



# Party Platform Comparison

 <b>REPUBLICAN</b>	 <b>DEMOCRAT</b>
<b>ABORTION</b> "...we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed." (p.13)	<b>ABORTION</b> "...every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion." (p. 32)
<b>MARRIAGE</b> "Our laws and our government's regulations should recognize marriage as the union of one man and one woman..." (p.31)	<b>MARRIAGE</b> (Silent on marriage.)
<b>ISRAEL</b> "We recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state..." (p. 47)	<b>ISRAEL</b> "We believe that while Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations, it should remain the capital of Israel..." (p. 91)
<b>RELIGIOUS LIBERTY</b> "Ongoing attempts to compel individuals, businesses, and institutions of faith to transgress their beliefs are part of a misguided effort to undermine religion and drive it from the public square." (p.11)	<b>RELIGIOUS LIBERTY</b> (Democrats) "...recognize the countless acts of service of our faith communities, as well as the paramount importance of maintaining the separation between church and state enshrined in our Constitution." (p. 48)
<b>VOTER IDENTIFICATION</b> "...we support legislation to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote and secure photo ID when voting." (p. 16)	<b>VOTER IDENTIFICATION</b> "We stand united against the determined Republican campaign to disenfranchise voters through onerous voter ID laws..." (p. 55)
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL RESTROOMS</b> "Their (the Democrats) edit to the states concerning rest-rooms, locker rooms, and other facilities is at once illegal, dangerous, and ignores privacy issues. We salute the several states which have filed suit against it." (p. 35)	<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL RESTROOMS</b> "We will work to...guarantee transgender students' access to facilities based on their gender identity." (p. 42)
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL SEX EDUCATION</b> "...(student) education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior." (p. 34)	<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL SEX EDUCATION</b> "...medically accurate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education; and the full range of family planning services are all essential..." (p. 32)
<b>SCHOOL CHOICE</b> "We will continue our fight for school choice..." (p. 32)	<b>SCHOOL CHOICE</b> "...Democrats oppose private school vouchers..." (p. 67)
<b>PERSONAL LIBERTY</b> "We are the party of independent individuals and the institutions they create together – families, schools, congregations, neighborhoods... Those institutions, standing between the citizen and the power of government are the pillars of a free society. They create spaces where the power of government should not intrude." (p. 31)	<b>PERSONAL LIBERTY</b> "We will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who look like America, are committed to the rule of law, will uphold individual civil rights and civil liberties as essential component of a free and democratic society, and will respect and enforce foundational precedents, including <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> and <i>Roe v. Wade</i> ." (p.39)

These positions are taken verbatim from the 2016 and 2020 platforms of the respective parties and do not necessarily represent the views of all candidates on all issues. We encourage you to inquire with individual candidates on whether they subscribe to the party platform, particularly on issues of interest to you.

REPUBLICAN PARTY [WWW.GOP.COM](http://WWW.GOP.COM)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY [WWW.DEMOCRATS.ORG](http://WWW.DEMOCRATS.ORG)

Watchmen Ministry North Idaho

[www.WatchmenMinistryNorthIdaho.com](http://www.WatchmenMinistryNorthIdaho.com)

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## Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guides

This year's Kootenai County Primary Elections were quite different. With the "stay at home" orders there were no meet-and-greets, town halls or debates. Not even door-to-door canvassing by candidates. Finding good information on which to make a wise decision was more difficult. Here is where Watchmen Ministry North Idaho stepped in to provide a NONPARTISAN Voter Guide. Questionnaires on succinct and race specific issues were sent to ALL candidates in contested races on the November Ballot. The results are posted in a side by side / easy-to-compare chart.



Please be aware that if candidates did not respond in a particular race, we are not including the voter guide in this packet as there are no answers to report. The complete voter guides, including those that declined to respond are available on our website.

Attached are the Voter Guides for Sheriff and the remaining contested races. The complete set of **Voter Guides** is available on the Watchmen Ministry North Idaho website. In addition to Voter Guides, each candidate's complete questionnaire with their answers is on the website.

Please take the time to become an informed voter. Pray about your choices, go vote, and pray about the results.

Go to [www.WatchmenMinistryNorthIdaho.com](http://www.WatchmenMinistryNorthIdaho.com) for complete voter guides, candidate questionnaires, important news, and a replay of the Sheriff's Forum.



**Remember, it is your God given civic responsibility to not waste a single opportunity to VOTE.**



**By voting we perform the minimum of our civic duty by electing, respecting, and empowering those public servants who give their full attention to governing.**



**We cannot sit this election out. Your VOTE counts!**

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Sheriff

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

Question	<a href="#"><u>Mike Bauer</u></a>	Justin Nagel	<a href="#"><u>Robert "Bob" Norris</u></a>
<b>2.</b> Define your role as Sheriff.	<p>The role of a Sheriff in a free society is to assist the People in keeping themselves and their property safe from those who would attempt to take their freedom and property by means outside the Rule of Law, that is, by theft, violence or by popular justice.</p> <p>Inside the organization, the Sheriff is a leader and the director of ethical and cultural attitudes, and a mentor to all in the Sheriff's Department.</p>	<b>Declined to respond</b>	<p>The number one job of the Sheriff is to protect the citizen's Rights and a very close second is to keep the community safe from criminals. The two primary functions of the Sheriff's Office are managing a Patrol and Jail divisions. Further, the Sheriff should be approachable and listen to the needs to the community so law enforcement services can address the issues the community says are the most pressing.</p>
<b>3.</b> The 10th amendment states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. What does this mean to you?	<p>I support the Tenth Amendment as a gift from the Founding Fathers that is designed to limit the power of the Federal Government. Locally we see Western land use and ownership conflicts, and I am very sympathetic to those who have pushed back against Federal overreach, including the Bundy family.</p> <p>That said, the Sheriff must lead by example in maintaining a health relationship with our Federal representatives presently in Kootenai County.</p>	<b>Declined to respond</b>	<p>It means that there are certain powers given to the Federal Government for the benefit of the country and that any other power is reserved to the States and people. The way I read it, and believe in, is that the power should belong to the people as much as possible, then to the states, and then the remainder to the Federal Government. In short, government serves us, the people.</p>
<b>4.</b> What do you see as the issues facing the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office? What are your proposed solutions?	<p>Strong leadership in the relationship with the BOCC is required and will be the biggest challenge in obtaining resources and personnel moving forward. Property taxes are under strong pressure, and I will strongly oppose any expansion of gambling in this County to raise revenue.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>(The remainder of Mr. Bauer's answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</u></a></p>	<b>Declined to respond</b>	<p>The main issues are changing the culture from one of management to leadership, fighting the irresponsible growth that is going to lead to many of the larger city problems we do not want, and maintaining the staffing levels to address these growth issues.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>(The remainder of Mr. Norris' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</u></a></p>
<b>5.</b> What is your position regarding the Idaho Department of Corrections Work Release Center being considered for North Idaho?	<p>Regarding the Department of Corrections proposed Release Center, it is not a prison, as has been exaggerated by others, and it is not the end of the world come calling. That said, this issue is one I would refer to the voters.</p> <p>The Governor has insinuated that IDOC will put one up here, and the BOCC is struggling themselves how to stop it.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>(The remainder of Mr. Bauer's answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</u></a></p>	<b>Declined to respond</b>	<p>I am 100% against this facility. It is a failed program for inmates who complete it and the recidivism rate is not meaningfully impacted. There are several hidden costs that most supporters of this facility are not discussing. To begin with, the Idaho Dept. of Corrections (IDOC) does a terrible job of rehabilitation, which I am 100% for rehabilitation.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>(The remainder of Mr. Norris' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</u></a></p>
<b>6.</b> In light of recent events in Virginia, the local sheriff made a decision on whether or not to enforce the law as enacted by the state of Virginia. If those events happened in Kootenai County, how would you respond?	<p>I do not intend to support the passage of Red Flag laws, nor will I enforce them by policy. However if faced with Judicial Order and threat of contempt, I would use the U.S. Mail to request the voluntary surrender of firearms from the subject of such a court order. Only under extraordinary circumstances will I authorize use of deadly force to remove weapons from a person under a Red Flag law, if one is ever passed in Idaho.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>(The remainder of Mr. Bauer's answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</u></a></p>	<b>Declined to respond</b>	<p>I'm assuming you're referring to the law regarding "assault weapon" confiscation, which I do not believe was passed. If such a law were every passed during my administration, there would be no way it would be allowed to be enforced in Kootenai County. It is a clear violation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. This is the same for so called "red flag" laws that effect law enforcement agencies to confiscate individuals' firearms on the mere unproven accusation by another person.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>(The remainder of Mr. Norris' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</u></a></p>

Question	<a href="#">Mike Bauer</a>	Justin Nagel	<a href="#">Robert "Bob" Norris</a>
<b>7.</b> If a federal, state, local government entity, and/or the United Nations were to implement a policy of door-to-door gun confiscation in your jurisdiction, what would you do?	Gun confiscation implies impending armed resistance. The BOCC has not funded or staffed sufficient Deputies to accomplish such a ludicrous gun seizure, nor do we have sufficient heavy weaponry to practically do that. It will not happen under my watch.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	I would stand with the people in resisting this measure up to and including the point of risking death. Please understand that such a scenario is highly unlikely and that the real threat is through the accumulation of smaller laws that, in their totality, severely restrict the Right of the people to bear firearms. <a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Norris' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a>
<b>8.</b> What do you believe the protocol should be for outside agencies coming into the county to conduct any type of law-enforcement action?	I will not require any prior notice for Federal authorities to conduct law enforcement operations in Kootenai County. I will appreciate that they confer as soon as it is practical and safe for them to do so, especially if they expect backup from KCSO. <a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Bauer's answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a>	<b>Declined to respond</b>	I believe first and foremost in fostering positive relations with other law enforcement agencies. I do not believe that any operation should occur in Kootenai County without my knowledge and consent for how it is to be executed. It is no secret we have seen utter disasters for local citizens both here, in North Idaho, and other parts of the country from overzealous law enforcement agencies imposing their will on citizens. That will not happen under a Norris administration.
<b>9.</b> Would your agency cooperate with legal requests made by ICE?	ICE would be welcome in my jail at any time of the day or night, and their detainers will be honored.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Yes.
<b>10.</b> Have you ever been involved in past legislation, in any capacity, that would influence your role as Sheriff, be a conflict of interest, or provide personal enrichment?	I have no conflicts of interest, financial or legal, that I am aware of. I have stated in my Candidate Statement that I will not accept any offered campaign donations from anyone who has Sheriff's financial or enforcement interests.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	No.
<b>11.</b> Do you interpret the Constitution by original intent or as a living document?	As written. Not a living document	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Assuming you're referring to the U.S. Constitution, but my answer applies to the Idaho Constitution as well. It should be interpreted by original intent and not a living document. If a change is to be made, there is already a mechanism for making such a change, so I do not agree with the concept of having a judge make interpretations to plain language sections.
<b>12.</b> What are your religious beliefs?	Christian, non humanist.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	I believe in God and that we must all face our maker one day.
<b>13.</b> What does religious freedom mean to you?	Freedom from laws which conflict with religion	<b>Declined to respond</b>	That you have the right to practice your religion peacefully in this country.
<b>14.</b> What is your view on abortion?	Oppose.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	I am against it.
<b>15.</b> What is your opinion on marijuana legalization and why?	Will not oppose or support.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	I believe it should not be legal. In every community I've worked where it was legalized crime went up and quality of life went down.

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Representative Legislative District 2b

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

Question	<a href="#"><u>Jennifer Luoma</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Doug "Doug O" Okuniewicz</u></a>
<p><b>2.</b> To help Idaho's economy grow, do you support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raising fees, (If so, which ones?)</li> <li>2. Closing tax loopholes (If so, which ones?)</li> <li>3. Raising income taxes (If so on whom?)</li> <li>4. Raising the sales tax</li> <li>5. Cutting spending (if so, what areas of the budget and by how much?)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No, if anything REDUCE Fees</li> <li>2. Depends I will close any loophole that helps cronyism.</li> <li>3. If I need to support a tax it would be a flat tax</li> <li>4. No! but I can be very creative.</li> <li>5. Combining services to improve efficiency and reduce taxes.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No. This sounds like code for raising taxes. I want to help reduce government spending and lower taxes.</li> <li>2. I don't believe the government should pick winners and losers. So, it depends on the definition of "loophole." If by loophole the question is directed toward some accidental wording in the law that gives someone an unfair and unintended tax benefit, then, yes, it should be closed. On the other hand, if the question is directed toward an intentionally drafted and enacted tax benefit for a particular class of citizen, like veterans, that would need to be examined on a case-by-case basis.</li> <li>3. No. I want to help reduce government spending and lower taxes.</li> <li>4. No. I want to help reduce government spending and lower taxes. A potential exception that seems to interest some of my constituents is the concept of eliminating property taxes for homeowners to ensure that they can actually own their homes instead of just renting them from the government. And, in turn, increasing sales tax to offset the elimination of property taxes. I am not sure yet about this approach.</li> <li>5. Wherever possible and as much as possible. There are a number of agencies whose structures appears to be outdated, and certain of their functionalities appear to be redundant.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3.</b> When do you believe life begins?</p>	<p>* That's between God and the Mother. I'm PROCHOICE! Not Proabortion but Prochoice. I'm unapologetic on this issue! I will fight to make adoption out of Foster care <u>free!</u> If we provide for anyone it should be our vulnerable members of society.</p>	<p>At conception. No exceptions.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> What is your view on Parental consent for a minor to get an abortion?</p>	<p>Define Minor? There isn't an abortion clinic in North Idaho. <u>THIS IS A NON ISSUE!</u></p>	<p>First of all, abortion should be illegal. And, every possible hurdle should be put in place. Requiring parental consent, as well as consent from the father of the unborn child, and any other rule or law that has a chance to save a life should be enacted and enforced.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?</p>	<p>Resources for seniors, accessibility to the resources, making mental health services available long term.</p>	<p>Abortion and Planned Parenthood's publicly funded involvement in the practice. I am fervently opposed.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> How would you improve K-12 education in Idaho?</p>	<p>Incorporate volunteers and support vouchers We have a huge senior population that loves volunteering!</p>	<p>By making it easier for parents to apply their tax dollars to the schooling options that best suit their children's strengths and needs, including home schooling, vocational programs, STEM, etc.</p>

Question	<a href="#">Jennifer Luoma</a>	<a href="#">Doug "Doug O" Okuniewicz</a>
<b>7.</b> Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	Since I've been through puberty & menopause I have an insider view. I'm against <u>ANY</u> physical alteration of a minor. NEVER MESS WITH HORMONES! But I'm not a doctor.	I support it.
<b>8.</b> What is your definition of marriage?	Between 2 people who love one another. I support MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!	A loving union between a man and woman, conducted in a place of worship, which is administered according to the couple's faith.
<b>9.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?	Support School Choice, homeschooling & Charter Schools	Strongly support.
<b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	Oppose. Stealing from tax payers Ease up on zoning and building and allow the market to take care of it.	Oppose. They seem to be used more often for projects other than urban blight, etc. They are also often comprised of unelected board members who have no responsibility to tax-payers, which is essentially another form of taxation without representation.
<b>11.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	This isn't a problem and is petty. NO, I don't think boys should be in girls locker rooms.	Oppose. I find the alternative personally objectionable and entirely illogical, at least because the practice disproportionately favors a tiny population which seeks excessive accommodation from the majority who, in turn, finds the practice inappropriate and difficult to manage.
<b>12.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I support decriminalization Because a plant shouldn't be controlled. God gave us natural medications. Making it illegal is a <u>SIN!</u>	Oppose. It is a gateway drug. It doesn't seem like society is in need of any more legally intoxicating substances. Further, I am not aware of any compelling "success stories" for society-at-large in other states that have already legalized its sale, possession, and use.
<b>13.</b> Do you support or oppose the Prison Community Re-entry Center in Kootenai County? Why or why not?	I support it. We need to find a way to help <u>all</u> members of society. Solution: less laws = less prisoners = problem solved	I am strongly opposed to the criminal re-entry center that has been proposed for Kootenai County for a number of reasons, including the fact that relocating prisoners, who are not from Kootenai County, into our community will increase the amount of crime we would otherwise experience if the re-entry center does not come here. In turn, opening a re-entry center would not only negatively impact our way of life, it would serve to increase the already high tax burden for property owners in Kootenai County.



## Watchmen Voter Guide for Representative Legislative District 3a

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

Question	Christopher S. Matthews	<a href="#">Ron Mendive</a>
<p><b>2.</b> To help Idaho's economy grow, do you support</p> <p>6. Raising fees, (If so, which ones?)</p> <p>7. Closing tax loopholes (If so, which ones?)</p> <p>8. Raising income taxes (If so on whom?)</p> <p>9. Raising the sales tax</p> <p>10. Cutting spending (if so, what areas of the budget and by how much?)</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>1. I do not usually support raising fees, but sometimes user fees are appropriate such as camping, boating, etc. These fees help maintain campgrounds, boat launches, etc.</p> <p>2. I am not an accountant, so am at a loss to say. There may be some that need to be closed.</p> <p>3. NO</p> <p>4. I might be willing to increase our sales tax to eliminate property taxes.</p> <p>5. The education budget consumes 2/3 of the state's general fund revenue. I believe education reform could open the door to reduce Ed. Funding. After "covid 19", we may realize new ways to streamline the maintenance Of our schools</p>
<p><b>3.</b> When do you believe life begins?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	At conception
<p><b>4.</b> What is your view on Parental consent for a minor to get an abortion?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	I don't believe abortions should be legal nor an option. However, since abortions are Legal, minors need parental consent.
<p><b>5.</b> What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	Affordable health care is the biggest issue. The current 3rd party Payer model has insulated the consumer. The consumer no longer knows what a Procedure costs. Health savings accounts or something similar, where the patient is directly involved in the payment for a procedure could help keep costs under control. Plastic surgery is usually not covered by insurance, therefore we see competition among providers and consumers checking out the costs thus keeping it affordable.
<p><b>6.</b> How would you improve K-12 education in Idaho?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	By introducing competition Through legislation like Education Scholarship accounts---similar to H253, which I introduced in 2019 session.
<p><b>7.</b> Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	Support
<p><b>8.</b> What is your definition of marriage?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	God instituted and defined marriage. It is a Covenant between a man and a woman.
<p><b>9.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	I support them all. My children were homeschooled, and I have a grandchild at A charter school
<p><b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	Oppose! New growth should fund itself. URDS cause the average homeowners Property taxes to increase.

Question	Christopher S. Matthews	<a href="#">Ron Mendive</a>
<b>11.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Oppose! Can't believe we are having This discussion. Boys belong in their bathroom and girls in theirs---otherwise we Create even more problems
<b>12.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Oppose! I believe marijuana is the gate way to other drugs
<b>13.</b> Do you support or oppose the Prison Community Re-entry Center in Kootenai County? Why or why not?	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Oppose.



## Watchmen Voter Guide for U.S. Senator

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

Question	<a href="#">Ray J. Writz</a>	Paulette Jordan	<a href="#">Jim Risch</a>	Natalie M Fleming
<b>2.</b> What is the proper role of the federal government in the economy?	To maintain honest check & balances between the states for businesses to grow.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Keep out of it	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>3.</b> When do you believe life begins?	At conception	<b>Declined to respond</b>	At conception	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>4.</b> Do you support exceptions for children conceived by rape or incest?	No	<b>Declined to respond</b>		<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>5.</b> Should the government fund Planned Parenthood?	No	<b>Declined to respond</b>	NO	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>6.</b> How would you reduce the Federal deficit?	Cutout non-constitutional spending over a worked out time frame.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Spend Less	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>7.</b> Do you support Obamacare? Should it be repealed or kept?	No. It should be repealed.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	No. It should be repealed. Voted against it <u>many</u> times.	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>8.</b> Do Americans pay too much, too little or just the right amount on Federal taxes? Would you change anything?	Americans pay too much	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Too Much – I have voted to <u>reduce</u> taxes and will do so in the future	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>9.</b> Should the Federal minimum wage be raised?	No	<b>Declined to respond</b>	No	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>10.</b> Should the Federal government do anything to support the value of the dollar on the world market? Why or why not?	Yes they should by backing the dollar with honest assets, like gold and silver.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	No. Should float free	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>11.</b> Have you signed a "no new tax" pledge? Why or why not?	I just received it and will sign it.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Yes. I want taxes reduced.	<b>Declined to respond</b>

Question	<a href="#">Ray J. Writz</a>	Paulette Jordan	<a href="#">Jim Risch</a>	Natalie M Fleming
<b>12.</b> Have you signed the Manhattan Declaration (which defines marriage as between one man and one woman) or the Families First pledge? Why or why not?	I have signed it in the past.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Haven't signed & haven't been asked to, but I believe marriage is between one man and one woman.	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>13.</b> Do you believe immigration should be based on merit or a lottery system?	MERIT	<b>Declined to respond</b>	<u>Merit!</u>	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>14.</b> Do you interpret the Constitution as a living document?	No	<b>Declined to respond</b>	It exists as written not what someone <u>thinks</u> it should say.	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>15.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?	They need other choice because of the failed present school system.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	Yes – for school choice	<b>Declined to respond</b>
<b>16.</b> The 10th amendment states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. What does this mean to you?	It means that the Federal Government has limited powers to rule us.	<b>Declined to respond</b>	<u>Exactly</u> what it says – it is not vague.	<b>Declined to respond</b>

## Watchmen Voter Guide for North Idaho College, Trustee Zone 3

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

Question	<a href="#"><u>Todd M. Banducci</u></a>
<b>2.</b> How could North Idaho College be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	Continue with the expansion of the nursing building & program. Add additional collaborative efforts with the Kootenai Technical Education Campus (KTEC). Grow and add to our Career & Technical Education (CTE) offerings and programs.
<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?	Back to basics! Instruction should consist of the core, fundamental courses required for each specific degree/certificate. It needs to be efficient and without political overtones and/ or indoctrination. A review of required course curriculum would be a good start.
<b>4.</b> Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?	No. It is an abomination that turns people against each other based on the color of their skin. It divides rather than uniting.
<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?	I am both a fiduciary (by trade & practice) & a fiscal conservative. My first choice would be to cut spending. As I do in my business, NIC can better control costs than revenue.
<b>6.</b> How do you view the role as a trustee member in regard to public policy like taxes?	It needs to be transparent. Every decision needs to take into account its impact on both the students & the public (taxpayers). We need to speak with and listen to the community.
<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. Compulsory contributions should be illegal. In fact, a number of court cases have come to this very same conclusion. Unfortunately, the unions keep ignoring the court decisions. Everyone should have a choice as to what they do with their earnings. No one should be forced to support what they disagree with.
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	I oppose it. It is a very slippery slope that we are best not to start down. There can be many resultant issues to this practice, including legal, safety, etc. In the same way a person born a male should only compete against other males athletically, a male should only use male facilities.
<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?	Better training for & engagement with junior high & high school counselors regarding higher education choices & options. Need them to embrace equivalency between CTE & academic transfer programs as recommendations for the kids' futures. Ask them how we can help with this & what information about NIC we can provide.
<b>10.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?	I support school choice. The money should follow the student. Competition is good – succeed or not based on merit.
<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?	Need to properly recognize & credit the educations these students have received. Honor GEDs equally. Provide accurate & equitable placement exams. Equal footing for grants & scholarships
<b>12.</b> What does the term "education" mean to you?	A free, balanced & equal exchange of ideas. An open, respected dialogue on any subject or topic. No politicization or indoctrination. Teach core & necessary subjects and/ or skills. Guide/teach students how to independently think for themselves.
<b>13.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I oppose it. I don't consider it wise to legally allow a mind & person altering substance. It is a danger in my estimation. However, CBD oil & Hemp are both a different subject to be further explored.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why does it qualify you for this position?	Current incumbent. I feel my eight years on the board gives me a pretty good handle on NIC's operations. As a fiduciary, I work hard to instill a fiscal discipline & restraint.

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

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

Question	<a href="#">Dr. Joe Dunlap</a>	<a href="#">Gregory McKenzie</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>

Question	<u><a href="#">Dr. Joe Dunlap</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Gregory McKenzie</a></u>
<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.

Question	<a href="#"><u>Dr. Joe Dunlap</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Gregory McKenzie</u></a>
<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>

# Watchmen Voter Guide for North Idaho College, Trustee Zone 5

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

Question	<a href="#">Michael H. Barnes</a>	<a href="#">Dr. Paul Sturm</a>
<p><b>2.</b> How could North Idaho College be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>NIC has many positive programs that I would continue to support. The improvements from my perspective would be to 1) ensure policies promote an atmosphere devoid of political correctness, 2) promote open dialog for all points of view, and 3) ensure that the Board removes politically charged advocacy for BLM and other “social justice” indoctrination efforts being put forth by the “Diversity Council”.</p>	<p>a. Expand enrollment - Expand and promote existing dual-credit options for high school students                      b. Advocate to restore state and federal funding to ease the burden on local taxpayers.                      c. Expand Post Career Education - Many people are moving into the area as retirees. Provide and market training and skills development for this demographic.</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 that course study should be applicable and relevant to a student’s life and career objectives and NOT blend into its curriculum left-leaning socialist ideology that is unrelated to course syllabus – Unless that is the NAME and OBJECTIVE of the course. I disapprove of mandatory courses that are unrelated to a student’s career path to achieve an AA degree unless those courses are remedial courses to improve basic reading comprehension, writing, mathematics and US and World History; and such required courses should always be eligible for testing out of to receive college credit when passing.</p>	<p>My philosophy of Education places the learner as the focus of education. Education provides the opportunity for a learner to gain knowledge about the physical, natural and biological world and to apply that knowledge to an understanding of their world through related study and experiences. Education is important for a citizen to be a knowledgeable participant in his/her government. Education also provides important skills training to enhance the learner’s opportunities for work and career. As a trustee my educational philosophy will influence my collaboration with other trustees as we advocate for resources, establish policies and budgets, and monitor the work of the president of the college for compliance with laws and policies and oversee financial decisions.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Do you support “Critical Race Theory,” why or why not?</p>	<p>I absolutely condemn the “Critical Race Theory” in its entirety. My research of its history and the promotion of it in all levels of education is clearly prejudicially racist at its core as its proponents make virtually everything an issue of skin color and places irrational condemnation on white males specifically. It is clear that in their eyes I am a racist white supremacist by virtue of my skin color and nothing else. This is abhorrent. I will not tolerate it as a Trustee.</p>	<p>North Idaho College does and should provide a safe and inclusive environment for any student of any background to study, learn and pursue his/her educational goals. As a trustee of NIC I will advocate for opportunities for each student without discrimination in accordance with the law, accreditation requirements and established policies.</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>Deficit spending is a practice of liberals who have no problem spending other people’s money. It is irresponsible and should not be done. Just as any business and fiscally responsible household must do, sacrifices have to be made to ensure that expenses incurred do not exceed revenue. IT’S CALLED A <u>BALANCED BUDGET</u>. Fees and Tuition make up about 20% of the NIC total budget according to a recent report I saw. Creative cost cutting measures should always be seriously considered before raising taxes or tuition. The Boards primary responsibility is to protect the interests of the taxpayers of Kootenai County. Tuition costs should be commensurate with other equivalent educational institutions in our region and not be confiscatory to try to pay for a pet project.</p>	<p>My past practice in regard to school budgets has always been fiscally conservative--living within allocated resources. Budget pressures may be the result of multiple factors. The trustees must explore and apply a variety of solutions available to them. Reducing costs through efficiency is always a goal when possible. Advocating to restoring state and federal funding will be my highest priority. Increasing tuition and fees will be my least attractive option. There is strong evidence that the trustees have held both tuition and fees as well as local taxes low for several years. I would work to maintain that practice.</p>



Question	<a href="#">Michael H. Barnes</a>	<a href="#">Dr. Paul Sturm</a>
<b>6.</b> How do you view the role as a trustee member in regard to public policy like taxes?	The Board is established with three primary responsibilities as I understand it. 1) Hire a President that will faithfully execute the objectives of NIC Policies; 2) Establish NIC Policies and 3) approve budgets which include Faculty and Staff salaries and facilities. As an elected official representing one of five zones, and in light of the fact that 80% of the budget is collected in the form of taxes, half of which is direct property taxes, my policy is to be transparent with the voters and taxpayers of Kootenai County to keep taxes low while still promoting a healthy and vibrant junior college campus.	Taxes allow for an institution like NIC to exist for the benefit of the entire community. Budgeting requires the trustees to balance spending against a number of revenue sources. A trustee must advocate for its share of state and federal taxes in order to reduce the burden of taxes on local citizens. We must always be aware of the implications of local taxes on those citizens least able to pay them. I will advocate for resisting tax increases and for reasonable tax exemptions for legitimate vulnerabilities such as health and other disabilities.
<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?	While it may be arguable that unions have served a valuable function in our past, I am NOT in favor of unions in general precisely for the fact that they often dictate what a member may or may not say or do, and practice confiscation of earnings in the form of "Dues" in order to conduct political campaigning for people or causes that the union member may or may NOT approve of. This is the essence of socialist/communist behavior. I am opposed to unions confiscating earnings automatically from paychecks in the way the IRS would garner money for unpaid taxes. In fact, I think it should be illegal.	No. I believe political contributions should be by individual choice.
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	I do NOT support use of bathrooms or locker rooms by individuals who are experiencing a gender identity crisis. Such people should be treated respectfully and encouraged to make other arrangements for their personal needs. <a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Barnes' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a>	As a trustee I will uphold state and local laws and ordinances regarding the use of these facilities based on a person's birth gender.
<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?	I currently do not have a strong grasp on how to address the question of how NIC can help high school students prepare for college or trade school. It seems that this objective and responsibility rests on the primary school systems and parents. However, I am always open to others' creative ideas.	Cooperate with high schools to provide information about NIC's programs, current and future career opportunities, and transferring options from NIC to a 4-year college or university. Accreditation is essential in order to maintain this transfer option. Further develop and promote existing dual-credit options for high school students.
<b>10.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?	All parents should have the CHOICE of where their children attend school. Whatever the calculated cost to taxpayers to educate one pupil per year should be provided to the parents for that purpose alone. If a child attends a public school closest to their residence, then that school gets that figure. If a different school in a different location is desired and there is space, the funds go there. <a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Barnes' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a>	I support parent's freedom of choice in regard to their child's education.
<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?	I believe there should not be any bias against any student coming from a private or home school environment. If there are inequities, I as a Trustee, would encourage a serious investigation to understanding why such students are being considered less favorably than a public-school graduate.	NIC is open to any student whether coming from public, private, or homeschooled backgrounds. NIC provides transition and remedial programs that are designed to help students transition from various backgrounds and be successful at NIC. NIC can be a viable path for some students to transfer to a 4-year college or university.

Question	<a href="#">Michael H. Barnes</a>	<a href="#">Dr. Paul Sturm</a>
<b>12.</b> What does the term “education” mean to you?	The term “Education must be understood to NOT mean “Indoctrination”. Education should focus more on HOW to accomplish a task and HOW to think and learn independently. I have seen and experienced how “education” in our public institutions focuses far too much on WHAT you must think and believe and ostracize those who think and believe otherwise.	Education in the context of a trustee at NIC means formal study and learning by the learner based on a set of standards or criteria. NIC provides students a wide variety of opportunities to gain knowledge and skills to further their goals. Education can also be viewed more broadly to include informal learning through life experience which can represent a valid education. It is most valuable to the learner when formal and informal learning go hand in hand.
<b>13.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	Current I oppose the legalization of marijuana due to the results we see in Washington, Colorado and California. My understanding is that there is a rise of DUI’s relating to the legal use in those states. <a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Barnes’ answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a>	No. It is an illegal drug and it may have harmful health and safety risks.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why does it qualify you for this position?	I was born and raised in Southern California in a very conservative but non-religious home. At 16 I became a Christian, much to the dismay of my father who made my decision a point of continuous contention. At 19 I joined the US Navy and became a Cryptologic Technician. 4 of my 6 years active duty were spent in other countries where I truly learned the value of the economic and religious freedoms we enjoy in the United States. While serving in Turkey, I met my wife of 33 years who was serving there in the US Army. Our situation pushed us to the realization that a career in the armed forces was not ideal for raising a Christian family, so we both got out of the service while serving in Maryland. After the service I had to establish a career which I did in the computer field while simultaneously serving another 4 years in the US Navy Reserves. I quickly became proficient enough in the computer industry to venture out on my own as an independent consultant. I then moved into the field of IT and Systems Security Auditing which allowed me to work remotely anywhere I wished. This led us to the opportunity of leaving liberal Maryland for the red state of Idaho, where my father had retired some years prior. After assisting him as best I could for three years as he fought prostate cancer and subsequently passing on in a solo fatal accident, my wife and I decided we had fallen in love with North Idaho and decided to stay. We have lived in the same home in Athol for the past 14 years. We intend to live out our years in the area and have recently taken up the hobby of motorcycle riding and RV’ing and try to escape the cold dark months of winter for a few months in the warmth of Arizona. I am running for NIC Trustee for Zone 5 primarily because the opportunity presented itself and I believe this to be a calling to positively influence the environment and culture of higher education which I believe has failed our country as it has slipped into ever more radical left progressive ideology that is contrary to our Nation’s founding and is proving more and more dangerous as it more blatantly promotes socialist objectives. My goal is to bring conservative values to the top leadership of our local higher educational institution that is funded by the local property owners of Kootenai County.	a. 34 years as a public school teacher, principal and superintendent. b. 10 years superintendent for Pullman School District c. Elected president of the Washington Association of School Administrators d. Leadership coach for Washington State Leadership Academy e. Earned AA degree - Spokane Falls Community College f. Bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry - Eastern Washington University g. Master’s degrees in Educational Administration - Whitworth University h. Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Washington State University Having worked with school boards, as well as serving on private and nonprofit boards, I possess extensive and relevant educational training and experience that will be useful in the role of NIC Trustee.