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:

Sales tax is high enough already. Idaho counties which border neighboring no sales tax states suffer additional economic loss each time Idaho raises our sales tax.

Lower the sales tax

Support

Please explain your position:

Same position as above. In addition, we should look for ways to eliminate the sales tax on food.

Raise the income tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I was a co-sponsor of the bill to lower the income tax to help citizens retain more of their income and to make Idaho more business-friendly. Our old rate was the highest in the NW.

Lower the income tax

Support

Please explain your position:

See above answer.

Raise excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I oppose raising taxes.

Lower excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Not sure

Please explain your position:

It is my understanding that the excise tax has been the same for several decades. I have not heard anyone asking for it to be lowered.

Provide special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Support

Please explain your position:

This is often called picking winners and losers and it is if government supports a new business over a similar existing business. If a new business is not directly competing with similar existing Idaho businesses & a limited tax break would either help bring their jobs to our state or help them stay in Idaho, I would support.

Repeal special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Support

Please explain your position:

It would depend on the issue. If it is an existing tax break on production, it should remain. If it is a tax break to bring in a new type of business, there should be a sunset once they have become established. That would need to be determined upfront so the business would know the break would be phased out at a time certain.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I do not believe this project is constitutional.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

I voted in support of the proposed constitutional amendment to do this, which unfortunately, failed on the House floor. The bar should be raised in order to increase taxes. Tax increases directly affect families, businesses (jobs), and our state economy and should not be taken lightly. We require a super majority popular vote on bonds raising property tax & a 2/3rds legislative vote to propose amending our Constitution.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

See above answer. Agency fees are like taxes with another name. A 2/3 vote would require the agencies to better justify why they need money above their state appropriation of taxes. However, some of the commodity commissions use their commodity fees to promote their individual products. On the most part, I agree with this IF they have a full refund or rebate provision for those who chose not to participate, as ruled by the US Supreme Court several years ago.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

This session we were able to provide an income tax reduction, place money into state rainy day accounts, increase education funding and restore money to the truly needy. This shows that Idaho does not need to raise revenue by eliminating exemptions, credits, and/or deductions.

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:

Not at this time. Once our economy has made additional recovery, then we could consider simplifying our Idaho tax structure to level the playing field for our existing businesses and individuals.

Put in place stronger limitations on government spending in Idaho

Support

Please explain your position:

We should require a direct cost/benefit ratio of state agencies.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

These programs need to be tailored to fit Idaho-not a national average. The truly needy should receive support as they get back on their feet. We need to stop the government from taking away the family and churches' roles of compassionate giving and support.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

See above answer.

Repeal the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Support

Please explain your position:

This is an unfair use of taxing district dollars. Even California has repealed it.

Expand the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Oppose

Please explain your position:

See above answer.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

See above answers.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

Government should not compete against the private sector.

Ban minors from using tanning beds

Oppose

Please explain your position:

Government should not take the parents' role and eliminating a legal business.

Allow Idahoans to buy health insurance across state lines

Support

Please explain your position:

This would allow for more options and possibly less costly rates.

Create a state government health insurance exchange

Oppose

Please explain your position:

State government should not be paying for something the private sector can do.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

I support school choice for parents.

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

Regulates too much, and such regulations should be cut

Please explain your position:

Over-regulation is costly to both business and consumers, takes away freedom and responsibility, are sometimes used to eliminate competition, and often only serves to grow government. Regulations should have a cost/benefit analysis and be used only when necessary to protect the health and safety of citizens.