



Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guides Bonner County

Our goal for the Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guides was to create a nonpartisan document that educated the voter on where candidates stand on issues that matter to YOU. Questionnaires on race specific issues were sent to ALL candidates in contested races on the November Ballot for Kootenai, Bonner, Boundary, Shoshone, and Benewah Counties. The results are posted in a side by side / easy-to-compare chart.

★ Please be aware that if candidates did not respond in a particular race, we are not including the voter guide in this packet as there are no answers to report. The complete voter guides, including those that declined to respond are available on our website. Also not included here are races where the candidates are running unopposed. You can view their answers on our website.

Attached are the Voter Guides for Assessor, Commissioner, Treasurer and Legislative Districts 1 & 2. The complete set of **Voter Guides** is available on the Watchmen Ministry North Idaho website. In addition to Voter Guides, each candidate's complete questionnaire with their answers is on the website.

Please take the time to become an informed voter. Pray about your choices, go vote, and pray about the results.

Go to www.WatchmenMinistryNorthIdaho.com for complete voter guides, candidate questionnaires and important news.

Our Voter Guide is 100% 501c3 compliant so that it may be dispersed in churches.



Remember, it is your God given civic responsibility to not waste a single opportunity to VOTE.



By voting we perform the minimum of our civic duty by electing and empowering those public servants who give their full attention to governing.



We cannot sit this election out. Your VOTE counts!

Watchmen Voter Guide for Bonner County Assessor

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

	Grant W. Dorman
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>My name is Grant Dorman and I am running for Bonner County Assessor. I have been a land surveyor for 25 years and have had my own business for 20 years, where I have encouraged and advocated for land owners to preserve their property rights. After seeing the mismanagement of the Assessor's office with respect to fair assessments, trespass, and privacy concerns, I decided I could bring a fresh perspective from the private sector to help bring the office back to its rightful place in local government.</p>
<p>2. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?</p>	<p>While I am a firm believer in private property rights, I also am a firm believer in the constitution. The constitution doesn't speak directly about the right of the government to take property for public use, but the 5th amendment states that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation. But what justifies the public to take from the individual? It would seem that it is in conflict with government protecting the rights of the individual, but let's consider the following example: After much debate between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, it was decided that the west would be not put into the hands of a few wealthy aristocrats as Hamilton desired, but instead, surveyed into 160 acre and smaller tracts so that the common man could own land, as Jefferson argued. The land needed to be sold to pay for war debt so they needed to find a way to monetize and populate the west. A parcel of land without access would be pretty worthless so there became a standard practice to create public rights of way along the perimeters of these tracts of land so folks could both have ingress and egress and also facilitate trade. Without that provision, landowners couldn't fully enjoy the benefits of owning land. So, in one sense, the "burden" of providing a right of way, when done properly, actually yields greater enjoyment of one's property rights by allowing free and unfettered access, not only between owners and guests but also access to markets for whatever the owner produces on his or her property. So, I would say that eminent domain is most appropriate when it increases individuals rights, but even when it is used for the general welfare, it is a power that must be yielded with the utmost care and respect for the owners and of course provide just compensation as the 5th amendment speaks of. That being said, I would further say that private land should never be taken for the sake of transfer to another private individual as was done in the landmark case of Kelo vs. New London, Connecticut where the courts forced one private owner to sell to another to create an office park, parking lot, and a new park under the banner of public use, justifying it with increased tax revenue and the creation of jobs. In egregious cases like these which abuse the power as intended, I am 100% against using the doctrine of eminent domain.</p>
<p>3. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Generally speaking, I oppose forced annexation. I would support legislation that would allow a small majority of property owners (say 60%) to be able to disallow an annexation to move forward. Additionally, care ought to be taken to allow for hold outs that do not wish to participate in the services proposed to be provided with the annexation. An example would be if a water district wants to expand its services into a new area, but certain land owners already have water wells, those folks should be able to opt out or at a minimum, the fee structure of the annexation should be to assess the costs of the water district to those using the service, and not to those in the district who opt not to use the service. Finally, annexation boundaries should be considered with a fair amount of granularity so that smaller neighborhoods can decide for themselves whether or not to be subject to annexation, and not be done in a broad brush or large-scale manner.</p>

	Grant W. Dorman
4. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your suggestions?	With growth comes impact on public facilities, usually facilities that have already been paid for. New development should pay a reasonable fee for the impact on those existing facilities that existing tax payers are already paying for and pay for upgrades that otherwise wouldn't be necessary if not for the growth. That being said, care must be taken when imposing impact fees in 3 ways: 1) Impact fees should be calculated very carefully to be used only in close proximity and only in response to growth in those particularly affected neighborhoods, 2) should be put to use in a short timeframe, not sitting on the books for more than a reasonable time, and returned to the developer if not spent on affected infrastructure within a reasonable timeframe and 3) should only be used responsibly in response to growth, not a tool to control or steer growth, lest we become like those coastal communities where impact fees grow into an out of control monster used for all sorts of purposes other than their initial intent.
5. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	I am opposed to Urban Renewal Districts. The idea of urban renewal districts sounds good on the surface, especially in areas where there is significant blight and poverty, but when put into actual practice, the unintended consequences become apparent. All too often, the URD tries to address the symptom without addressing the cause. Often the cause of blight is lack of economic opportunity and pride of ownership of the property owners of a community. But when the URD addresses the aesthetic or increases public facilities, these areas often become unaffordable for the folks who were the intended beneficiaries and wind up moving out of the area. Generally speaking, URD's seem to address the symptom of the problem rather than seeking to truly address the underlying cause of the problem.
6. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	As assessor, I am first accountable to God. Proverbs 11:1 says, "Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight" The assessor must uphold the duty of fair assessments in the light of public service. Second, I am accountable to the voters; if I don't do the job, they can and should replace me next election. Third, I am accountable to the State of Idaho. Each year, the State Tax Commission does an audit to make sure that the job is being done appropriately, and if it isn't done so, they can and will step in and do it themselves.
7. The county is rapidly growing as are housing prices. If elected, how will you assess property values in regards to keeping property taxes low?	It is important to understand that a community's property tax is primarily determined by the taxing districts (schools, libraries, highway districts, cities, etc.) Those elected officials determine their operating budget every year and decide how much of their budget will be funded with fees and how much with property taxes. The assessor's job is to provide to the clerk and the tax collector fair market values of each house, taking into account exemptions, so that those district's tax burdens are spread appropriately based on market values. <u>The assessor has no role in keeping taxes low or for raising taxes for that matter.</u> Their job is to simply provide valuations so that the overall tax burden, is distributed proportionately.
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	Yes, see question number 4.

	Grant W. Dorman
9. 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 locally?	Absolutely, ARPA funds come with conditions that conflict with Idaho values. The contract terms are one sided and give the US treasury more control oversight of local funds than what is appropriate. The stated objectives of racial equity and equality of outcomes are not aligned with Idaho’s traditional values of providing equal opportunity and rewarding individual effort and reinforcing individual accountability. The ARPA plan seeks to grow local government and increase dependency upon it. It also contributes to inflation, by providing government with funds that have the net effect of reducing citizen’s purchasing power, effectively creating an invisible tax on savings and earnings. I have participated as a guest speaker at a local townhall on ARPA and am scheduled this week to give a similar presentation. I plan to continue to advocate for sending the money back, we don’t need it or want it.
10. How would you utilize the budget that you manage while being fiscally responsible?	I will seek to find ways to increase employee efficiency and retention. The office currently has a turnover problem, which requires continual training of new staff, which wastes taxpayer funds. The key to managing the budget is to promote profession growth amongst the staff to increase commitment to the department and job performance. In my opinion, one of the best measures of success of the office is how many assessments are appealed. If folks aren’t satisfied with their assessment, they can appeal it to the Board of Equalization (the County Commissioners). And then if they aren’t satisfied, they can take it to the State Board of Tax Appeals (BTA). Over the last 3 years, the BTA heard 4 residential appeals from Kootenai County, 1 from Boundary County, but 28 were from Bonner County! In fact, in 2021, out of 44 counties in Idaho, Bonner County alone accounted for 11 of the 24 residential appeals to the state! Even Ada County, with over 7 times more property value than Bonner, only had 6 appeals. This represents a huge amount of money defending these assessments that is simply the result of the lack of leadership to get the job done right the first time.
11. Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I completely oppose the idea of a county manager. The Idaho constitution and statue define job of the commissioners, and we need THEM to do the job, not another intermediary between the people and government. In my opinion, any argument in favor of a county manager is simply an argument for why government should grow beyond its constitutional jurisdictional boundaries.
12. With the rapid growth of the County, do you think we need more commissioners?	No. We need the commissioners to do their job.
13. Do you believe the six Row Officers (assessor, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, treasurer, coroner, and clerk) should be appointed or stay elected? Why or why not?	They need to stay elected positions. This is how the people keep government in check. We don’t need consolidation of power, we need division of power to provide healthy checks and balances. For more information, read Federalist #47 on the necessity of the division of powers.

<p>14. In your opinion, does the office of Assessor provide any checks and balances amongst the other elected officials?</p>	<p>When done properly, assessments provide an appropriate distribution of taxes to all property owners. When a community votes for elected officials, they are entrusting to them the power to burden their property with taxes, and the assessor keeps that distribution proportionate.</p> <p>Additionally, when the assessor maintains a certain healthy distance from the commissioner's office, the Board of Equalization appeal process can work properly, however, if the two departments coordinate their efforts too closely and don't maintain healthy boundaries, the appeal process can fall apart and we can see the results of higher appeals (see question #10 above.)</p>
<p>15. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I have been married to my wife Michelle for 28 years and we have 4 beautiful children and one new grandbaby! Our oldest daughter and her husband are seniors at Hillsdale College in Michigan. Our oldest son is serving in the US Navy in Florida and is married also. We also have a son who is working locally in the construction industry and a daughter who is wrapping up high school.</p> <p>I grew up in a household where I assisted my father with residential construction and continued to do that after high school until I joined the US Navy where I served as an Air Traffic Controller. Afterwards, I continued to work in residential construction, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in Land Surveying. I have been a land surveyor for 25 years and had my own business for 20 of those, where early on, I focused on the residential and commercial real estate sectors.</p> <p>After the 2008 real estate crash, I returned to school and earned my Masters in Business Administration, which gave me the skills necessary to grow the business into other market sectors, including public utilities, transportation, and infrastructure to become more resilient to the boom and bust cycle of real estate. We went through a merger with an engineering firm and also acquired another land surveying firm and have managed as many as 30 employees and 5 field crews in multiple office locations. In 2015, we expanded into the timber industry in North Idaho and Eastern Washington.</p> <p>In 2020, I sold my surveying business and continued as a consultant until last year. Having completed that commitment, I am ready to bring to the office of Bonner County Assessor the entrepreneurial spirit that believes if you don't take care of your employees and customers, you don't have an much of an organization.</p>

Watchmen Voter Guide for Bonner County Commissioner District 2
** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

	Asia L. Williams
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Asia Williams of Blanchard Idaho. I am running for District 2 County Commissioner. Over the past years I have seen significant disregard for the people's desire to be involved in the function of county government. From zoning and planning issues, to increased litigation and concerns over the state of county, it was apparent that the people of Bonner County wanted a change.
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?	Life begins at conception
3. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	Eminent domain has been abused throughout the country. We have watched as private property rights have been ignored by using eminent domain. Use of the eminent domain should be used very sparingly and mostly applied when it increases the rights of the property owner with strict adherence to ensuring the property owner is justly compensated.
4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I oppose forced annexation. Many people choose to live in an environment where they are not annexed due to the "freedoms" that they have. If I buy my land in an area that is unincorporated, I accepted the positive and negatives of that area. For example, if city water wants to come through my town and I already have a well. I should not be forced even through popular vote to be pushed to city water.
5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?	Growth requires that we review the infrastructure for Fire, EMS, and services such as water. As we grow, it is paramount that a commissioner review and make a plan regarding the impact to our infrastructure and to actively manage density. Currently, many are concerned with our water resource especially around the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. We continue to see growth in spite of wells going dry.
6. Due to the rapid growth in our communities, our schools are reaching maximum capacity. What are your plans to accommodate more schools to meet the growing needs of the increased population?	Commissioners dont make decisions re schools. However they must manage the impact on our population through responsible growth ensuring services for current residents
7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	I am opposed to Urban renewal districts. Quality risk management requires that we look to the root cause of a problem not the proximate cause. Urban renewal districts is a sophomoric response that has the opposite effect when put into practice.
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	Yes, this burden should be placed on those moving to the area not current residents.
9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	When elected I am accountable to the people of Bonner County. A leader is a character trait that complements a person's ability to represent. When we elect people who fail to distinguish between the two, we end up with an unrepresented people. As Commissioner for district 2, I am accountable to the people of Bonner County.

	Asia L. Williams
10. Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I am a six sigma black belt with an MBA and background in quality risk management. My professional and educational background will be beneficial in helping the county run a lean budget wherein we closely manage human capital to ensure efficient and effectiveness while also cutting out “leakage” in our budget.
11. With the rapid growth of the county, do you think we need more commissioners?	I oppose the growth of local government to include a county manager. Our constitution provides for county commissioners and identifies their job duties. Residents of the county need to hold them responsible for doing the job as described. This would be an unnecessary budget increase.
12. 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?	No, we need Asia Williams in District 2. A proven candidate who is constitutional, liberty minded conservative candidate with a background in quality risk management, business, leadership and six sigma.
13. 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 locally?	Absolutely, civil liberties are at risk with taking money with unprecedented reporting requirements and data collection and compliance. From responding to scale to not opposing the foundation of ARPA which is covid. Too many continue to talk about mask mandates and the like. There is no need for a mask mandate when taking the money pushes counties, cities and states to require compliance through the taking of the money. Additionally, the contract for ARPA allows for additional requirements post April 2022.
14. Do you believe the six Row Officers (assessor, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, treasurer, coroner, and clerk) should be appointed or stay elected? Why or why not?	Elected positions for the 6 row officers. Accountability to the public is paramount in the ensuring local government continues to be checked. The individual offices of county business need to stay in their lane for appropriate checks and balances. C
15. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I am a business person who has over 15 years’ experience in process improvement, quality, leadership and business. I have been successful in increasing the function of overall state government as recognized by Washington State Secretary of State. I have worked with various business from the timber industry to health care with an overall goal of improving process to include communication. My background is the change that is needed for District 2. A competent educated individual with a background and proven strategy to improve the overall function of an operation. Through communication, leadership and education, I am the best candidate for District 2 County Commissioner.

Watchmen Voter Guide for Bonner County Treasurer

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

	Clorrisa A. Koster
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Clorrisa Koster, and I am running for Bonner County Treasurer. I am running for Bonner County Treasurer because I truly care for the citizens of Bonner County. Property taxes are a burden for many and making sure that every taxpayer is educated in the various exemptions they might be able to qualify for, payment plan options, and how property taxes are assessed and calculated is key. I want to make sure that the office continues to be run with the dedication, professionalism, accuracy, and accountability that the citizens deserve.
2. As the county treasurer who has the responsibility to invest idle funds, what should the investment strategy be for the public's money?	The county Treasurer has this responsibility. Investment of Idle funds are dictated by Idaho Code. Funds must be FDIC insured or collateralized. Funds must also be diversified and readily available.
3. What improvements can be made for greater transparency in the Treasurer's office to the public?	Transparency is not currently a problem in the Treasurer's Office; however, we can always do better with communication with the public. I will make sure that that information is posted on the Treasurer's Office website. Facebook is also a powerful tool to the public when used responsibly. I will create a face book page for the office that can be used to notify the public regarding due dates of taxes, exemptions and any other important information that we need the public to be aware of.
4. If elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	All elected officials are accountable to the citizens in the county because we are elected to serve them.
5. What should the proper balance of government revenue sources be when considering income taxes, property taxes and sales taxes?	The purpose of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that we cannot perform ourselves. Taxes should only be collected and spent to provide those critical functions and nothing more.
6. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	Under the current rules and laws for Urban Renewal agencies I oppose them. Urban Renewal takes away revenues from taxing districts that fall within their boundaries.
7. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support requirements for developers to pay impact fees.
8. Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I do not support or oppose this idea. I would first need to see an analysis on the benefits of incorporating this position in Bonner County vs the cost to fully decide for or against.
9. How would you utilize the budget that you manage while being fiscally responsible?	My budget will be based on salaries for my staff and the necessary supplies and services that are needed to perform the duties under Idaho Code that the Treasurer is responsible for.

	Clorrisa A. Koster
10. 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 locally?	Yes. The documents that have been supplied by the Federal government indicate the enforcement of executive orders that we would be subject to, such as mask and vaccine mandates as well as future orders at any time that the Federal Government sees a need for. In addition to this, if Bonner County were to use any of these funds and did not follow the executive orders, we could be subject to returning the funds which depending on the amount that we used could bankrupt the county leaving the taxpayers to burden the costs. I will not advocate for the funds to be used. ARPA funds need to be sent back.
11. With the rapid growth of the county, do you think we need more commissioners?	At this point I do not see where Bonner County's growth justifies the need for more commissioners. This will be an added cost to the taxpayers, and I do not see where the benefits justify it. This is subject to change if growth continues.
12. Do you believe the six Row Officers (assessor, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, treasurer, coroner, and clerk) should be appointed or stay elected? Why or why not?	I believe the above officers should be elected. The public should have the say in who represents them.
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?	I would support the legalizing of it for at least medical purposes as it has been proven that it can have very good benefits and is a better alternative to harsh chemicals from drugs that are given for many things.
14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I know the job and I have done the job. The Treasurer/s position is responsible for the billing, collection, and apportionment of over \$70 million in tax dollars as well as the safeguarding of those funds. I have 29 years of direct financial experience within Bonner county, 23 years directly working in the Treasurer's office and 14 of those years serving as the Chief Deputy Treasurer. As Chief Deputy Treasurer I have made decisions in the absence of the elected treasurer. I know the Idaho code that dictates the duties and responsibilities of the treasurer. The remaining 6 years has been with the Bonner county Auditor's office working as an accountant. In 2019 I was appointed to serve as the Chief Deputy Clerk, which acts as the elected clerk in his absence, and I have the responsibility of managing all operations of the Elections Department.

Watchmen Voter Guide for Legislative District #1 State Representative - Position B

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

	Sage G. Dixon
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Sage G. Dixon, House of Representatives Seat 1B, I am running in an effort to continue the honest, principled, conservative representation I have provided for the past eight years.
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?	Life begins at conception, and I have been a constant supporter of pro-life legislation during my tenure in the legislature.
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	The legislature needs to address property taxes, needs to strengthen family values legislation, and needs to continue to oppose federal overreach into our state.
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	The biggest healthcare issue for Idaho right now is the staffing shortage most healthcare facilities are experiencing. In addition to a general lack of employees, forced vaccine mandates, which I oppose, have exacerbated this problem, as well as other healthcare policies initiated last year. Medicaid expansion has exponentially increased the amount of money Idaho has to spend on healthcare, and efforts to curtail this harmful social program should continue. We also need to be vigilant against pushes for euthanasia under the guise of "healthcare" which is starting to be seen in other states.
5. Idaho's school system has a lot of room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	Increasing the opportunity for parents to direct their children's education is a priority, as well as improving the funding formula for public schools. Having state dollars follow the student to each different education source is important, as is strengthening our curricula standards.
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	I wholeheartedly support legislation to prohibit the mutilation of the bodies of minors in the name of gender reassignment, and voted in favor of such legislation earlier this year.
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?	I have provided accurate representation for the constituents of District 1 for the past eight years. We have a broad spectrum of political philosophies that range from populist libertarians to leftist progressives, but the vast majority are traditional, conservative republicans. My voting record is consistent with the interests of the majority of my constituents, as well as the values I espouse in public.
8. What is your definition of marriage?	Marriage is the union of a man and woman in the bonds of matrimony, under the eyes of God, and preferably facilitated by a Church.
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?	Sexually explicit material should not be available to minors in any publicly funded building, and especially in schools and libraries.

	Sage G. Dixon
10. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	I believe parents should be able to direct their child's education as they see fit, and that there should be as many education options as possible. Years of effort on this topic have started to bear fruit, and I am hopeful the next session will see major change instituted.
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?	Our property tax formula is a multifaceted system that needs streamlining. I would like to see all property taxes for owner occupied properties go away. If we are unable to do this, then a constitutional amendment to hold assessments, or taxes, at the level when the property was purchased would be helpful as well. A minor improvement would be a rolling average assessment to reduce the volatility of property values.
12. In your opinion, should the House of Representatives and the Senate have their own attorney/legal representation apart from the Attorney General?	The Legislature should have their own legal representation separate from the attorney general. This is an effort we have tried to get accomplished for a few years, and, last year, separate counsel was provided to the legislative services office with the intent of serving legislative needs.
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?	I do not support the legalization of marijuana, either medical or recreational. Although alcohol can be just as harmful, accepting another mind-altering substance to be used in the state is directly against our constitutional directive to promote temperance. Despite the marketing of pro-marijuana activists, the fiscal impact is often negative, and the criminal aspect does not diminish with legalization.
14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I am the incumbent for the position, and have proven to be an effective legislator during my tenure in the office. I am well versed in the founding principles of our nation, have been a small business owner, have been a teacher in my church, and have a deep interest in the reformation of our system of government.

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

	Scott Herndon
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
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>
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>
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.
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.

	Scott Herndon
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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?	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%. 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. 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.

	Scott Herndon
12. In your opinion, should the House of Representatives and the Senate have their own attorney/legal representation apart from the Attorney General?	Yes, the legislature should have their own legal counsel that serves only the legislature and not the executive branch of government.
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>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>
14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	<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> <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>

Watchmen Voter Guide for Legislative District #2 State Representative - Position A

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

[Heather Scott](#)

<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>My name is Heather Scott. I am running unopposed for the new House Seat – District 2A. My belief is that the purpose of government is to work for the people, in a limited defined role as laid out in our federal and state constitutions. I am running for his particular office because I believe my continued efforts to limit government and give local constituents a voice in Idaho government provides a benefit to North Idaho and I want to continue to work to stop overreach and unconstitutional actions by the federal government. My qualifications include the fact that I am currently doing the job of a state legislator in District Seat 1A and have been for the past 8 years. My goals are to return Idaho to an independent sovereign state that operates with fiscal responsibility, resists federal money and protects the rights Idaho citizens. Another goal I have is to change the current leadership direction of the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Government work as I see it first and foremost is to protect the individual rights and freedoms of the citizenry over which they govern. This may include assisting in certain aspects of citizens’ lives to maintain order in society through laws and rules that are fair and equal but not burdensome; to provide infrastructure that is open to all and paid for by fair and equitable fees or taxing; and to maintain the least amount of intrusion into families, private businesses and personal liberties while protecting the livelihoods and private assets from threats both foreign and domestic.</p>
<p>2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?</p>	<p>I believe life begins at conception without exception. I have always voted for true prolife legislation and I have been the sponsor the Idaho Abortion Human Rights legislation for the last three sessions. We have not got it passed into law yet but I am confident we can once we change the makeup of the House and Senate and educate the citizenry.</p>
<p>3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?</p>	<p>1) Real and complete protection of the unborn; 2) ending the covid emergency; 3) public education reform from K thru university.</p>
<p>4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?</p>	<p>Vaccine mandates and vaccine-based health care preferential treatment – both of which I oppose.</p>
<p>5. Idaho’s school system has a lot of room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?</p>	<p>I would and do support school vouchers; homeschool tax incentives; greater parental control over curriculum; outlawing Common Core and CRT teaching. I also believe getting the smut and pornography out of schools should be a priority for the legislature and governor’s office. I really do not think government run schools are the best way to educate our children.</p>

	Heather Scott
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	I have and would oppose any legislation that would allow gender reassignment treatment/surgery including hormone blockers for minors as well the use of any public funds this type of actions for any person, minor or adult.
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?	I believe that North Idaho citizens are freedom loving conservatives. I am a strong conservative who has maintained one of the highest Idaho Freedom Foundation's (IFF) freedom index and spending index (for low spending) scores for of all legislators for the last eight years. I am also rated high on the American Conservative Union (ACU) and Club for Growth's conservative scoring list. I have been a strong supporter of the Republican party since entering politics in 2014 around the time of the Tea Party Movement. I believe that all of the above reflects the majority citizens in my district.
8. What is your definition of marriage?	Marriage is between one man and one woman, just how God designed it.
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?	These sexually explicit materials are not appropriate in our public schools or libraries or frankly anywhere public tax dollars are used. I have been addressing this very issue in my recent newsletter related to House Bill 666.
10. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	As stated above, I would and do support school vouchers; homeschool tax incentives; greater parental control over curriculum; outlawing Common Core and CRT teaching. Parents need greater control over their children's education and their school boards but parents must also remain involved and engaged with their children school during their entire k-12 era.

	Heather Scott
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?	Property taxes can be controlled by limiting the growth and wasteful spending that occurs at municipal, county and state levels. With all the people moving into North Idaho, our taxes should be going down. Instead, counties and cities are spending more and growing. Limiting the growth of government is one step. Another is to develop a new and improved property tax via questioning our current property tax if they show conflict between costs and services. The Idaho legislature should never use rubber-stamp policies because of their common negative long-term effects. Adding measures like defining residential vs corporate property, to ensure businesses are paying fair and adequate taxes and not allowing vacation homes and other non-primary dwellings to be given the same tax breaks as a primary residence.
12. In your opinion, should the House of Representatives and the Senate have their own attorney/legal representation apart from the Attorney General?	Yes. The House and the Senate should not be intertwined with the executive branch, which includes the AG office.
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?	I oppose legalizing pot. I believe it opens Idaho to the social and economic pitfalls and troublesome issues now being witnessed in other states like CO, WA and OR.
14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I have lived in north Idaho for the last 24 years. I am married to my husband, Andrew. I have a bachelor's of science in biology and prior to becoming a state legislator, I spent 20 years working in the natural resources/engineering consulting field working primarily on fish and wildlife issues related to hydroelectric projects. Currently I am a small business owner and an Idaho State Representative.

Watchmen Voter Guide for Legislative District #2 State Representative - Position B

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

	Dale Hawkins	Jennifer Ann Luoma	Tom Stroschein
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Dale Hawkins, Legislative District 2, Seat B, House of Representatives for the state of Idaho. I have watched over the years as the principles of our republican form of government and our liberties have been trampled on by those who claim them and claimed to be conservative Republicans. I can no longer sit by and watch.	Jennifer Ann Luoma, House 2, Seat B I'm a phenomenal candidate, People before politics!	Declined to Respond
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 and I will do everything in my power to protect the life of The Unborn.	Life <u>never</u> ends	Declined to Respond
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	Property tax relief, parental rights and stopping the perversion of our education system.	Housing, Roads, Body Autonomy 24/7 for Everyone!	Declined to Respond
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	The government trying to tell us what type of care we need and what kind of drugs to put in our body. Vaccines, vaccine mandates. We must be able to make our own medical choices.	Our community is aging out. I am <u>Passionate</u> about creating a <u>Safe</u> health & happy 2050 Idaho.	Declined to Respond
5. Idaho's school system has a lot of room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	Ultimately, parents must be put back in control of their children's education. I would also support School vouchers, homeschool programs and I believe that the money should follow the student.	Restructure the entire system. Have a plan by letting it evolve organically. Think outside of the Box!	Declined to Respond
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	I do support legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment or surgery on minors. I believe this to be a form of child abuse of the greatest kind.	I don't support the government getting involved. I would not encourage this until after puberty.	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?	I believe my faith in Christ and my core values of limited government, individual liberty, free enterprise and the traditions of our founding fathers. I believe it is these that make me in line with the people of North Idaho and I will use these and rely on my faith in Christ to continue to go forward and vote according to these principles.	Every week I will lunch at senior centers. Attend church, soup kitchens & schools (public, private/home). People over Politics!	Declined to Respond

	Dale Hawkins	Jennifer Ann Luoma	Tom Stroschein
8. What is your definition of marriage?	Marriage is a Covenant agreement between a man, a woman and God.	Legal or spiritual?	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?	This is something that I have become aware of recently. I think it's completely appalling and inappropriate for any form of state funding to promote these materials. Or have them in any public facility including schools and libraries. For any age, especially minors.	Discernment. I don't think they are appropriate, but my personal morals should never be law!	Declined to Respond
10. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	Again, I believe that parents should have complete control over their children's education whether it be through vouchers or homeschooling and other options. I believe that the money should follow the student.	I support school <u>choice</u>	Declined to Respond
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?	I believe, that for immediate relief, a bill putting a moratorium on the evaluation process used by County assessors for four years is needed. This would allow the legislature to come up with a constitutional solution to a more balanced approach for property tax. As well, we should be taking a look at the massive bureaucracies we have created here in Idaho that are consuming huge amounts of resources.	Follow our Libertarian Mike Long or "Idaho Joe"	Declined to Respond
12. In your opinion, should the House of Representatives and the Senate have their own attorney/legal representation apart from the Attorney General?	I am not completely familiar with this subject yet it makes sense that the House and the Senate should not be tied to the executive branch in legal matters.	NO	Declined to Respond
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?	I oppose the legalization of marijuana, I believe all this does is take the drug dealer from down the street and put him in the capital.	Decriminalization. If counties are against they can vote not to have dispensaries.	Declined to Respond

	Dale Hawkins	Jennifer Ann Luoma	Tom Stroschein
14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I don't believe it is my many years involved in the Republican Party or the 30 plus years involved in leadership roles both in the church and in business. I believe that it is my love for God and my unwavering love for the great state of Idaho, the Idaho Constitution and the people of this great state and my desire to protect our liberties and our freedoms for our future and for future Generations.	I'm 53 from MN. I'm a child of God, wife, community & Libertarian. Spent decade working for the government. Several years on safety commissions. Questions call 208-818-0105. Have a <u>super</u> day	Declined to Respond

Watchmen Voter Guide for Legislative District #2 State Senator
** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

	Phil Hart
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Phil Hart and I am running for an open seat in the Idaho Senate, for Legislative District 2. In 2018 I wrote an article entitled “ Uncle Sam is Biggest Brother ” where I said “The government of the United States is the biggest government the human race has ever seen on Planet Earth.” You can find that article here: www.newswithviews.com (see writer Phil Hart) The government of the state of Idaho is also growing too fast. We need a conservative legislature that will roll back the size of state government and reduce the budget. Less government means more freedom.
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. We find at Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you;” I will support the best pro-life bills that have a chance to pass. When I previously served in the Legislature, I had a 100% pro-life voting record.
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	A. State government is growing too big. I want to work to reduce the size of government. B. As a legislator, I want to offer a constitutional amendment to the Idaho Constitution similar to the Tenth Amendment in the National Constitution limiting the power of state government to only powers enumerated in the state constitution. C. I also think we need protections for mandated medical treatments as I believe each citizen is sovereign over their own bodies. We need to hold various government actors accountable when they claim they have emergency powers.
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	The growth of Health and Welfare. We need to re-examine the role of government in our lives. I don't believe in the nanny state where the government is responsible for so much of the healthcare responsibilities in our society. When the Framers wrote the Constitution in 1787, the life expectancy rate was 28 years, yet they chose to not include any governmental powers for health issues. I think they had it right.
5. Idaho's school system has a lot of room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	I would encourage as many educational choices as possible to create competition in education. The more educational choices there are, the more competition will make all education institutions better.
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	God created us men and women. Gender reassignment is un-natural. We should not be using any tax payer funds for this purpose.

	Phil Hart
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?	When I previously served in the Legislature from 2004 until 2012, I had one of the most conservative voting records in the Legislature. Since 2004 until today, there were only 2 bills passed by the Legislature and signed into law that directly pushed back on the federal government. I authored both of them. These were House Bill 606 in 2008 and House Bill 343 in 2011.
8. What is your definition of marriage?	The answer is simple; marriage is between 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?	No, they are not appropriate. And there should be no exceptions for schools or for public libraries. These facilities are supported by tax payer's money, and that money should be spent in accordance with the tax payer's wishes.
10. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	I believe parents have jurisdiction over their children, and are responsible for their education. "Train up your child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Just like Adam Smith described the economic "invisible hand" in his book Wealth of Nations as good for economies, I believe that the more educational choices we have, the more competition we will have in education and the better all educational facilities will become.
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?	There are proposals for a Proposition 13 type ceiling on property taxes, but that will require a constitutional amendment. I will support such legislation while declaring a statewide moratorium on increasing property valuations while such a constitutional amendment works its way through the approval process. This problem is mostly fueled by the expansion of the money supply, which is a federal issue.

	Phil Hart
<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. Using the state’s Attorney General to provide legal counsel to the Legislative Branch of our state government is a separation of powers issue. In practice, the Attorney General’s office and staff are biased toward the bureaucracy. In that role, they are often the gatekeeper that kills legislation that would benefit the people of Idaho, but is not favored by the bureaucracy. I complained about this so much when I was a member of the House, that the House created an annual budget of \$200,000 for outside legal counsel. We need to go a step further where the Legislature has its own on-staff legal counsel.</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>I support legalizing medical marijuana when it can be shown it is the best option in individual cases. However, there needs to be sideboards on such a policy since there are now dozens of different laboratory enhanced varieties of marijuana that go far beyond what is needed for medical purposes.</p>
<p>14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I have a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. I own Alpine Engineering, a firm that does structural engineering and civil engineering. I am licensed as a Professional Engineer in about a dozen states. I am also MSHA certified for open-pit mining. I have lived in Coeur d’Alene, Athol and now Kellogg since 1995. I have lived in the new Legislative District 2 for 24 years.</p> <p>I served seven years on the Board of the Remington Water District in the Athol area. I also served nine years on the Board of the United Precious Metals Association. See upma.org. From 2004 until 2012 I was a member of the Idaho House of Representatives representing the north and east areas of Kootenai County. My voting record was both socially and fiscally conservative. I also authored and successfully ran legislation that was conservative in nature. Since 2004 until today, the Idaho Legislature has passed only 2 bills that were signed into law that directly pushed back on the federal government. I was the author of both those bills. I believe we need more people in the Legislature with my type of track record.</p>