

Watchmen Voter Guide for Legislative District #3 State Representative - Position A

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

	Vito Barbieri
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Vito Barbieri running for Idaho State Representative District 3 Seat A. After having been in this seat for 12 years, I believe it's my responsibility to use my relationships and understanding of the process to continue representing the citizens of North Idaho.
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?	I believe that life begins AT CONCEPTION. I support all pro-life legislation that I believe will save preborn innocents from destruction.
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	The Idaho Legislature first must address and strengthen its waning influence on state agencies through better regulation of agency rules. Secondly, it must address ever increasing budgets in a highly inflationary backdrop. Thirdly, we must address better communication and coordination between each of the houses. The primary concern is unconstitutional overreach of the federal government. That includes gaining management and control of Idaho lands presently held and mismanaged by the federal government.
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	Presently, the biggest health care issue is a complex mix of federal interference with the relationship of insurance and providers, mandates connected to the Medicaid and Medicare funding, and the inability of the state to remove ineligible Medicaid recipients. Nationalized health care is a major threat to Idaho citizens' health.
5. Idaho's school system has a lot of room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	I don't agree with the premise of the question. However, the school system needs to get back to basics, stop teaching social engineering, sexualizing the children, and focus on reading, writing, and arithmetic. That having been said, the best way to improve public education is to emplace competition for educating children by forcing the money to follow the child.

	Vito Barbieri
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	Absolutely
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?	My voting record evidences a high correlation with North Idaho values.
8. What is your definition of marriage?	A life-long biblically based contract with a man and a woman.
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?	The Idaho House drafted and passed a repeal of the 'affirmative defense' for libraries and schools for distributing this abhorrent material this Session. It was stopped by the Senate with the Senate Pro-Temp being quoted in the press saying it was House "craziness'. I supported and co-sponsored this attempt.
10. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	Absolutely approve of school choice including home schooling (which I did with my children).

<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>I disagree with the premise that migration is the driver of increased property taxes. Property taxes are primarily driven by local government and school budgets. Addressing the property tax issue is complex and, although decreasing the overall budgets of local government would benefit homeowners, any property tax relief would likely be a tax shift. One attempt this Session was made to increase sales tax by nearly two cents, but that failed to get traction.</p>
<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 attorney general’s office is a part of the executive branch and should not be advising the legislative branch.</p>
<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>Medical uses of Marijuana appear to be credible. The trouble is the slippery slope that is created by taking this step. (However, as a practical matter, with nearly every state bordering Idaho decriminalizing (at least), it is not difficult to imagine that a referendum at some point being successful.) I oppose legalization but would support formal decriminalization.</p>
<p>14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I practiced law for 20 years, retiring in 2004. I am currently a small business owner, and I’ve been a state representative since being elected in 2010. I was a board member of Open Arms Pregnancy Care Center in Coeur d’Alene, serving from 2007 to 2020.</p>