User Name:

GusVoss

Candidate email address

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

Raise the sales tax

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I will keep an open mind as to how to best raise revenue to fund essential state programs and services. While I generally do not support regressive taxation, the sales tax is an effective way to generate revenue. If the budget calls for it, I will keep an open mind and consult my constituents.

Lower the sales tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Idaho has a revenue problem. We need to figure out how to fully fund education and our social programs before we worry about cutting the sales tax.

Raise the income tax

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I am for increasing taxes on the top earners and decreasing it for the middle and lower classes. Those who make enough money to see any increase would barely feel the effects of the increase, while the vast majority of individuals would feel less of a burden in supporting the government.

Lower the income tax

Oppose

Raise excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Support

Please explain your position:

As someone who smokes and drinks on occasion, I am fine with helping my community by paying a little extra for these items. Essential programs like education can be better funded when we have a larger revenue source.

Lower excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Oppose

Provide special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Far too often are tax breaks doled to industries and businesses that bankrolled political campaigns at the expense of the public. Businesses ought to be treated equally in the eyes of law.

Repeal special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Support

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

Oppose

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

Oppose

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

Support

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

Support

Put in place stronger limitations on government spending in Idaho

Oppose

Please explain your position:

We need to rethink our budgetary priorities. Idaho doesn't have a spending problem, we have a revenue and kick-back problem.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

This is a mixed question. I strongly oppose reducing or ending participation in such programs. I am in favor of reforms to broaden the programs.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

Calling unemployment insurance, Medicaid and food stamps 'entitlement programs' is a misnomer. Each person making an income pays into all three of the mentioned programs. It is not as though people are not paying for these programs.

Repeal the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Not sure

Expand the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Not sure

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

Oppose

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Oligopolies sometimes need competition from the public sector.

Ban minors from using tanning beds

Oppose

Please explain your position:

If parents want to let their children use tanning beds, so be it. It is not the state's role to determine whether or not a person ought to be allowed to use a tanning bed, no matter how terribly bad tanning beds are for people.

Allow Idahoans to buy health insurance across state lines

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I'm not interested in health insurance agencies clustering in the least-regulated state in order to gut services and coverage at the expense of the insured. The question would be better phrased as "Allow health insurance agencies to violate the regulations of various states." And the answer I will give is that I still oppose it. I believe in the liberty of the individual and, subsequently, the liberty from having one's living extorted by a health insurance company. In fact, I support single-payer health care.

Create a state government health insurance exchange

Not sure

Please explain your position:

On the one hand, I think that creating a state government health insurance exchange will allow the people of Idaho to have a chance at adequate insurance, but the risk is too high. I favor single-payer health care, even if it's only at the state level. Health care is a human right.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

I think that families have the right to choose which schools their children attend. However, the focus needs to be on public education and public schools.

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

Regulates too much, and such regulations should be cut

Please explain your position:

The regulations the government has in place are generally regulating for the benefit of certain industries or businesses. Contrary to what regulations are intended for, the current political financing and lobbying schemes have created a system of loaded regulations aimed at creating quasi-state backed monopolies for industries. These regulations need to be repealed immediately. On the other hand, the state doesn't protect the people from the entities that can destroy lives. Idahoans deserve a consumer utilities advocate, ethics reform, and regulations preventing the collusion of public and private interests via legislative and executive action.