

Idaho State Senator District 1

*** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire ***

	Scott Herndon	Jim Woodward
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>Scott Herndon Idaho State Senate, District 1 I have been the state senator for district 1 since November 2022. At that election, a number of other conservatives also won seats in the Idaho Senate. Prior to our election, the Idaho legislative Republicans were ranked 41st out of 50 states for how conservative they were. That's right, before I was elected, Idaho's elected Republican legislators were in the bottom 10 states in the nation and were more liberal than California's Republicans, Oregon's Republicans and Washington's Republicans. Fortunately, we have changed the course in the two years I have been in the Idaho Senate. Senate Republicans have been achieving conservative spending reforms, have protected children from the transgender attacks, from online pornography, and we have resisted amnesty to illegal immigrants and have called for impeachment of Joe Biden for his failure to secure America's borders against illegal immigrant invasion. I am running for re-election to continue the conservative course we have set.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you will support?</p>	<p>Human life begins at fertilization, and every human being from that moment is known by God and is made in His image. All human life from fertilization to natural death should receive the protection of the state's laws.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>3. What are the top three issues that you feel the legislature needs to address?</p>	<p>a. Inflation and the growth of government spending, dependence on government and expansion of welfare programs. b. Illegal immigration and our failure to control criminals infiltrating the border. c. Protection of our children. Our children are increasingly being assaulted by aggressive sexual and cultural agendas that are undermining the traditional family and interrupting success in academic outcomes.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>4. What do you consider the biggest health care issue for Idaho, and where do you stand on it?</p>	<p>Rising Medicaid costs. The government is the single biggest payer of healthcare. The mechanism is primarily Medicaid which consumes 35% of state spending. There are absolutely no controls on the growth of this governmental welfare program. Many able-bodied working adults are receiving Medicaid benefits, and this is depleting taxpayer's resources and the government's resources that should be directed toward more needful government spending. Sideboards need to be placed on Medicaid to stop the massive growth.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>

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5. Idaho’s school system has room for improvement, how would you legislate to improve K-12 education in Idaho?	Government provided education needs two major changes. Right now, the funding for the schools is not tied at all to performance. The state superintendent of education confirmed that dollars go out based solely on the number of students. We need to attach disbursements to academic achievement. We also need to encourage more options in education. We should continue to encourage charter schools, expansion of the Opportunity scholarships, expansion of Empowering parents, and I believe we should strike the Blaine amendment from the Idaho constitution and should create education savings accounts.	No Response Received
6. Do you support or oppose legislation to prohibit gender reassignment treatment/surgery on minors?	I supported criminalizing transgender medical treatments of children last year in House Bill 71. This year, I wrote a version of and then supported House Bill 668 which bans taxpayer funding of all transgender medical treatments, regardless of the age of the “patient”.	No Response Received
7. If elected, how will you ensure that you are aligned with your North Idaho constituents’ values and how will your voting record reflect those values?	I have a 95% conservative rating or better from CPAC, the Idaho Freedom Foundation and the Institute for Legislative Analysis. North Idaho is mostly very conservative, and my voting record on 700 pieces of legislation since I was elected two years ago reflects alignment with North Idaho values.	No Response Received
8. What is your definition of marriage?	The same as God’s definition. The same as the Idaho Constitution. One man and one woman that made a public announcement, had a public ceremony and consummated the marriage (ideally).	No Response Received
9. In recent years, sexually explicit materials have invaded public schools and libraries. In your opinion are these materials appropriate for minors under 18 years old?	If materials meet the definition of “harmful to minors” as defined in Idaho’s criminal code, then they should never be provided to minors by a library or a school. Idaho’s criminal law against distributing material that is harmful to minors has long contained an affirmative defense, or an exception, for libraries and schools. I would prefer to eliminate this exception. But, this year we did the next best thing. I voted in favor of, and we passed house bill 710 which prohibits libraries and schools from distributing to kids, sexual material that is harmful to minors according to the criminal definition. The remedy is that the parents can sue for damages, and the local elected prosecutor and the state attorney general can seek injunctions against the schools and libraries for violating the new law.	No Response Received
10. What legislation should be passed regarding School Choice?	An Education Savings Account has many merits, but I would also support a tax credit to support the expenses of parents who educate their children by means other than public education.	No Response Received
11. Migration from other states has caused property taxes for current homeowners to substantially increase. What legislation would you recommend to prevent property tax increases that are causing a financial burden and forcing some owners out of their homes?	Actually, that is not really the reason property taxes increase. Unlike some other states, the way Idaho’s property taxes work is that the local taxing districts set their annual budgets which is used to create a total budget that needs to be paid by local property taxpayers. Then, all of the property is assessed at current market value, and your share of the total property assessment will be your percentage share of the total local budgets that you will pay through property taxes. The way to decrease property taxes is to ask that your local taxing districts do less and spend less.	No Response Received

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12. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	I am accountable to the Lord first in how I exercise the duties of the position and whether I am faithful to the principles He holds, the principles I advocate, and the principles contained in the state and federal constitutions. Next, I am accountable to the state and federal constitutions and whether I abided by the limits of government set in those constitutions. Finally, I am accountable to the voters and whether I am seeking to represent their interests in the legislature. That is the main job – to represent the interests of the 53,000 people who live in my district.	No Response Received
13. In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I oppose the legalization of marijuana. In every state where it has been legalized, it has led to higher crime rates, a deteriorating work ethic among young people, homelessness and other problems. It has also been a gateway drug for other illegal drugs.	No Response Received
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I am a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ which is accompanied by a moral standard and principles for government in the Word of God. I am also married for 26 years and a father of 8. I attended Missouri Military Academy in high school and graduated with honors. I attained a BS in Finance from Arizona State University. For 16 years I worked in accounting, finance and implemented complex financial systems. For the last 18 years I have been a small business owner in North Idaho building custom homes. My main qualification is that I have an understanding of history, I hold clear principles of freedom and limited and proper government, and I am not enchanted by the position of being a senator. I understand that I am on a mission to serve the people and to serve the Lord.	No Response Received