

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction

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

	Debbie Critchfield	<a href="#">Branden J. Durst</a>	Terry L. Gilbert	Sherri Ybarra
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	Branden Durst, state superintendent of public instruction	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>2.</b> In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues facing our schools today?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	Under the theme of a lack of trust of parents, I believe the three biggest issue are: a) Expanding school choice by having money follow students to their parents school of choice b) Stopping critical race theory and other social justice indoctrination theories as well as the sexualization of our children. c) End Common Core.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>3.</b> When do you believe life begins and how does will this belief affect your executive decision making?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	I believe that life begins at conception. It will affect my decision making by prompting me to always fight to support the unborn as a life worth saving.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>4.</b> Should the government fund Planned Parenthood?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	No, and as one of the authors of the No Public Funds for Abortions Act, Idaho and our subdivisions can not legally do so. I also was the author to this change in the Idaho Republican Platform. The Act still has work to be done to eliminate federal funds and the exemptions for hospitals.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>5.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	I fully support expanding school choice in Idaho by having money follow students to their parent's school of choice. Despite the lies you may have heard from one of your state representative, there is nothing unconstitutional about doing so. I believe we must fully equip parents to make this decision and all others for the children. Funding children instead of schools is not only critical to the future of Idaho, it is also fundamental to the Idaho Republican Platform, which I support. When schools compete, innovation occurs and student achievement improves. As your next state superintendent, improving student achievement and supporting parents are my primary objectives. If you'd like to learn more about my school choice proposal, please visit my website at <a href="http://durstforidaho.com/epea">durstforidaho.com/epea</a> .	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>6.</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?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	Yes, I have signed the Families First Pledge. I would be happy to sign the Manhattan Declaration.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>

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<b>7.</b> Should Critical Race Theory be implemented in Idaho schools, why or why not?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	I believe we need to stop Critical Race Theory and other social justice indoctrination theories like Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Transformative SEL. While both of my opponents have pushed for social justice indoctrination or have denied its existence, I have remained committed to eradicating it from our schools, K-12 and post-secondary. Article IX, Section 1 of the Idaho Constitution tells us that we have a public education system to support a republican form of government. I can think of nothing more antithetical to that objective than these insidious social justice indoctrination theories. That is why, as a member of the state board of education, I will propose a policy change to state board policy 3B to create a cause of action to terminate any public school educator or post-secondary professor who, after multiple warnings, insists on continuing to indoctrinate our students. This is serious and we must have serious solutions.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>8.</b> How will you work with other elected officials to influence legislation to benefit public education?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	My goal is not to “benefit public education.” My goal is to empower parents and to improve student achievement.  I will work with legislators and others to get them to understand that we can’t continue to do the same things we’ve always done. Real change is needed and that means expanding school choice as I previously explained.  I have previously served in the legislature and was quite successful at getting innovative education policy adopted. I can do so again.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>9.</b> Do you agree with the Idaho State School Board Association’s decision to disassociate with the National School Board Association in response to their labeling of parents as domestic terrorists, why or why not?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	Yes. I have been advocating that the ISBA leave the NSBA for a long time and this was just the latest example as to why. I actually think that school boards should consider a new organization that understands our conservative values rather than tries to undermine them as ISBA does.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>

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<b>10.</b> In your opinion, has Common Core been beneficial for Idaho students?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	I believe we need to finally end Common Core once and for all. You may hear that the legislature did just that this past legislative session. I'd remind you that the legislature said the same thing about Critical Race Theory after the 2021 legislative session and yet we still have that too. Common Core is still alive and well in Idaho and we know that because the lobbyists whose companies are profiting of Common Core were absent during the debate of the legislation that supposedly ends common core. Don't you find that strange? I do too. We need a leader who will actually end common core and I am making doing so one of my top priorities. Common Core has been a disaster. It has driven a wedge between children and parents. It must end.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>11.</b> Do you believe the ARPA funds come with Federal requirements that might conflict with Idaho values? Why or why not? How will you advocate for the funds to be used towards education?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	Of course they will. I would advocate that we stop accepting these federal funds. The strings are too powerful and they undermine Idaho values.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>12.</b> If elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	I am accountable first and foremost to the Lord. As long as He is pleased, that's all I care about.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>13.</b> In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	I oppose legalizing marijuana. Admittedly, my position on this has changed. I used to think it made sense to legalize marijuana. But then I lived 3.5 years somewhere with legalization and I realized how absolutely wrong I was.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>14.</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?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	It means we shouldn't have a federal department of education. It also means that the federal government has its hands in all sorts of things it shouldn't.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>

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<b>15.</b> What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	Professionally, I have been a small business owner, child custody mediator, community college instructor, curriculum developer, licensed pastor and more. I also served in the legislature in both the House and the Senate, including service on the education committees in both chambers. Academically, I earned a bachelor of arts in political science and a master of public administration in public policy. I'll earn an education specialist degree in executive educational leadership in May. I am committed to fighting for parents and do what needs to be done to fix our education system	<b>Declined to Respond</b>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>