

Watchmen Voter Guide for Legislative District #1 State Senator
** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

	Scott Herndon	Jim Woodward
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Scott Herndon, candidate for Idaho State Senate, district 1	Declined to Respond
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?	<p>At fertilization. We should establish equal protection for all humans from fertilization to natural death. In 2020, I changed the Idaho Republican party platform to state “We affirm that abortion is murder from the moment of fertilization. All children should be protected regardless of the circumstances of conception, including persons conceived in rape and incest. The federal judiciary has played the tyrant in dozens of Supreme Court pro-abortion opinions since Roe v. Wade, and Idaho has the sovereign authority to defy the federal judiciary and to criminalize all murders by abortion within the state’s jurisdiction”.</p> <p>I have written a bill to ban all abortion in the state of Idaho, without exception. Quite simply, abortion is the unlawful killing of an innocent human being and should not be tolerated in Idaho. Idaho has the constitutional authority to ban abortion regardless of contrary federal court opinion. My bill to abolish abortion in Idaho has been filed four years in a row in the Idaho House but has not received a hearing. This year, it was House bill 460 filed by representatives Scott and Nate. See the text at https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2022/legislation/H0460.pdf.</p>	Declined to Respond
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	<p>1) The legislature needs to address its balance of power to the judiciary. Until we stop allowing the judiciary to unconstitutionally veto legislation, we will have a malfunctioning Republic.</p> <p>2) The legislature needs to address the tax system. Our current complex system of “income” taxes, sales taxes, property taxes and other fees for services should be replaced by a first use consumption tax to simplify the tax system.</p> <p>3) The legislature needs to address the balance of power with the federal government. Currently 42% of Idaho state “revenues” are federal government inflows to the state budget. 42% of this money is national debt financed. Which creates two issues – a federal government running programs through the state’s management for which the federal government is not constitutionally authorized. Second, the state of Idaho is facilitating massive expansion of federal debt by accepting these federal cash inflows.</p>	Declined to Respond
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	Medicaid expansion and its \$11 million a day cost to the state budget. Single payer healthcare will always result in higher prices and inferior service. When voters approved Medicaid expansion at the ballot, the legislature should have reversed it because the voters were not given all of the information about future costs. Now the legislature should do all it can to move away from a single large payer and encourage increased competition in healthcare including the promotion of alternative healthcare modalities.	Declined to Respond

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5. Idaho’s school system has a lot of room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	The state constitution requires the legislature to provide for a system of free, public, common schools. Without a constitutional change, the legislature currently possesses the constitutional authority to dictate the basic curriculum of public education. Also, the system is not required to be a government run system. The legislature could promote competition in education by having funding follow students and not institutions.	Declined to Respond
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	I support legislation to prohibit “gender reassignment” surgery on minors. It is actually impossible to change God-given gender.	Declined to Respond
7. If elected, how will you ensure that you are aligned with your North Idaho constituents’ values and how your voting record will reflect those values?	First, my voting record must conform to God’s standards for civil government whether or not the constituents’ values align. Second, my voting record should conform to the US and state constitutions before I concern myself with whether my record conforms to my constituents’ values. But once conformed to the absolute Lawgiver and conformed to the federal and state constitutions, it is important to stay connected to constituents through email, newsletters, social media, videos, forums and groups so that I know the concerns of North Idaho and stay connected to the people of North Idaho.	Declined to Respond
8. What is your definition of marriage?	Marriage is the God ordained union of one man and one woman for life. It is accomplished through publicly known intent by a consenting and eligible man and a consenting and eligible woman. The intent to marry is published, meaning it is known publicly, and it is accompanied by solemnization (a ceremony) with witnesses. It is completed by consummation.	Declined to Respond
9. In recent years, sexually explicit materials have invaded public schools and libraries. In your opinion are these materials appropriate for minors under 18 years old?	There should be no exception in Idaho Code that allows libraries to have available for minors sexually explicit materials. This loophole in Idaho Code ought to be closed.	Declined to Respond
10. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	Freedom of choice for parents – school choice. The legislature is required to fund a system of free, common, public schools. Free obviously means the legislature appropriates public money for education. Common means that the legislature can dictate what is taught in public education. Public means the system has to be available to everyone. I am in favor of options other than the government running the free, common and public schools. I am also in favor of a funding formula that allows the legislature to have the money follow the student rather than an institution. This should increase school choice.	Declined to Respond

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<p>11. Migration from other states has caused property taxes for current homeowners to substantially increase. What legislation would you recommend to prevent the property tax increases that are causing financial burden and forcing some owners out of their homes?</p>	<p>Property taxes. Your question suggests that migration from other states increases property taxes on existing homeowners. This is only true if the cost of providing government services goes up. In other words, while the market value of your home may have doubled due to increased real estate demand and limited supply, if the cost of government services only goes up 3%, then you will likely only see an increase in your actual property tax bill of 3%.</p> <p>Of course, if the population base of an area increases, then it is likely that government services will need to increase in order to provide the same types and level of service to the growing population.</p> <p>I am in favor if eliminating the funding of local governmental services by property taxes and replacing the funds with a consumption tax on first purchases of goods and services.</p>	Declined to Respond
<p>12. In your opinion, should the House of Representatives and the Senate have their own attorney/legal representation apart from the Attorney General?</p>	<p>Yes, the legislature should have their own legal counsel that serves only the legislature and not the executive branch of government.</p>	Declined to Respond
<p>13. 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?</p>	<p>Marijuana legalization. There are good arguments on both sides. If marijuana were to be legalized, there is a legitimate concern as to the effect of marijuana on the brains of young people. Therefore, just like the state regulates tobacco use and purchase, there probably ought not be legalization for minors. My prime instinct is that we shouldn't criminalize a plant itself but acts and commissions of criminality (with actual victims) while using the plant. This is easy to do with alcohol, since we can test a person's BAC as to whether they are impaired by alcohol.</p> <p>Similar such tests for marijuana use are elusive, and that concerns me about the legalization of marijuana.</p>	Declined to Respond
<p>14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I moved to the Sandpoint area in 2004 and at the time was a computer programmer for large corporations like Toyota Motor Sales and Charles Schwab. I have a BS in Finance from Arizona State University. I became a custom homebuilder in the Sandpoint area starting in 2007 and run a successful local business since then. I am a former Bonner County jail chaplain and am the current chairman of the Bonner County Republican party.</p> <p>I began going to Idaho Republican party state conventions in 2018 and have managed to get seven platform changes adopted into the Idaho Republican party platform. Since 2019 I have written 13 pieces of legislation that have been introduced to the Idaho legislature. Of those, 2 bills have been signed into law, on campaign finance and parental rights regarding newborns, and one resolution on abortion has passed the Idaho House.</p>	Declined to Respond

	<p>I have a vision for the proper role of state government and the design of the American Republic that includes a healthy balance of power between the state and federal governments and between the legislature and the executive and judicial branches of government. I also have experience with the Idaho legislature and what kind of consistent, principled and resilient conservative leadership is necessary to be effective in advancing the proper role of the state and preserving the God ordained liberties of the people.</p> <p>My website is HerndonforIdaho.com where voters can learn more.</p>	
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