User Name:

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

Raise the sales tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

State revenue is adequate. Enhanced efficiency and productivity is a higher priority

Lower the sales tax

Support

Please explain your position:

If efficiency and productivity is increased, sales tax revenue can be decreased

Raise the income tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Current revenue is adequate

Lower the income tax

Support

Please explain your position:

If programs can be reduced -- and efficiency and productivity increased -- less revenue will be bneeded.

Raise excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Oppose

Please explain your position:

We need to limit programs to current revenue.

Lower excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Oppose

Please explain your position:

When smoking is reduced, taxes can be reduced. "Sin taxes" should pay for the "sins".

Provide special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Oppose

Please explain your position:

No. Tax "breaks" to certain industries only shift taxes to other taxpayers. Tax "policy" should be equal to all -- large employer or small employer, high tech or low tech, expanding Idaho company or company relocating to Idaho. One-time incentives can be provided via "investment tax credits against state corporate income tax" based on new permanent employment, investment in new facilities, or other periodic economic factors. Grants can be available for workforce training, apprentice programs, on-the-job internships or other temporary programs that benefit employment and which are implemented by the company without burden to the state.

Repeal special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Idaho needs a well defined POLICY for industrial incentives. Some past "breaks" may no longer be justified but past promises that stimulated major investment in facilites and production probably have to be kept. Idaho needs a reputation of openness, integrity, dependability, consistency and high business acumen in its political decisions. POLICY should be established along with challenging but achieveable economic goals.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I support a thorough review and evaluation of adopting the Streamlined Sales Tax. Internet sales are in an irreversable upward trend. Idaho businesses are losing sales and the state is losing the Sales Tax on those sales. We need a competent cost/benefit study to support a aye or nay decision. The study needs to define the fixed cost of staff and enforcement methods and specific projections of new revenue.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I support 2/3rds for bonded indebtedness to fund certain long-term debt such as for building construction. But, we must be careful to not unrealistically hamper competent management. We must also maintain confidence in our governmental process that involves the committee system, two separate bodies of legislators and the executive office.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

We have at least two departments that depend upon fees for all or most of their operating costs. These are Fish and Game and the Idaho Transportation Department. Both of these are governed by an indpendent board appointed by the Governor. These boards meet throughout the year and I suspect the legislature with its 3-month meeting and limited exposure to all factors may not be qualified to make meritorius 2/3rds decisions.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I would oppose this idea until I see a study that defines the expemptions and projected benefits. Eliminating the exemption for medical costs could bankrupt a family -- and eliminating the deduction on interest paid on home mortgages would adversely impact the Idaho construction industry and the sawmills that providce the timber.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I would oppose this idea until I see a study that defines the exemptions and projected benefits. Additional comments are the same as for the previous question.

Put in place stronger limitations on government spending in Idaho

Support

Please explain your position:

The limitation does not have to be so severe that it eliminates opportunistic and visionary governence -- but there could be limits based upon accepted revenue projections and economic goals.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

There is a Federal involvement in each of these programs. The question has to be better defined in order for me to answer.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Our costs are already too high.

Repeal the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Repeal is not needed. Revisions are past due. Urban renewal should only be used for job creation. The time period for a Urban Renewal District should be reduced to no more than 10 years with extensions available in 2 year increments. The power of Eminent Domain for Urban Renewal Districts should be eliminated. URD should be directly responsible to the city council that authorized its formation. Qualifications for members of the URD Board should be the same as for the city P&Z Commission.

Expand the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Oppose

Please explain your position:

There is no justification for expansion of Urban Renewal. Other economic development incentives are available such as Industrial Revenue Bonds (paid by the company, not governm,ent), Community Development Block Grants and other programs offered by the Idaho Department of Commerce.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Yes and no!!! You have combined two questions: project limitations and commissionedr elections. See the abo ve for reform of projects. If Urban Renewal is responsible to the city government that authorized it as recommeded above and the governing board qualifications are the same as the city P&Z, appointment and dismissal from the board will be controlled by the elected city officials.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

Amen!!!! There is no justification for government competing with the private sector.

Ban minors from using tanning beds

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Let the Free Market prevail -- and let mothers and fathers manage their family.

Allow Idahoans to buy health insurance across state lines

Support

Please explain your position:

Absolutely!!! Let the benefits of competitive bidding in a Free Market prevail!!!!

Create a state government health insurance exchange

Oppose

Please explain your position:

The private sector can -- and should -- do this. There is no justification for the government to expend money on this function when private insurance companies can fund the service.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

Let families decide where their kids are educated. Some degree of funding (vouchers) may be justified.

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

Regulates too much, and such regulations should be cut

Please explain your position:

A continuing program of inquiry on appropriations that support questioned regulations must be done by the legislators. Those that are no longer justified can be eliminated. Established State goals and policies will enable such a program for the entire legislature but individuals can always have their own agenda.