

**Watchmen Voter Guide for Coeur d'Alene School District - Zone 4**  
*\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \**  
 → Jennifer K. Brumley and Jeff Zember have withdrawn from the race ←

	<a href="#"><u>Lesli Bjerke</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lindsey Swingrover</u></a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Lesli Bjerke. I am running for CDA School Trustee, Zone 4. The state of our public education, not only here in North Idaho, but across the country, is alarming. As an educator, I cannot tolerate what is being taught to our students and clearly see how it is affecting them; we need to get back to educating, rather than indoctrinating. With my experience, I feel that the school board position would allow me the opportunity to help stop the continued push for CRT (Critical Race Theory), the new health programs and, to stop any other general attempt to degrade scholastic achievement for the sake of equity; I want to work hard to make the public schools a place where academic integrity and excellence is the priority.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>2.</b> How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	More transparency, more input from the parents and an academic centered methodology that removes any Marxist ideology from the curriculum.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<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?	Meeting students where they are and fostering growth in each individual, while pursuing academic successes; doing what is best for students. Through curriculum review and the adoption of the types of curriculum that will return students to an education focused on academic excellence and integrity and, removing programs that foster concepts such as “equity”.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>4.</b> Do you support “Critical Race Theory,” why or why not?	Absolutely not! Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a Marxist ideology that teaches that white people are oppressors and are to blame for racism, sexism, and every other “ism”. Every other race is considered to be the oppressed. This theory promotes racism and teaches children to judge others based solely on their skin color. This is the exact opposite of what Dr. Martin Luther King’s dream was. It also promotes equity rather than equality. Equity is about making everybody exactly the same no matter how hard they work to improve their situation. We are all created equal, with the freedom to create our own destiny; we have not been given the right or assurances that regardless of how much or how hard we work, to have equity of outcome. CRT is destructive and must be eliminated from all of our schools, at every level.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>5.</b> Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	No, as stated above, I do not support CRT. Diversity, equity and inclusion are simply another name for CRT.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>

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<b>6.</b> What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	I am in favor of having choice. Charter schools operate independently from the public schools and have their own local school board. They have differences of educational philosophy and curriculum; sometimes specializing on a particular skill or subject area, like math, science or the arts. Often times, charter schools provide an atmosphere that allows more independent learners to direct their own studies.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<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, I believe employees should be able to decide for themselves whether or not to join a union. Teachers unions, by and large, support one political party making it impossible to equally serve members with divergent views and varying political philosophies.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	I oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on gender identification. Boys should use male restrooms and girls should use female restrooms. Decisions, such as these, open pandora's box - at some point, it devolves into an unrecognizable myriad of accommodations, with the end result being that no one is ultimately accommodated.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>9.</b> How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	Counselors should be an equal resource to the student, parent and school, working cooperatively but not independently for the betterment of the student. And, generally speaking, unless supported by laws that govern exceptions, no counselor should engage with a minor child, without the consent of the parent, first.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>10.</b> What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion without parental notification?	Absolutely not! Students who may find themselves in this situation are often vulnerable, confused and unable to process what their options are and what they need to do. Parental guidance and support is a needed component in ensuring all options and future support are considered.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>11.</b> Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	The 1619 project is based on the arrival of the first slaves in a country that was yet to be called America. The author of this project defines 1619 as the birth of America. This is simply not true. America's birth is 1776 when we declared our independence from England. Accurate history needs to be taught to students, not some altered version of our countries history.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>12.</b> In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	If parents cannot be reached and there is a life or death emergency or when the lack of intervention would have dire consequences to the student. Saving a student from harm, would be the only time to offer assistance without parental notification.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>

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<b>13.</b> Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	Parents are their children’s first teachers. They lay the foundation of academics and life skills that will enable them to function in the home, and later in public situations. It is the parent’s role to ready the child for formal and structured education, within the school system, by ensuring they are ready to learn; that they are well-mannered and, that there are as few obstacles as possible to their success.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>14.</b> What is the goal of education?	The goal of education is to provide students with well rounded academic skills, critical thinking, civic virtue and responsible citizens.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>15.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I do not support the legalization of marijuana. God desires all to have a healthy physical body and mind; taking drugs not only affects our overall health, but takes us away from a relationship with Him.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>16.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	My 25 years of experience in the classroom and my understanding of academic terminology, curriculum, unions and the inner working of how our schools function, make me an ideal candidate. I also know how to work with teachers, administrators and parents to effectively communicate problems and solutions. I also believe that my straight forward approach and desire to work cooperatively, in making positive changes, will benefit all parties.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>