

### North Idaho College Trustee Zone 4

	Eve L. Knudtsen	Greg McKenzie
<p><b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>Gregory McKenzie, North Idaho College Board of Trustees and the whole Kootenai county gets to vote for my race. It's an honor to serve the community and ensure taxpayer dollars are wisely spent.</p> <p>I personally feel North Idaho College is in a much better place than when I first was elected. By nearly all metrics, NIC is performing very well.</p> <p>I want to ensure the college honors and reflects the local community and its values. I want to ensure North Idaho College stays an excellent community college while wisely managing its budget.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> How could North Idaho College be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>An Improvement is to support Technical Programs at the college and ensure they're prioritized by the administration</p> <p>An improvement is to ensure technical enrollment in the prairie campus can have more enrollment openings than solely in August.</p> <p>An improvement is to greatly expand the nursing program which is an immense need in Idaho across the state.</p> <p>Enrollment is growing in the first time in 11 years and is up a massive 15%. When I was first elected enrollment was declining and tax increases for 3 consistent years and there hasn't been a tax increase and the college's fiscal reserves are highest in 10+ years.</p> <p>I have many more improvement ideas and I have consistently worked with the president to be a sounding board of ideas. Improvements should be data driven decisions that are transparently made.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>The Board of Trustees selects the president, and the president ensures the faculty have a healthy teaching philosophy. I have worked with many presidents and I have noticed a wide variety of decisions between left leaning presidents and right leaning presidents.</p> <p>I am proud to be the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee's recommended candidate while my opponent has received the Kootenai County Democrat Central Committee's Chair's recommendation.</p> <p>I believe individual rights should be respected and I have fought against vaccine mandates at every opportunity.</p> <p>I believe in higher education and the opportunity it affords the community. My educational philosophy is that students should be free to debate ideas openly without reprisal.</p>

	Eve L. Knudtsen	Greg McKenzie
4. Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Affirmative Action is racism. I do not support CRT, I believe its tenets are racist to the core.
5. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing student fees or tuition? What would be your reasons for this decision?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Tuition is maxed out already and is limited by the legislature. Governmental budgets usually are spending problems not revenue generation problems. It's been an honor to advocate for fiscal responsibility the past 4 years while on the Board. NIC has not had a tax increase for my entire term compared to consistent tax increases the immediate 3 years prior.  NIC has the highest reserves in 10+ years and has outstanding metrics by all accounts, a stark change from when I was first elected.
6. Do you support the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members' paychecks to finance political activities, why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	No. I believe it best for the opt-in system. NIC does not have any unions.
7. Do you believe that maintaining accreditation is one of the top priorities for North Idaho College? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Absolutely! The current Board for which I am on has retaining accreditation as it's top priority and has directed the president to place accreditation as his top priority. In a February 2022 statement, the Board declared retaining accreditation a priority and it always has been.  Accreditation is important and the recent Surgical Technician accreditation assessment said the program was the best the highly experience accreditation assessor had EVER seen. This was shared in the September 25, 2024 Board meeting and many other positive metrics were shared.  You can watch the meeting live and it's also posted on youtube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HGdJjA973A&amp;list=PLy-GWxISH_qn-SE7SnfPhdR3UqK-XBNea&amp;index=1">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HGdJjA973A&amp;list=PLy-GWxISH_qn-SE7SnfPhdR3UqK-XBNea&amp;index=1</a>
8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	No. God made two genders. Women's sports are for women.
9. Should North Idaho College have a staff member tasked with implementing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	NIC does not currently. No the legislature does not fund this. I firmly believe in equal opportunity versus equal outcome. Many people in higher education play with the definitions of words to reach their end-goal.
10. In what ways can North Idaho College help local high school students prepare for a college education or for a trade school?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Dual enrollment is an amazing opportunity and EVERYONE should take advantage of it. NIC is a wonderful experience.  The Parker Technical Center is a treasure of opportunity and giving local students tours would be an immense help to inform students of the many possibilities.  NIC is a great offering and it's soccer team is recently ranked nationally in the NJCAA. Tremendous opportunity aspiring high school athletes can now become national college athletes through NIC's switch to the NJCAA. Student branding is an untapped market.

	Eve L. Knudtsen	Greg McKenzie
<b>11.</b> What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Money should follow the students and allow parents the choice of ANY type of schooling. I've homeschooled my kids numerous years and due to my wife's health, we're altering into a combination of Kootenai Classical Academy that adheres to the Hillsdale curriculum and Waymaker which is a private Christian School.
<b>12.</b> What does the term "education" mean to you?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The term education means to learn "how to think" not "what to think". Critical Thinking skills are what is needed to pierce the many inaccuracies in life.
<b>13.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I'm opposed as from what I know the states that have legalized marijuana have seen increase in troubling statistics such as crime, etc.  What I am supportive of is having a community college where public debates on controversial topics can be hosted for the community where factual information is intelligently presented. The US needs to learn how to engage in debate on controversial topics instead of reverting back to name-calling etc.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	When I was elected an immense narrative was put forth that the duly elected Trustees did not have NIC's best interest at heart. To the contrary, NIC is in a much better place than when I found it. By all metrics NIC is performing stellar and has "turned the corner". It's been an honor advocating on behalf of taxpayers and my elected responsibilities have been taken extremely seriously.  I have contributed many hours helping NIC retain it's accreditation and some weeks put 40+ hours in for an unpaid job. As Chair, I'm proud to have offered the first full Board response to constituent groups that was warmly welcomed by them.  I ask everyone to vote for me and know I have always prayerfully considered the best decision for the community and NIC when voting.