

### Idaho State Senator District 4

	Carissa Hober	Ben Toews
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Ben Toews, State Senate – District 4 I'm running for this position because I believe that we need strong conservatives in the Senate. Too many good bills have been passed by the House and then died in the Senate that would have protected our children, reigned in government overreach and protected election integrity.
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I believe that life begins at conception which means that I will do whatever I can to save innocent lives by supporting anti-abortion legislation. Innocent life must be protected as a key foundation to a moral society. For too long we have allowed the most vulnerable in our society to be killed in the name of women's rights or freedom of choice. The Idaho I envision believes in fighting for the most vulnerable.
3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?	<b>No Response Received</b>	#1 Protecting the most vulnerable and innocent in our society is at the top of my list. This includes the Right to Life and protection of young children from sexual perversion and radical indoctrination. I've sponsored multiple bills to protect our children. #2 School choice is a great way to deal with the harmful and divisive ideologies being taught in our schools. One way of implementing this would be for students to be funded instead of institutions thereby allowing parents to vote with their education dollars. This free-market based system will drive quality up and costs down while rewarding and attracting the best teachers who provide the real value in education – not the bureaucracy. #3 Fighting against government overreach is another of my top priorities. This includes lowering taxes that reach into the pockets of hardworking citizens and keeping the government out of our medical decisions. Government's proper role is to protect the rights of citizens not infringe on them!
4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The biggest health care issue in Idaho is a bloated bureaucratic system that often doesn't treat patients like intelligent creations of God. A patient should be allowed to make their own medical decisions without coercion or threats. The current system is run primarily by large insurance/pharmaceutical companies and big government. This combination makes the system less effective and more expensive. I welcome and support alternative medical providers that operate clinics and hospitals outside the system. I am encouraged to see free-market solutions that seek to provide high quality care at market driven prices.
5. Idaho's school system has room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Offering choice in how education dollars are spent is critical in creating quality education in our state. The bottom line is that competition is the best way to accomplish the goal of the most benefit being derived from the money spent. The ability to choose your school, and vote with your dollars, brings much needed accountability to a system that has operated as a monopoly for the vast majority of our children's education. As is commonly the case, parents will make the best decisions about what is best for their individual children and circumstances, along with making necessary changes if something isn't working. This will ultimately improve the level of competency in the next generation of citizens but will certainly upset the status quo which is too often a mechanism for indoctrination instead of education.

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6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I support legislation that prohibits our children from making lifelong decisions during the most confusing and formative years of their life. I don't believe that irreversible, life altering decisions should be made by children. I voted for this legislation in both committee and on the Senate floor.
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?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I will consistently communicate and listen to my constituents to make sure their voices are heard. If elected I will hold fast to the principles that I campaigned on and won't be persuaded to vote otherwise. If my deeply held convictions and values are not held by the majority of my constituents I expect that I will be replaced but until then I will unwaveringly hold to the truths I promised to uphold.
8. What is your definition of marriage?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Marriage is the sacred union between one man and one woman.
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?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I've mentioned this previously as one of my top issues to protect the most vulnerable and innocent in our communities. I don't believe that there is any place for sexually explicit materials in our schools and libraries. I supported the bill that was signed into law during the 2024 session that requires schools and libraries to move materials that are harmful to minors out of children's reach.
10. What legislation should be passed regarding School Choice?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I am a strong supporter of school choice including parents choosing where/when their children go to school and what they are taught. My wife and I have homeschooled all of our children which has allowed us to tailor to their individual educational needs.
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?	<b>No Response Received</b>	In 2023 I cosponsored a bill that shifted some state funding to help lower property taxes already. I'm in support of further reducing reliance on property taxes by continuing with similar efforts.
12. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I'm accountable to God to live and make decisions according to His word as a follower of Christ and to the voters who put me into office, specifically to stay true to the principles that I promised to uphold during my campaign. Serving in a Constitutional Republic means I also must keep my word to support and defend the Constitutions of Idaho and the United States of America.
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?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I am opposed to legalizing marijuana in Idaho because I see it as an element in society that tends to destroy lives by demotivating and addicting citizens resulting in unhealthy relationships and people. The mental health industry has also connected use of marijuana to violent tendencies.

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14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	I have lived and worked in the Coeur d'Alene community most of my life. While successfully building an int'l business for seventeen years, I learned to work with and lead a wide variety of people from engineers to artists. I know how to listen to, motivate, and serve others, as well as, innovate to solve problems. I've negotiated with people worldwide while maintaining good relationships through diplomacy. I served on the Small Business Development Center Advisory board representing the voice of small businesses in our community. I've also served as Treasurer/Elder Advisor at my local church leading teams to accomplish multiple projects. Serving as a State Senator I've developed great working relationships with my colleagues and a solid understanding of the legislative process which has allowed me to personally sponsor a total of 16 bills that were signed into law on subjects including Parental Rights, Protecting Children online, Prohibiting Sanctuary Cities and a CDL Fee Reduction.