

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

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

	Teresa Borrenpohl	Tony Wisniewski
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>Name: Tony Wisniewski Office sought: State Representative District 5B</p> <p>Since I am currently a two term Representative, I wish to continue to support the primary role of government, which is the protection of our God-given rights of life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness.</p>
<p>2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>This issue is no longer a matter of conjecture, as science has clearly shown that a new human life begins at fertilization. I will support legislation that recognizes this fact and protects life from conception to natural death.</p>
<p>3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>a) I will continue to support legislation to protect the lives of all preborn children.</p> <p>b) Medical freedom is another of my priorities. Many individuals have been faced with the horrible choice between losing their livelihood or taking the inoculation. I support an individual's right to decide for himself whether to have an experimental drug injected without his fully informed consent. This includes being told the associated risks. The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has multiple reports of anaphylaxis, thrombosis, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, myocarditis and pericarditis, and even death after receiving the "vaccine".</p> <p>c) Tax reduction is also important to my constituents. The state of Idaho experienced an unexpected surplus of \$2 Billion this year, and \$600 Million is being returned to the taxpayers in income tax refunds and ongoing tax rate reductions.</p> <p>Property tax is the most onerous tax. Pressure for rising prices is partially caused by people moving into our area from higher cost of living areas. However, a major cause of rising housing prices, along with higher taxes, is caused by price inflation. This is the result of the Federal Reserve System inflating the money supply. There are people who purchased their homes decades ago whose property has increased by a factor of 20! If they are on a fixed income that doesn't keep up with inflation, they risk losing their homes to unaffordable property taxes. Until we address inflation, we will continue to apply the same old myopic and ineffective bandaids of the past.</p>

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4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	Declined to Respond	<p>The Department of Health and Welfare was given millions of dollars by the Federal Government to advocate for public health through advertising. They spent this money promoting the Covid 19 inoculation, which is not a vaccine in the traditional definition. They did little or nothing to make the public aware of how to boost their natural immunity to disease by taking Vitamin D and other supplements, reducing one’s body mass index, getting the proper amount of sleep and exercise, having a proper diet, reducing stress, etc.</p> <p>It appears that Idaho never seriously considered the Great Barrington Declaration, which would have focused health care for the elderly and other high-risk populations and allowed others to lead fairly normal lives.</p> <p>In addition, Idaho was the first Republican state to outlaw the use of hydroxychloroquine. This deprived patients and their physicians the ability to select previously proven treatments that could prevent hospitalization and serious illness. If we allow the state to set strict medical protocol, why do we need doctors with experience? Let’s just use medical rookies and pull out the state sponsored playbook.</p> <p>Lastly, we had unelected, mostly non-medical personnel dictating certain health practices, such as who must wear masks. That process has since been changed to restrict the Health Districts to act in an advisory capacity to the County Commissioners and School Districts.</p>
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	<p>The threat of Covid caused serious disruptions in the schools. Many parents were displeased with the school administrators’ responses (total shut down, mandatory masking, refusal to reopen, etc.). Since many parents were forced to find alternative educational routes, they realized that the public school system is not the only way to teach their children. Unfortunately, these alternatives cost money, and parents found out they were paying twice.</p> <p>An Education Savings Account, where the state would fund students rather than the system, would make possible freedom to choose alternatives. House Bill 669 offered this funding formula, but was defeated by a single vote in the House Education Committee. Once this type of program is established, parents will seek the best educational opportunities for their child. This competition will help improve the quality of education at all institutions.</p>
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	Declined to Respond	I support any legislation that prevents irreversible pharmaceutical or surgical procedures on minors. House Bill 675 was introduced this Session and would do exactly that. It was passed in the House along mostly a party line vote of 55-13, but it was denied a hearing by the Senate State Affairs Committee.

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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	<p>Our district is fairly rural and therefore reasonably conservative. For example, we were one of the few districts that voted against Medicaid expansion in 2018. I am a social and fiscal conservative and believe that my principles adequately reflect those of the community that I serve. I will continue to be a strict steward of the public treasury.</p> <p>I enjoy a mid-90% rating with the American Conservative Union. The Club for Growth has awarded me as one of only 15 Idaho Representatives (70 total) with a score of 90% or higher on their economic freedom index.</p>
8. What is your definition of marriage?	Declined to Respond	<p>The wording of the question presupposes that there are multiple valid definitions of the term. Before the recent gender dysphoria began, the dictionary definition was, "the ceremony, civil or religious, by which two people of opposite sex become husband and wife."</p> <p>In Genesis 2 we find, "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."</p> <p>Clearly, for all of Western civilization over millennia, marriage is a union of one man and one woman. I cannot improve on the secular or religious definitions!</p>
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	<p>I agree that these materials are inappropriate. But more important is that Idaho Code 18-1514 defines "obscene material" and "harmful to minors" and makes it clear that they should not be made available to children. The real issue is that Idaho Code 18-1517 specifically exempts school and public libraries (and other venues) from having to restrict these types of materials to minors. House Bill 666 was written to protect children from these materials in these types of institutions.</p> <p>When this Bill was debated on the House Floor, the sponsors wished to inform the legislators about some of the materials currently available to minors in the children's sections of some local libraries. As some of this material was being read, a request was made to excuse and remove the high school-age Pages from the House Chambers due to the coarseness of the material. And yet, if someone gave these materials to a minor, they would be guilty of a crime under current Idaho Code; but they are readily available in the children's section of libraries.</p> <p>House Bill 666 passed the House largely along party lines (51-14). It was sent to the Senate State Affairs Committee, where it did not even get a hearing. It was stated that the bill was poorly written, but any deficiencies could have been corrected during the seventeen days it languished in the Senate committee.</p>

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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	Please refer to my response to question 5 above.
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	<p>There are some common misconceptions about property taxes that need to be dispelled. First of all, none of the property tax revenue collected by cities and counties is sent to the state. The state does not create the budgets that these entities propose to fulfill their mandated functions. Lastly, the state does not determine the assessed value of properties that eventually determine the amount of tax owed on each parcel. One exception where the state has some obligation is the area of unfunded mandates.</p> <p>The tax rate (mill levy) for a taxing district is determined by dividing the total assessed property value in the district by the district budget. Growth in the total assessed value of all property actually decreases the amount of taxes paid by everyone! Of course, this assumes that the budget does not increase due to the new growth. As long as the budget does not increase faster than the growth, tax bills will remain level. Therefore, it is important to have growth pay for itself with impact fees to keep taxes stable for everyone.</p> <p>A major cause of rising housing prices, along with higher taxes, is caused by price inflation. This is the result of the Federal Reserve System inflating the money supply. There are people who purchased their homes decades ago whose property value has increased by a factor of 20! If they are on a fixed income that doesn't keep up with inflation, they risk losing their homes to skyrocketing property taxes. Until we address inflation at the national level, we will continue to apply the same old myopic and ineffective bandaids of the past.</p>
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	I believe it is imperative that we get independent counsel for the Legislature. The Attorney General represents the interests of the Executive Branch and therefore may have conflicts of interest when dealing with a different branch of the state government. I know of at least two recent decisions of the AG's office that, in my opinion, have not been correct and in the best interest of the Legislature.

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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	<p>A Libertarian viewpoint would be that the government has no business telling me what I can or cannot consume. In addition, they would claim that using marijuana is a victimless crime. I believe there would be a large number of users who would be responsible enough such that no one would even be aware that they were using the substance.</p> <p>However, there are a number of reasons that tip my decision away from legalization. Foremost is the cavalier attitude that this action will have on youth, that society now appears to approve of getting high. It will increase usage among teens, and marijuana affects young brains that have not fully developed until around age 25. Safety behind the wheel and in dangerous occupations is also a concern. The tax revenue derived from marijuana would not cover the social costs of enforcement and drug treatment.</p> <p>The criminal black market would prosper since there would be more demand, and these “entrepreneurs” can always undercut the price of a state-controlled substance. Organized crime would also increase the presence of other illegal activities such as illegal drugs and sex trafficking.</p> <p>I believe that there are legitimate uses for marijuana and would be in favor of legalizing medical marijuana.</p>

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<p>14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>I have been involved with the local Republican Party as a Precinct Committeeman since 2008. This is a publicly elected position that I have served in for seven terms. I have also been elected as the Vice Chairman of the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee for four terms, serving under three Chairmen. I have participated in almost every State Winter and Summer Meetings, served as a delegate or alternate at all State Conventions since 2008, and have been on several State Central permanent committees as an active member.</p> <p>In 2018 I was elected as an Idaho State Representative for Post Falls and am finishing my second two-year term.</p> <p>I have a proven track record as a staunch defender of the legal and moral interests of my constituents. My political decisions are based first and foremost on my clearly defined moral principles of personal responsibility and limited government, which gives great predictability to the way I will vote on any issue. Since some bills have bad points mixed with the good, it is sometimes difficult to find the proper balance. In some of these cases, I would prefer to have the sponsor correct the deficiencies and reintroduce the legislation rather than incorporate errors or ambiguities that are next to impossible to correct after the fact. If that is not possible, I may have to vote nay out of caution.</p> <p>In my opinion, there are too many legislators who tend to look at peoples’ needs and try to satisfy them without first asking the question, “Is this the proper role of government?” Too often those needs can be satisfied by taking from one individual what rightly belongs to him and unjustly giving it to another. In Frederic Bastiat’s book, The Law, this is known as legalized plunder and it ultimately leads to everyone depending on government as a solution to their problems.</p> <p>I enjoy a mid-90% rating with the American Conservative Union. The Club for Growth has awarded me one of only 15 Idaho Representatives (70 total) with a score of 90% or higher on their economic freedom index.</p>