

United States Representative District 1

	Russ Fulcher	Brendan J. Gomez	Matt Loesby	Kaylee Peterson
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>Russ Fulcher: I am running again for the seat I currently hold: US Representative – ID-01. I believe in the America that was founded on the Divinely inspired principles as outlined in the Constitution, and I want to help return the nation to that standard. I have the life experience and the drive to wisely pursue that objective.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>My name is Matt Loesby. I'm running to be the US Representative for Idaho's 1st District, because Idahoans deserve a representative who will stand in the way of the many predations of the US federal government.</p> <p>You know how to solve the problems in your life, and bureaucrats on the east coast don't. However, the GOP and DNC machines continue to absorb any Republican or Democrat representatives arriving in DC. I have no loyalty to either major party, and can stand up for Idahoans' rights and the Constitution without having to submit to either master.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>2. What is the proper role of the federal government in the economy?</p>	<p>The purpose of government is to secure the rights and freedoms of individual citizens, using rule of law that protects life, the individual control of property, and the free exercise of conscience.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>The only involvement the federal government should have in the economy is in setting up courts to handle commercial disputes involving parties in different states. The many intrusions it has made beyond that role since the establishment of the US Constitution have stifled prosperity, crowded out voluntary social institutions like mutual aid societies that helped people recover from disasters in their life, and caused the economy-wide boom-bust cycle and monetary inflation which has robbed wealth from productive people and transferred it to the Government's favored groups.</p> <p>Money, charity, commerce, and quality control should all be handled through voluntary institutions first, falling back to courts as little as possible, and using the most local courts possible.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>3. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?</p>	<p>Life begins at conception. Prior to being a Congressman, I served 10 years as Idaho State Senator. It is my understanding that during that time, I sponsored and passed more “pro-life” legislation (if not more), than any predecessor. I am continuing with adamant support for life in the US Congress.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>Human life begins at the moment that two gametes combine to form a living cell with a full human genome. At that point, the human being is a living person with natural rights.</p> <p>I personally support laws which recognize that when one person causes the death of a developing baby, that person has committed an act of homicide. I apply the same ethical analysis to this form of homicide as any other: a homicide is justified if performed as punishment for a criminal conviction of a heinous crime, or as an act of self defense against death or serious bodily injury.</p> <p>The Federal Government has no role in passing or forbidding such laws, because the Federal Government has not been granted authority to legislate regarding homicide.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>

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4. Should the government fund Planned Parenthood? Why or Why not?	Absolutely not. Planned Parenthood proliferates the abortion industry, and that's wrong.	No Response Received	The government should not fund Planned Parenthood in any way, just as it should not fund any NGO that claims to perform charity work. The fact that Planned Parenthood performs homicides on request against developing babies makes government funding particularly insulting.	No Response Received
5. How would you reduce the Federal deficit?	<p>The national debt is so large now that it can only be reasonably reduced with a combination of spending cuts and economic growth. Here are some of the actions that can be taken:</p> <p>Pass a Constitutional amendment for a balanced budget (with military/wartime exception). Limit future government budget growth no higher than the % of inflation. Institute Federal entitlement reform, putting the rights of citizens first. Reform Social Security (age eligibility), with grandfather-right provisions for current participants. Then to secure long-term employment and economic growth: Permanently lower the federal individual and corporate income rates.</p>	No Response Received	<p>First, by exercising the power of the purse to bring home the troops from every single foreign arena except for combat zones in wars declared by the US Congress. This would mean major savings on so-called "Defense" spending.</p> <p>Second, I would end all foreign aid payments to all foreign governments and foreign NGOs. Individual citizens should be free to send their wealth to foreign governments and NGOs, but that is none of our government's business.</p> <p>Third, I would abolish every department of the US government that was not a part of George Washington's administration. The Departments of War, State, and Treasury are sufficient for the federal government to perform its constitutionally-designated tasks. The rest not only cost massive amounts of money, but cause substantial economic damage.</p> <p>I would also cut taxes as much as possible, since federal revenues are consistently around 14% of GDP regardless of tax rates, and lower taxes mean more prosperity for productive Americans.</p>	No Response Received
6. Do Americans pay too much, too little or just the right amount on Federal taxes? Would you change anything?	Too much – rates should be lowered to increase individual incentives, thereby securing long-term employment and economic growth. As a step in the right direction, I recently introduced the KEEP Act (keep each and every penny) - which would eliminate federal income on overtime pay (former President Trump has come out in public support).	No Response Received	Americans pay way too much in Federal taxes. I would like to see the 16th Amendment abolished just like the 18th. The Federal Government operated based off of tariffs up until the 16th Amendment was passed, and it should go back to that. Productivity is not a crime, but the income tax treats it as such, with the sentence being a fine in proportion to one's productivity.	No Response Received

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7. Should the Federal minimum wage be raised? Why or why not?	No. There are all kinds of flaws with this rationale. Federal minimum wages (ie: government wage manipulation), sets unfair standards that do not take into consideration cost of living in various difference locations. It forces employers to pass along wage increases to consumers, and inherently damages small businesses the most.	No Response Received	There should be no law imposing a supposed "minimum wage." The real minimum wage is always 0. "Minimum Wage" laws just make it illegal to accept a job if the prospective employee is not able to convince employers that his labor will be worth at least \$7.25 per hour worked. This cuts off job opportunities for people who want to engage in the legitimate economy, but do not have demonstrated skills and work history; these are the people who need legitimate job opportunities the most.	No Response Received
8. What is your definition of marriage?	One man, one woman.	No Response Received	Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman in the sight of God, forming themselves into one flesh by which to have, raise, and care for children. That covenant can only be broken as a result of specific acts such as infidelity or physical abuse. As this is a religious concept, the government should not be involved in any way. Matters of paperwork that relate to the social implications of marriage should be handled by the registration of voluntary kinship, which could apply to friends who consider each other brothers just as well as it applies to a husband and wife.	No Response Received
9. What is your stance on the current state of our borders? Would you make any changes to current border policy?	The open border situation is a strategy being employed by the left to eventually change the social and economic fabric of our nation... in a bad way. By flooding the country with millions of illegals, addicting them to government entitlements, and then giving them the right to vote, it will ensure a transition to a complete socialist economy and further empower the liberal agenda. That is a horrifically bad direction for America. Not to mention all the homeland security threats, pain, death and suffering caused by drug and human trafficking. We need to finish the wall, reinstate remain in Mexico, and enforce the law. Legal immigration is great, but open borders are a disaster.	No Response Received	The US Federal Government has failed in its duty to prevent uninvited foreigners from entering the country. Much of this failure is intentional. I would replace the current Border Patrol and Immigration system with an Invitation and Sponsorship system. The US National Guard would be charged with the task of preventing uninvited entry to the country, both at land borders and at ports of entry. The State Department would be tasked with running an Sponsorship Registry. This Registry would allow landowning US Citizens to invite foreigners to enter, reside, and work in the United States, provided they volunteered to co-sign any debts incurred by their invitees, accept the costs of any government services used by the invitees as a lien against the citizen's property, and bear the costs resulting from any criminal activity by the invitee. This would distribute the challenge of vetting immigrants to private parties, who would be personally responsible for doing it well.	No Response Received

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10. Do you interpret the U.S. Constitution as a living document?	No. Words mean things. The language in the Constitution as written, mean the same things today as they did when the document was ratified.	No Response Received	The US Constitution is a contract among the States. That contract's terms must be honored in the manner in which they were intended to be interpreted by the parties that agreed to it, just like any other contract.	No Response Received
11. 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 legalization of recreational marijuana. Look no further than our neighboring states that have taken that step – to see the social and criminal costs.	No Response Received	<p>I am in favor of ending the drug war entirely. While it is almost always a bad idea to use marijuana, as well as the harder drugs like heroin, throwing a man in a cage is the wrong solution for his self-harming decisions.</p> <p>We can look west and see issues in cities like Portland after Oregon's total drug legalization. Homelessness, public intoxication, urban decay, and their other myriad problems can be solved without continuing the drug war. Public spaces have a purpose, and it is appropriate to remove people if they violate that purpose. Laws regarding trespassing, vandalism, and loitering can be enforced directly. A state that is willing to do this can end the drug war without becoming Portland.</p>	No Response Received
12. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	Parents should have bottom line authority over their children's education. I have continually supported school choice through my service in the state senate and congress. As evidence of this: I was the primary sponsor of Idaho's home school statute in 2009. This statute is now law – and a national model for other states.	No Response Received	<p>Parents are the stewards of their children's natural rights until such time as the children are able to exercise their own rights. That means decisions regarding what and how children should be taught are the parents' to make. If the government is involved in education at all, and I don't believe it should be, it should answer primarily to the parents, and secondarily to the people paying the taxes that enable it.</p> <p>School choice, with funds following the student, is an excellent compromise position while the government is still involved in education.</p>	No Response Received

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<p>13. The 10th amendment states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. What does this mean to you?</p>	<p>That most governance should happen at the state and local level. Constitutionally, the main responsibilities of the federal government are to provide safety for citizens (including military and border security), and regulation of international commerce. Although there are a few other things, those are the main federal responsibilities. Everything else is supposed to be governed locally. The federal government has dramatically overreached and need to be reigned in.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>The 10th Amendment means that the US Congress, President, and Supreme Court have been violating the Constitution for over a century. Anything not explicitly listed in the Constitution as a power of the Federal Government is forbidden to it. Since the Federal Government is doing many things which the Constitution forbids, States should exercise their power of nullification and make it illegal to exercise these overreaches in their own boundaries, and should be willing to exercise the right of secession as a last resort.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I have three wonderful adult children. I am an Idaho native with a family history of more than 100 years. I was raised as a dairy farm kid, received post graduate education in business and engineering, worked for 24 years in the international tech business, 10 years as a state senator, and (simultaneously) 15 years as a RE broker. I am now in my 6th year as a member of the U.S. Congress. We are all products of our life experiences, and mine is quite rich and varied. I have a public political record that I am very proud of and believe I have something to offer the people of Idaho.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I have spent all of my 13-year professional career as a software engineer. We software engineers spend our lives reading through long documents written in technical language, determining how they operate, and making changes in order to achieve particular goals. Legalese is a different language than C++, Rust, or JavaScript, but switching languages has always been an easy task.</p> <p>I have also spent a long time reading all sorts of historical and philosophical documents to develop a deep knowledge of the philosophies on which this government was founded, the manner by which economics interacts with politics, and how power really operates in the modern world. I can bring that knowledge to bear to help bring us out of the terrible state this country is in.</p> <p>Finally, I have many years under my belt in disagreeing with people vocally and clearly. I will be able to tell Mitch McConnell, Chuck Schumer, Mike Johnson, and Hakeem Jeffries exactly where they can put their authoritarianism.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>