User Name:

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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:

There are too many variables to simply state a yes or no answer, though my first reaction is to say "no". However, taxes are necessary to run the programs our citizens expect and need. Also, there are various types of taxes, which need to be reviewed, not just sales tax, for revenue strength, burden on taxpayer, purpose, etc., before they should be changed, whether to increase or decrease. I am focused on reducing tax burdens, wherever possible, but not at the expense of the programs required to smoothly operate our State and Local governments. I will focus first on eliminating waste and trimming expenses, then taxes can be reduced.

Lower the sales tax

Not Sure

Please explain your position:

Again, as I mentioned above, though I will strive to reduce taxes, wherever possible, there are too many variables to simply state "yes" or "no" to this question. If I can lower the sales tax without hurting or crippling the programs our citizens rely on and need, then YES, I will definitely support this change.

Raise the income tax

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Please refer to my first two answers.

Lower the income tax

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Please refer to my first two answers.

Raise excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Please refer to my first two answers.

Lower excise taxes on tobacco, beer or wine

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Please refer to my first two answers.

Provide special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I believe in encouraging and fostering an environment where businesses will be developed and will thrive. That is imperative to a healthy economic landscape. At times, that means providing certain incentives to encourage that growth. However, I don't feel that any one industry should be treated more favorably than another and I don't feel that the incentives should be used without reviewing how they will effect the infrastructure of the city, county or state where they are used. We must ensure that if we are giving a break, to encourage growth and jobs, that it will not put a burden on those that will need to care for the public needs of the business acquired.

Repeal special tax breaks to certain businesses or industries

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Please see my last answer.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I would want more information on this issue, before I formed a solid opinion.

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 do agree that any tax increases should be approved by the majority, because if we're asking our citizens to take more from their households to cover the increase, then we need to assure they are in agreement with the actual increase and what it will be used for. However, that means that those in the House and Senate are truly speaking for their constituents, based on what their citizens want, and I'm not sure this is always the case. I would hope that's the case, but that's where the focus needs to be.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Please refer to my last answer.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Though it sounds good in theory, I need more information on what all of the ramifications would be. Would we lose businesses, and therefore jobs, which would in turn reduce revenue? Would it hurt

our educational system and other non-profit organizations, creating other financial concerns? I need more information before I form a solid opinion on this issue.

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:

Please refer to my first two answers and my last answer.

Put in place stronger limitations on government spending in Idaho

Support

Please explain your position:

One of the most important roles of government is fiscal responsibility. We cannot tax the people and then frivolously spend the money they've trusted us with. We need to make sure we're running all programs efficiently and effectively, that we eliminate all waste and that we review/audit programs to ensure continued needs and direction.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I support reforming these programs, to ensure their use is not abused. However, I don't think we should end them and I wouldn't want to reduce them until we're sure those that are using them are self-sufficient and able to stand on their own two feet.

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

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I feel that social programs have a very important place in our society, and I've seen them help many people I love, however I think these programs are being abused in many instances. We've lost the proper focus and need to reform how they are managed. These programs should be temporary solutions and not permanent fixes, no matter who is being served. These programs should be used, while we help the recipient get back on their feet. We need to foster self-sufficiency and encourage personal responsibility. No one should be allowed to become dependent on these programs or to use them for an indefinite time frame.

Repeal the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Oppose

Please explain your position:

I think urban renewal is important, though the program may need some reform. I wouldn't be able to decide that without more information.

Expand the use of urban renewal in Idaho

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I would not support expanding this program without first ensuring that it's being managed effectively and efficiently. The only way I would support expanding this program is if there is factual proof that it would positively benefit the State and its citizens.

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

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I feel that urban renewal and development is very important. I would want to ensure that we are managing these programs effectively, and therefore, would listen to the pro's/con's of both the current structure and the proposed reform efforts, prior to making my decision.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

I agree! I don't think the government should be competing with the private sector. I also feel that there are current programs that should be revamped to stop competition with the private sector, and/or changed to private ownership, rather than government ownership.

Ban minors from using tanning beds

Not sure

Please explain your position:

Too much government intrusion and regulation is not healthy. I would want to hear both sides of the discussions, before making my final decision, my first opinion is that parents should be the ones regulating this issues, not the government.

Allow Idahoans to buy health insurance across state lines

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I would need more information on the ramifications of this process. I would encourage Idahoans to support our State products and services, in all industries, but I also believe in getting the most for your money. I would like to see our citizens get the best deals possible on health insurance coverage.

Create a state government health insurance exchange

Not sure

Please explain your position:

I think a health insurance exchange is a great idea; however, I don't support Obamacare and Federal Government coercion. I would hate to see Idaho use Federal monies for this exchange. I would also like to see the proposed structure & requirements of the exchange, before committing my support.

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

Support

Please explain your position:

All students learn differently and parents/students should have the right options available to them to encourage successful learning.

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 want to minimize government intrusions into our lives; therefore, I'm sure there are certain regulations that can, and should, be amended and or repealed. In addition, I don't think we need to always provide new legislation for the changes/concerns we face in our lives, as much as we need to enforce our existing laws and regulations. For example, I don't think a new law was necessary for the "texting and driving" issue. We already had an inattentive driving law; we simply needed to enforce it for any, and all, inattentive driving issues, including texting.