

Watchmen Voter Guide for Legislative District #5 State Representative - Position A

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

	Kristy Reed Johnson	Ron Mendive	Dr. Cheri Zao
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Declined to Respond	Ron Mendive State Representative, District 5-A My goal to run for this office has never changed, it is to defend our Constitutional rights and family values. I take my oath to defend the U.S. and Idaho Constitutions very seriously.	Cheri Zao, State House Seat 5A, I want to introduce legislation for property tax reduction. Work to improve housing issues.
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?	Declined to Respond	Life begins at conception. My voting record is solidly pro-life.	All life begins at conception.
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	Declined to Respond	Medical Freedom with NO mandates, Property Tax Relief, and State Control of the federal lands within our borders.	Property tax relief, affordable housing, good schools
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	Declined to Respond	Medical freedom for Idaho citizens has become a major issue. With the implementation of Obama Care, doctors are becoming employees of large health care facilities. As a result of this, the number of doctors in private practice is decreasing rapidly. As employees, doctors have been forced to treat their patients according to the dictates of their employers under the threat of dismissal. We just witnessed our government and hospital administrators insert themselves between the doctor and the patient by requiring government prescribed treatment. Doctors were not allowed to choose "off label" treatments that proved more effective and less costly. I oppose any interference with the doctor- patient relationship.	Mental health – we need more providers & expanded services

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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?	Declined to Respond	Legislation has been ineffective in reforming education in Idaho. The laws passed are not always recognized and implemented by some teachers in their classrooms. Legislation was passed to remove Critical Race Theory from the classroom; however, it has been renamed “social justice “, and is still being taught. We, as legislators have no mechanism to enforce theses laws, it is the responsibility of the parents and local school board to work with us to see this legislation realized.	Teachers should not have to pay for school supplies, neither should parents. We need to improve funding for the basics & improve teacher salaries for recruitment & retention.
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	Declined to Respond	Emphatically oppose.	If mental health treatment is being prohibited by legislation then I oppose that type of approach.
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?	Declined to Respond	As I have stated previously, I support both the U.S. and Idaho Constitutions and defend family values, and this seems to reflect the values of my district.	I want input/open communications with my constituents to be the basis of my voting record.
8. What is your definition of marriage?	Declined to Respond	God defined marriage, it is the covenant between one man and one woman.	Legally – its a contract.
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?	Declined to Respond	NO, we attempted to deal with it legislatively (H-666) but it failed to even get a hearing in the Senate. We will continue to fight this battle to protect our children!	I have heard this but have not seen the evidence. I do not believe in acting on heresay. Parents should decide.

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10. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	Declined to Respond	I have been an advocate for Education Savings Accounts for 9 years. This bill allows the state allocated education money to follow the student and allows parents to find the best educational pathway for their child's individual needs. This model is being successfully implemented in many states. My hope is for Idaho to recognize and adopt this educational alternative. ESA legislation has been introduced for the last 4 years but is still lacking majority support.	Everyone wants their kids to attend the best schools. We should do more to make all schools the best they can be.
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?	Declined to Respond	Rising property values dramatically increase taxes causing many people to be taxed off their property. This session a proposal was made to eliminate the property tax from the primary residences for Idaho homeowners by raising the sales tax by 1.85%. This idea has merit. My hope next session is to explore this proposal further or find another solution for property tax relief.	I am very concerned about this issue & its my main focus. I want to introduce legislation that keeps longtime residents in their homes.
12. In your opinion, should the House of Representatives and the Senate have their own attorney/legal representation apart from the Attorney General?	Declined to Respond	Yes! We need to have the ability to hire counsel that would represent the Legislature.	This is a waste of taxpayer dollars. The voters choose their AG & legislators should abide by their constituents choice.

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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?	Declined to Respond	I oppose the legalization of marijuana, I believe it is the catalyst for introduction to harder substance abuse.	People in Idaho are using marijuana. They buy it in other states & come back to consume it. It seems foolish to lose out on jobs & taxable revenue.
14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	Declined to Respond	I believe the education that one attains through life experiences is a major asset for serving in the legislature. My education equipped me with the tools needed to tackle the various jobs I pursued. My work history includes mining, logging, farming, building custom homes, being involved in developing and patenting the first successful self-igniting pellet stove and now I have a seasonal land service business. This diverse job experience affords me an opportunity to have the perspective of being self-employed and an employee. For over 30 years I have been a small business owner. It has taught me that government policy at all levels impacts Idaho business.	Physician – Family Medicine – helping people, helping families Educator – Anatomy & Physiology Professor – helping people into careers in health care.