User Name:

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

Raise the sales tax

Oppose

Lower the sales tax

Support

Please explain your position:

I would like to see all income and sales tax exemptions be put on a scheduled periodic sunset so that we may review each exemption's Return on Investment (ROI) for each. As time goes on, there could be different business opportunities that we could be missing out on or could be still supporting well established business that no longer needs the state's helping hand to get established.

Raise the income tax

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I've worked for the past 3 years in the House to reduce our Income taxes, we were finally successful this year in taking our first step in 12 years... and we aren't done!

Lower the income tax

Support

Please explain your position:

I sponsored the bill for 3 years.

Raise excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Need to remain competitive with our surrounding states while ensuring we direct taxes on these items for medical and social issues caused by their miss-use. We must also consider the taxes on alcohol as part of the state's responsibility towards temperance as outline in our Constitution.

Lower excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Not sure

Please explain your position:

See previous comments

Provide special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Not sure

Please explain your position:

This depends on what business we want to attract to our state and what the competitive environment are in the states we must compete with to attract those businesses. See my comments on tax exemptions above, any exemptions that we do must have a sunset so that it can be reviewed in the out years to ensure we are getting our bang for the buck invested.

I would recommend all sunset's for exemptions be in the 12 to 18 year range depending on the targeted intention of the exemption.

Repeal special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Support

Please explain your position:

See my comments on sun-setting all exemptions above.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

This is a dual edged sword. If Idaho participates in "Streamline Sales Tax" it does level the playing field for Idaho based business that must charge those sales taxes, however, the cost of implementation of us also collecting other state's taxes must have a positive ROI. I'm all for leveling the playing field, however, only if it pencil's out.

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

Support

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

Support

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I like this question to the point of "... in order to raise state government revenue".

Sun setting all exemptions and reviewing them for ROI would allow us to remove those that aren't working for business or the state any longer (or individual for that matter) and use that added revenue to off-set/reduce income or sales taxes to keep revenue's flat but provide a lower cost of doing business for existing companies and those looking to move into Idaho that might not have the advantage of an exemption.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

I have investigated TABOR in a few other states and believe something like that would be applicable in Idaho... but only by a vote of the people, it would have to be a Constitutional Amendment!

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

Support

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

Oppose

Repeal the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Support

Please explain your position:

Urban renewal is only used for local economic development in Idaho. Let's call it what it is and create a tool that the people of a local area can vote on to be used in their area for economic development.

Expand the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Oppose

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

Support

Please explain your position:

This would be a good first start... but not the end game for URD's

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Being in Timer sales or rental property is a private business, Lava Hot Springs was given to the State to be managed by the Land Board that is self sufficient. There are many issues with the definition of "owning and running a business that competes with the private sector" as described above. I do not think they should be int he business of running a storage unit or cafe or bank.... but we need to define these types of businesses clearly so we don't interfere with the businesses like timber sales that they are successful with.

Ban minors from using tanning beds

Support

Please explain your position:

The State regulates cigarette smoking, drinking of alcohol and even driving privileges to minors, so the "protect minors regulation ship" has sailed.

If data exists that show minors smoking, drinking, over tanning or even driving at a young age, we must look at it and decide if minors are able to make proper decisions on that issue. In order to support this, I would also require a parental permit process for those less than whatever age of "tanning consent" might be.

Allow Idahoans to buy health insurance across state lines

Support

Please explain your position:

I co-sponsored the bill

Create a state government health insurance exchange

Oppose

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

Support

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

Regulates too much, and such regulations should be cut

Please explain your position:

We must stop making business be our "police" for State regulations. Fining a business to help police a State action has to stop. If we want business to partner with us in helping enforce regulations, such as employment insurance, provide them an incentive to do so.