

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

	<a href="#">Phil Hart</a>
<b>1.</b> 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 “ <b>Uncle Sam is Biggest Brother</b> ” 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: <a href="http://www.newswithviews.com">www.newswithviews.com</a> (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.
<b>2.</b> 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.
<b>3.</b> 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.
<b>4.</b> 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.
<b>5.</b> 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.
<b>6.</b> 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.

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<b>7.</b> 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.
<b>8.</b> What is your definition of marriage?	The answer is simple; marriage is between a man and a woman.
<b>9.</b> 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.
<b>10.</b> 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.
<b>11.</b> 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.

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<p><b>12.</b> 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><b>13.</b> 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><b>14.</b> 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>