unions should be opt-in otherwise it is theft.
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	No. I believe individuals should use the bathroom based on which gender you were born. NIC complies with the CDA ordinance related to this topic.	I think bathroom and locker room usage should be reserved for individuals aligned with their birth gender identification. This is an extremely sensitive issue and whatever solution would need to respect all involved parties.
<b>9.</b> In what ways can North Idaho College help local high school students prepare for a college education or for a trade school?	1) NIC works closely with high schools to ensure Career and Technical Education as well as university transfer guidance and opportunities are provided. 2) Dual credit opportunities are provided by NIC for all students that allow college level courses taught while in HS, which may result in achieving an A.A. degree while still enrolled in high school. 3) NIC constructed a new Career and Technical Education facility next to KTEC to provide opportunity and seamless transition to college level CTE programs that meets the needs of business and industry as well as our community. 4) NIC offers apprenticeship opportunities as well for some trades.	a. I understand the high school dual enrollment has largely been successful for students and NIC, and would want to continue to support this endeavor. b. NIC's partnership with the non-profit GizmoCDA has, from my perspective, has largely been successful for the community at large. I envision NIC partnering with private sector entities, such as GizmoCDA, and other entities when it is best for the students.
<b>10.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?	I fully support the freedom of parents to choose a variety of educational opportunities and modalities for their children.	The money should follow the student to whatever school the parent's wish for their student to attend. More competition drives down costs and increases quality whether that competition competes with Public, Charter, Private, Religious, Homeschool group.
<b>11.</b> How would you, as a trustee, create opportunities for an education more equitable towards students coming from a private or homeschool background?	There is no inequality towards students coming from a private or homeschool background coming to NIC. NIC accepts and provides access to all students regardless of their background. We also provide additional instruction if students are deficient or are not ready for college level courses and the NIC Foundation provides over \$1,000,000 in scholarships available to all students.	a. I homeschool my own kids. I believe NIC should welcome and support learners from homeschool and private school backgrounds. b. Placement tests are also another avenue to gauge college readiness. c. Adaptive learning is a new teaching style NIC is exploring that adapts to each learner, so if the homeschool learners already are familiar with the material the teaching curriculum will adapt to new material so they are challenged.

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<b>12.</b> What does the term “education” mean to you?	“Education” to me means providing all students diverse opportunities to acquire knowledge, skills and abilities that meet their educational goals, which includes career and technical programs, transfer opportunities and short term training that meets the needs of business and industry as well as our community. Education also means providing choice through electives and the freedom for students to choose their own path in the activities they participate. NIC does exactly that.	To me, “education” is synonymous with a desire to learn, improving one’s mind and a lifestyle of improving oneself. Learners initiate “education” usually with an end goal in mind. Usually learners want to gain experience in a field such as Chemistry or English. Learners could also pursue learning how to do a concrete-skill and earn a living such as carpentry or nursing.
<b>13.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	No. It is an illegal drug and may have harmful effects for students.	Oppose. Marijuana seems to be a gateway drug to others and there seems to be a correlation between a rise in crime and the legalization of marijuana.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why does it qualify you for this position?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 20 year military veteran.</li> <li>2) 28 year career in higher education.</li> <li>3) Former President of NIC and Spokane Community College.</li> <li>4) Current Board Chair at NIC.</li> <li>5) Worked with foundations, granting agencies and donors to help raise over \$21 million to fund new construction, scholarships, and lab equipment.</li> <li>6) I possess an earned doctorate in Educational Leadership from Oregon State University.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Simply put, I love my fellow learner and ensuring they have a well-run institution to support them in their quest to learn is a passion of mine.</li> <li>b. I have 10 years working within the government as an employed public servant, and I am aware of the strengths and weaknesses of government bureaucracy. I know how to navigate, address and support government organizations.</li> <li>c. I am an engineer that uses math to find trends and problems. I specialize in numbers and analysis, and that is what the college budget needs right now. I would give the budget a detailed, fresh look, and ask new questions.</li> <li>d. I self-identify as an avid learner and am constantly encouraging those around me to learn. I have a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CA and a M.</li> </ol>