User Name:

BobCroker

Response Details

Candidate email address

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Would you be likely to support or oppose a bill to:

Raise the sales tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Taxes are more than adequate to run our State. If we do not have enough revenue then we need to look at where cuts can be made.

Lower the sales tax

Not Sure

Please explain your position:

I don't want to come across as weak on this but the fact is I would need a better understanding of our State budget before making a commitment. I would say though that I believe sales taxes could be lowered if we managed our resources better.

Raise the income tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

We pay enough to accommodate our State needs. What we need is better management of our tax dollars.

Lower the income tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Taxes are a necessary evil. Before we consider lowering income taxes we need to look at ways in which to generate the necessary revenue to keep our State running.

Raise excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Support

Please explain your position:

I could support this as I see these items as costly to the State as they have the potential to impact health and safety.

Lower excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Oppose

Please explain your position:

See response to previous item.

Provide special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Not sure

Please explain your position:

If a business or industry is providing a significant number of life sustaining jobs to the State then tax break considerations seem appropriate. The benefit to the State needs to weighed in these decisions.

Repeal special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Not sure

Please explain your position:

See response to the previous item.

Collect sales tax on Internet sales by participating in the national Streamline Sales Tax Project

Support

Please explain your position:

Sales taxes are high enough already, if we want them to be reduced then we need to have the revenue being generated by online sales. Online purchases are beginning to hurt local businesses and that impacts State tax revenue.

Propose a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate on tax increases

Support

Please explain your position:

Decisions of this nature are not without consequences. Serious debate and reflection needs to take place before such decisions are made and that requires more than just a simple majority if all our citizens are to be heard from.

Propose a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate for fee increases

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I do not have an adequate amount of information to form an opinion on this as yet.

Eliminate income and/or sales tax exemptions, credits and deductions in order to raise state government revenue

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Tax exemptions have a purpose. Each case would be unique and needs to be considered on its merits. Fairness needs to be employed as such decisions are made.

Eliminate income and/or sales tax exemptions, credits and deductions in order to lower the overall sales and/or income tax rates

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I believe this response would be the same as the previous.

Put in place stronger limitations on government spending in Idaho

Support

Please explain your position:

Government spending should be held to the same standards as personal spending. Spending by legislators should be considered a stewardship and those decisions should be weighed carefully.

Reduce, reform or end participation in entitlement programs such as unemployment insurance, Medicaid and food stamps

Oppose

Please explain your position:

As a blanket statement I would have to oppose this issue. However, this is not to say that reform in these programs is not to be considered. It is difficult to take something away that has existed for a long time, it is also wrong to take something away that is good and needed. Cutting abuse to these programs is the answer.

Expand participation in entitlement programs such as unemployment insurance, Medicaid and food stamps

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Cutting abuse may well be the answer to such programs as we search for more and more funding as demands increase.

Repeal the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Urban renewal has a purpose from which all State citizens can benefit. Unfortunately this is an area that often see abuse or needless excesses. Like all programs this needs to be in the hands of responsible people if it is going to yield the benefits we would hope for.

Expand the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Not sure

Please explain your position:

See response to the previous item.

Reform urban renewal by limiting the projects and holding elections for urban renewal commissioners

Support

Please explain your position:

This sounds reasonable. I am always cautious though of creating more bureaucracy. Some debate is needed in this area to ensure that decisions are made with appropriate input.

Ban the Land Board or other government agencies from owning businesses that compete with the private sector

Not sure

Please explain your position:

As I am not very familiar with this I would have to give it more thought. However, I am not in favor of government competition with private sector business.

Ban minors from using tanning beds

Support

Please explain your position:

We ban minor from smoking, drinking, and other potential harmful activities. Often the youthful thought of being indestructible causes decisions to be made that have future consequences. The harmful effects of tanning abuse is well documented.

Allow Idahoans to buy health insurance across state lines

Support

Please explain your position:

Absolutely! We buy care insurance that way, why not health insurance? It creates competition and that is what can assist with the burgeoning costs of health insurance.

Create a state government health insurance exchange

Support

Please explain your position:

My understanding of a health exchange is that it provides numerous options to citizens that may not be available at the present time. This could provide information to those who need assistance in making insurance decisions and lower costs through competition.

Expand school choice options in Idaho including charter schools, public schools and home schools

Support

Please explain your position:

Everyone should have a choice in these matters. Unfortunately we see growing numbers of alternative forms of schooling as we react to a lowering of test scores as compared to other countries. Once we get State supported education right we will see a lowering of numbers in alternative schooling.

In general, I believe state government (select one):

Regulates about the right amount; I would not seek to add new regulations or eliminate existing ones

Please explain your position:

I am going to take a neutral road with this response as there is too much to respond to here. I have never favored government growth and will work hard to minimize such growth. But to respond to this without the proper information would be nothing but foolish rhetoric to garner support.