

Idaho State Senator District 2

	Phil Hart	Tom Hearn
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Phil Hart, candidate for State Senate for Legislative District 2 seeking to be re-elected to a second term. I have previously served 8 years in the House of Representatives, and I understand the issues and the legislative process that takes place in Boise. I am an advocate for limited government and increasing freedom. I agree with the statement from Thomas Jefferson when he said "The government that governs least governs best." We need more voices in Boise for smaller and less intrusive state government and pushing back on federal over-reach.	No Response Received
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?	I believe that life begins when a fertilized egg implants itself in the mother at the proper location. I agree with the United States Supreme Court that this is a state issue. To that end, in 2023 I authored House Joint Memorial 2 which calls for Congress to limit the jurisdiction of the federal courts from hearing cases that originate from state statutes, authored by state legislatures, concerning abortion questions. This memorial was adopted. By putting this limitation on the federal courts, such cases could only be heard in state courts. I believe in my 10 years in the legislature that I have a 100% pro-life voting record.	No Response Received
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	I believe the top three issues that should be addressed for the 2025 legislative session are school choice, inflation/property taxes/state economy and the impact of illegal immigration and the open border. Regarding the illegal immigration and the border issues, in 2024 I authored House Bill 615 (withholds public benefits from illegal aliens) and House Bill 464 (state compact for border security similar the the Texas bill). I will bring both bills back in 2025. I will also bring one or two bills that address a constitutional money system, which can reduce inflationary pressures. Lastly, 2025 will be the year we approve a school choice bill. There will likely be several school choice bills. One of them will get my support, and I will likely vote against the other alternatives. The devil will be in the details.	No Response Received
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	Maintaining freedom of speech is paramount for Idahoans to have the information they need to make wise health care choices. The authors of our federal Constitution did not believe it was a proper role of government to be involved in health care issues. This is why the United States Constitution is silent regarding health care. To that end, our state government should not mandate any type of health care procedures. These are decisions for the individual. And Idahoans should have access to the type of health care they desire.	No Response Received
5. Idaho's school system has room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	Competition has an amazing influence on any and all places where competition is allowed. It was David Rockefeller, who controlled monopolies, that said "Competition is a sin." Those who want to limit school choice want an education monopoly. Monopolies result in mediocre output. We currently have mediocre results with our government schools, and I believe more competition in education will affect every aspect of our schools for the good. To that end, I am going to support school choice alternatives.	No Response Received
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	I will support legislation that will oppose gender reassignment and gender altering surgeries on minors.	No Response Received

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7. If elected, how will you ensure that you are aligned with your North Idaho constituents' values and how will your voting record reflect those values?	In 2012, when I was a member of the House of Representatives, the Idaho Freedom Foundation had me ranked in the top 5 conservatives in the Idaho Legislature. Last year as a member of the Senate, I had the top 'Freedom Index' score from the Idaho Freedom Foundation who ranked all 105 legislators. I have a voting record for the 10 years I have been in elective office. Year by year, my voting record has been consistent and does reflect our North Idaho values.	No Response Received
8. What is your definition of marriage?	I believe in the scriptural model for marriage that marriage is between a man and a woman. I believe one of the main purposes of marriage is to "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" as stated at Genesis 1:28.	No Response Received
9. In recent years, sexually explicit materials have been found in public schools and libraries. In your opinion are these materials appropriate for minors under 18 years old?	No, such materials are not appropriate for minors under 18 years old. In 2024, I voted for House Bill 710, the bill that was signed into law and restricts access of such materials to minors. This bill applies to public libraries and public school libraries.	No Response Received
10. What legislation should be passed regarding School Choice?	A good school choice bill will allow money to follow the student to the school of the parent's choice. There should be limits incorporated into the bill to prevent government control over the schools where the parents choose to have their children educated.	No Response Received
11. What legislation would you recommend to prevent property tax increases that are causing a financial burden and forcing some owners out of their homes?	The Legislature should provide for an Idaho Constitution amendment so that limits could be put on the increase in property tax rates for those who are long-term homeowners. The root problem is the explosion of the money supply that is completely unhinged from our constitutional money system based on gold and silver.	No Response Received
12. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	A legislator is first accountable to the people of their legislative district. The actual seat occupied by a legislator in the chambers of the House or the Senate belongs to the people of the legislative district. That seat does not belong to the legislator.	No Response Received
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 in Idaho. We can look to our neighboring states to see the affect of legalizing marijuana.	No Response Received
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	My parents were Republican Party activists. They got me started as a third grader going door to door for Barry Goldwater. My conservative values are well thought out and deep. During the legislative session, each legislator will need to vote on approximately 650 bills. Before you go down to Boise, you need to have your political philosophy worked out as you will not have time to do deep analysis on 650 bills. Most legislators rarely author any legislation. During each of my 10 years in the Legislature, I have authored several bills, and have gotten many of them signed into law. I believe I am one of only a few legislators in the last 20 years who got a bill signed into law that limited the authority of the federal government in Idaho, and I have done this twice. (HB 606 in 2008 and HB 343 in 2011.)	No Response Received