

# THE GEM STATE PATRIOT



All Around Idaho Inc. Publication  
Special Election Edition May 15, 2014  
©

Knowledge is Power as Silence is Consent. We will  
bring you the knowledge so you can rise up and  
restore freedom and liberty back to our country.

**Welcome to The Gem State Patriot, we are a not for profit newsletter.**

**NO MORE RINOS - WATCH THE VIDEO's**

**Learn about the Candidates Just Click on the Links**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W28zc3sPBLU&sns=em>**

**<https://www.youtube.com/user/IdaVote>**

## **“INSIDE THIS ISSUE”**

- PAGE 2,3** Historic Challenge for Six Constitutional Offices in Our State.  
**PAGE 4** Bryan Smith Candidate for Congressman in the Second Congressional District.  
**PAGE 5** Republican Liberty Caucus Endorsements for 2014.  
**PAGE 6** Governors Debate is no Laughing Matter by Tea Party Bob  
**PAGE 7,8** Remember the Battle for the State Healthcare Exchange by Steve Ackerman.  
**PAGE 9-13** What Happened to Butch Otter Courtesy of Integrity in Government PAC.  
**PAGE 14,15** The Shackles of Common Core by Cache Wood.  
**PAGE 16** A New Vision for Locally Controlled Idaho Public Education by Stephanie Zimmerman.  
**PAGE 17** Conservatives Under Siege by Otter & Lobbyists by Monty Pearce.  
**PAGE 18** Running With the Rinos.  
**PAGE 19** Do Something or Do Nothing - Troupis vs Wasden by Chris Troupis  
**PAGE 20** Mudslinging from the Bad Kids & IACI The Idaho Assn. of Cronyism & Influence.  
**PAGE 21** Incumbent Barbieri vs Weidenhoff by Austin Hill (Idaho Reporter Reprint)  
**PAGE 22** Incumbent Packer vs Lance Earl by Austin Hill (Idaho Reporter Reprint)  
**PAGE 23** Two District 1 Candidates Decline to Answer IFF Survey by Austin Hill (Idaho Reporter)  
**PAGE 24** Incumbent Eskridge vs Dixon by Austin Hill (Idaho Reporter Reprint)  
**PAGE 25** Kirby vs Rynearson for Denney's Vacated Seat by Austin Hill (Idaho Reporter Reprint)  
**PAGE 26** Idaho Freedom Foundation Honors 23 at their Annual Banquet by Wayne Hoffman  
**PAGE 27** District 4 Three Candidates Respond to Survey Luke Malek does not.  
**PAGE 28** Links to Our Supporters

Please direct any comments or requests for subscriptions to this newsletter to:  
Bob Neugebauer: Publisher E-mail - [nugie@cableone.net](mailto:nugie@cableone.net) Phone - 208-887-2144  
Steve Ackerman: Editor E-mail - [sackerman@cableone.net](mailto:sackerman@cableone.net) Phone - 208-860-8055

## IDAHO POLITICS HISTORY IN THE MAKING

First time ever six of Idaho's seven State Constitutional Offices are being challenged in the Republican Primary May 20th. Here are the candidates.

If you would like to hear what these candidates are talking about go to

[www.youtube.com/idavote](http://www.youtube.com/idavote)



### [RUSS FULCHER FOR GOVERNOR](#)

[www.RussFulcher.com](http://www.RussFulcher.com) | [www.fb.com/FulcherForIdaho](http://www.fb.com/FulcherForIdaho)

- BALANCED BUDGET WITH LESS FEDERAL MONEY
- REPEAL THE IDAHO OBAMACARE EXCHANGE
- GENUINE ECONOMIC GROWTH—LOWER TAXES
- ELIMINATE CRONYISM FROM GOVERNMENT
- RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR LANDS
- MONEY FOR BETTER LOCAL RUN EDUCATION
- REPEAL THE GROCERY TAX
- PRO 2ND. AMENDMENT RIGHTS & PRO LIFE



### [JIM CHMELIK FOR Lt. GOVERNOR](#)

[www.ChmelikForIdaho.com](http://www.ChmelikForIdaho.com) | [www.fb.com/ChmelikForIdaho](http://www.fb.com/ChmelikForIdaho)

- TRANSFER PUBLIC LANDS BACK TO THE STATE
- PROPERLY CARE FOR OUR RESOURCES
- ADEQUATELY FUND EDUCATION
- CREATE GOOD PAYING JOBS NOT MINIMUM WAGE
- IMPROVE STATE & COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE
- LOWER TAXES - PUSH BACK ON EPA REGULATIONS
- AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE NOT OBAMACARE
- PRO LIFE AND SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS



### [LAWRENCE DENNEY- SECRETARY OF STATE](#)

[www.DenneyForIdaho.com](http://www.DenneyForIdaho.com) | [www.fb.com/LawrenceDenney](http://www.fb.com/LawrenceDenney)

- NULLIFY OBAMACARE, FREE MARKET SOLUTIONS
- ACCOUNTABILITY FOR A BALANCED BUDGET
- LESS GOVERNMENT REG'S IN AGRICULTURE
- ENDORSED BY THE NRA - PRO LIFE
- SECURE OUR BORDERS
- LOCAL EDUCATION NOT GOVERNMENT IMPOSED
- WISE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES
- STOP VOTER FRAUD

## IDAHO POLITICS HISTORY IN THE MAKING

First time ever six of Idaho's seven State Constitutional Offices are being challenged in the Republican Primary May 20th. Here are the candidates.

If you would like to hear what these candidates are talking about go to

[www.youtube.com/idavote](http://www.youtube.com/idavote)



### **CHRIS TROUPIS FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL**

[www.TroupisForIdaho.com](http://www.TroupisForIdaho.com) | [www.fb.com/TroupisForIdaho](http://www.fb.com/TroupisForIdaho)

- STAND AND PROTECT IDAHO'S CITIZENS
- OPPOSE OBAMACARE MANDATES
- RECLAIM IDAHO'S LAND FROM THE FEDS
- DEFEND IDAHO BUSINESS FROM THE EPA
- DEFEND OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES
- STRONG PRO 2ND AMENDMENT AND PRO LIFE
- EXPERIENCED IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
- LAND BOARD REFORM NO COMMERCIAL PROP.



### **TODD HATFIELD FOR STATE CONTROLLER**

[www.ToddHatfield.com](http://www.ToddHatfield.com) | [www.fb.com/ToddHatfield4Controller](http://www.fb.com/ToddHatfield4Controller)

- LIMITED GOVERNMENT
- LAND BOARD REFORM
- MORE TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT
- GET GOVERNMENT OUT OF PRIVATE BUSINESS
- HARNESS OUR NATURAL RESOURCES
- DEFENDS THE 2ND AMENDMENT - PRO LIFE
- LESS BUSINESS REGULATIONS
- NO FEDERALLY MANDATED EDUCATION
- FREE MARKET SOLUTIONS NOT GOVERNMENT



### **JOHN EYNON - SUPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

[www.EynonForEducation.com](http://www.EynonForEducation.com) | [www.fb.com/EynonForEducation](http://www.fb.com/EynonForEducation)

- PROMOTES IDAHO SPECIFIC STANDARDS
- RESPECT PARENTS RIGHTS & DATA PRIVACY
- RESTORE LOCAL CONTROL DEFEND HOMESCHOOL
- SUPPORTS TEACHERS AS PROFESSIONALS
- MUST WITHDRAW FROM THE "SBAC" TESTING
- GET D.C. BUREAUCRATS OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS
- A RETIRED NAVY COMMANDER
- OVER A DECADE OF TEACHING IN IDAHO COUNTY
- PRO 2ND. AMENDMENT AND PRO LIFE

## BRYAN SMITH CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESSMAN FOR IDAHO'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



### **Bryan's Story**

Born in Boise, Idaho, and raised close by in Caldwell, Bryan Smith learned the value of hard work, determination, and personal responsibility watching his father succeed as a small-town baker.

Bryan was the first person in his family to go to college, graduating from Brigham Young University in 1986 with

a degree in English and from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, with honors in 1989.

In 1994, Bryan moved back to Idaho, settling in Idaho Falls, and opened his own law practice. He is now the owner of several small businesses in Idaho and the proud father of five children. He and his wife, Sharon, have been married 30 years.

A conservative Republican, Bryan is a strong believer in limited government, free enterprise, and individual liberty – the same values he learned growing up in Caldwell. He believes the departure from these Idahoan principles has created an overreaching federal government that now dictates nearly every aspect of our lives, from the type of light bulbs we buy to the amount of water we use in the shower. Bryan is running for U.S. Congress to bring fundamental Idahoan values to Washington.

Bryan and his wife live in Idaho Falls, and he enjoys cycling, playing racquetball, and bee-keeping in his spare time.

If you would like to read more about Bryan and how he stands on the issues we suggest that you visit his website at

<https://bryansmithforcongress.com/about-bryan/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bryansmithforcongress>

## REPUBLICAN LIBERTY CAUCUS OF IDAHO (RLCID) RELEASES FIRST ROUND OF 2014 ENDORSEMENTS

RLCID-PAC, the candidate endorsement arm of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Idaho, today announced their first round of endorsements for the 2014 campaign cycle after the board of directors exhaustively spent over two weeks reviewing comprehensive candidate questionnaires, incumbent voting records, and recorded interviews and forums. Under consideration were candidates for statewide constitutional offices and state legislative seats.

RLCID-PAC is excited to be supporting such a strong group of pro-liberty, pro-business, limited-government candidates in the 2014 election cycle. These candidates worked very hard to earn the RLCID-PAC endorsement and we look forward to supporting and working with these candidates in the coming weeks. We thank all of the candidates who submitted a candidate questionnaire for consideration of endorsement.

As a final step in securing the RLCID-PAC endorsement, each candidate was required to sign the RLC Liberty Compact.

### **The Liberty Compact**

I pledge to the citizens of this state, and to the American people, that as their elected representative I will work to restore liberty, not restrict it; shrink government, not expand it; reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish programs, not create them; promote the freedom and independence of citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

For more information please contact Karen Calisterio, RLCID/RLCID-PAC Chairman - [chair@rlcid.org](mailto:chair@rlcid.org)

### **2014 RLCID Endorsed Candidates**

Governor: Russ Fulcher

Lt Governor: Jim Chmelik

Attorney General: Chris Troupis

Secretary of State: Lawrence Denney

Controller: Todd Hatfield

Superintendent of Public Instruction: John Eynon

### Legislative Positions

District 5 – Senate John Carlson

District 7 – Senate Sheryl Nuxoll

District 7 – Representative A Shannon McMillan

District 8 – Representative B Lenore Barrett

District 9 – Senate Monty Pearce

District 9 – Representative A Howard Rynearson

District 9 – Representative B Judy Boyle

District 12 – Senate Lee Rice

District 12 – Representative A Roger Hunt

District 12 – Representative B Robert Muse

District 15 – Senate Diego Rodriguez

District 15 – Representative B Jason Robinson

District 16 – Senate Joel Robinson

District 16 – Representative A Rosann Wiltse

District 18 – Senate Edward Dindinger

District 19 – Senate Tony Snesko

District 21 – Senate Cliff Bayer

District 21 – Representative A Steven Harris

District 22 – Representative B Pete Nielsen

### Legislative Positions

District 1 – Senate Danielle Ahrens

District 1 – Representative A Heather Scott

District 1 – Representative B Sage Dixon

District 2 – Representative A Vito Barbieri

District 3 – Senate Bob Nonini

District 3 – Representative A Ron Mendive

District 4 – Representative A Toby Schindelbeck

District 4 – Representative B Kathleen Sims

## **GOVERNORS DEBATE IS NO LAUGHING MATTER**

**by Tea Party Bob**

You have to admit that the period before any election is the most entertaining, and the debate last night just proved that. The debate was better than Saturday Night Live. Keep in mind Governor Otter was the one who insisted that Harley and Walt be at the debate according to Associated Press. He knew this would give him cover so he would not have to debate the difficult issues facing our state with Senator Fulcher. Governor Otter was invited to 8 other forums that he would have had an opportunity to debate the issues with Senator Fulcher, but never showed for any of them. He made the excuse that he was too busy with his schedule to attend. When a sitting Governor is being challenged by a member of his own party and can't find time to meet the challenge, how will he possibly find the time to meet the challenges that face our state.

The fact that Public TV allowed this format to take place shows you how much they wanted to hold an honest forthright debate between the two primary contenders. Maybe they actually thought they had to compete with Saturday Night Live. The citizens of Idaho deserve better than the farce that PBS perpetrated on the public last night. It was a time for serious conversation to determine the direction of our state and who will be its leader and all we got were a lot of laughs.

If our Governor was serious about turning our economy around and helping the citizens of Idaho, he would not have allowed a spectacle like last night to take place and would have engaged Senator Fulcher in a real debate where they discuss the difficult issues that our state is facing. For the short period of time Fulcher and Otter actually engaged each other in discussion, you would have to say that Fulcher won the debate. He showed that he had vision. He wants to get rid of Obamacare and actually has a plan which he explained to do that. He wants to give control of our education system back to the parents and teachers of our state, and he wants to grow our economy with lower taxes, less regulation and less federal assistance.

Senator Fulcher spoke of how we need to get control of our land and use our natural resources to grow our economy and bring better paying jobs to Idaho. The Governor doesn't have a vision and doesn't even want to attempt to reclaim our land. All he could do was wish Russ luck in his vision. Let's face it, the Governor has lost touch with the people of Idaho and has lost his spark and tenacity to lead that he once had. Anyone who listened to the debate last night and votes for the Governor would prefer to live in a regressive State which has no vision for the future of its citizens and is unwilling to fight for its rights as a sovereign state.

If you paid attention to the Governor's wrap up, he said that "88% of the legislature is supporting his reelection." That means to me that we have a lot more work to do in ferreting out that 88% that want to live in a stagnant economy with little or no growth, are satisfied with minimum wage jobs and don't care about the fate of the people who elected them. Harley got it right last night when he said we have a Cowboy, a Curmudgeon, a Biker, or a Normal guy.

I'm voting for the Normal guy Russ Fulcher.

**WE GET THE GOVERNMENT WE DESERVE. VOTE ON MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>.**

By Tea Party Bob

## REMEMBER THE BATTLE FOR THE STATE HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE

By Steve Ackerman

With the primary upon us, I am taking the liberty to remind our readers of the importance of this election. As many of you know, Bob and I fought against Idaho bringing the Affordable Care Act into Idaho through the "state health exchange." Sadly, our governor and the majority of our legislators voted to do just that. The consequences are not only devastating, but continue to fall upon our fellow citizens; cancelled policies, premium increases; loss of choice; and the encouragement of anti-competitive and anti-transparent practices from industries, elected leaders, and private citizens in Idaho.

Citizens look to their state elected officials to ensure they are not harmed by corrupt and anti-liberty federal policies. And yet, when the federal government imposed Obamacare, it was a minority of principled and courageous legislators who fought against its implementation in Idaho. There were too many who fought Obamacare; only to abandon that fight instead of staying the course. As costly as battles are, there is a greater cost to human freedom and liberty of the Affordable Care Act. My senator, Russ Fulcher, voted against the health exchange. I am proud he did so.

Worse still are the countless policy thinkers (like the Idaho Freedom Foundation) elected officials, and members of Tea Party, Conservative, and Pro-liberty groups who continue to raise alternative solutions to the Affordable Care Act, but remain largely ignored. That is wrong. When the good people of Idaho express concern over federal policies that are clearly unconstitutional, their elected officials should stand with them. Leaving these people on their own is not representing them.

Below, you will find some of the consequences of Idaho's acceptance of the Affordable Care Act, and some solutions. We ask only that you consider these when casting your vote:

### ***State Health Exchange is a Federal Program***

Applications are done through federal government.

Enrollment figures Your Health Idaho reports come directly from the federal Department of Health & Human Services.

We don't know how many Idahoans have enrolled, until Health & Human Services tells us.

### **Idaho health plans?**

No: The benefits offered, coverage provided, and changes to premium rates are based on federal rules.

### **State Health Exchange charges user fee the same way as the federal government**

Citizens of Idaho promised user fee would be "fixed dollar amount" -- \$4.80 per member, per month  
State Health Exchange changed how it prices, despite telling state legislature otherwise

User fee is 1.5% of the premium -- wherever premium ends up

Prices same way federal exchange prices -- percentage of the premium

State Complicity and Involvement in Success of the Health Exchange

State Health Exchange borrowed \$375,000 from Department of Health & Welfare

27% of enrollees on health exchange qualify for Medicaid. They get sent to Department of Health & Welfare

Question: Isn't part of the enrollment process for Idaho's Medicaid being done by the health exchange? That is use of state money.

How many hours of state employee time (Department of Health & Welfare and Department of Insurance, Governor's Office, etc.) are being used for the state health exchange?

Health & Welfare openly supporting the work of the State Health Exchange

Continued on page 5

## REMEMBER THE BATTLE FOR THE STATE HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE

By Steve Ackerman

### *State Health Exchange Has Failed in Performance*

#### **76,000 people signed up as of April 2014**

Kaiser estimates 258,000 uninsured in Idaho; Your Health Idaho signed up 29.8% of the uninsured we have in the state. Current cost is \$921.00 per sign-up

But, we don't know if everyone who signed up was previously uninsured

105,000 people had their policies cancelled

Others switched from Insurance Policy A to Insurance Policy B: We don't know how many

#### What We Know

20,520 (27%) are Medicaid

49,400 (65%) have sent a first month's premium (Note: It could take up to 60 days for their insurance to "begin.")

### **Solutions**

**Use of Private Exchanges:** Even though the "Play or Pay" mandate has been extended to 2015, employers are actively seeking an employee health benefits solution that will help them predict and control costs associated with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). That's why the concept of private exchanges (or marketplaces) is garnering so much attention.

**Health Savings Accounts:** Health Savings Account put control of healthcare decisions in the hands of the patient. People can use pre-tax dollars for a diverse range of health and dental care purchases, getting more financial security more quickly. HSAs reduce complexity for benefits administrators because the company does not have to process a formal claim with the insurance company. It can be done at the Point-of-Service with the patient directly.

**Direct Primary Care:** Direct Primary Care allows for a person to buy a "membership" in a physician's practice" and thus "avoids the need to buy an Obamacare policy. This can bring tremendous cost savings to small business, while providing necessary coverage to their employees. We can apply this in a couple of ways:

Pay a flat fee to a physician, who will then provide a range of agreed-upon services. For anything catastrophic, the patient has a catastrophic care insurance policy. Here, the patient can use their HSA account.

Pool small businesses to "self-insure" and join a health plan, i.e., doctors who will provide the services needed. This has the advantage of expanding competition beyond the insurance company. Also, the insurance company would still get some catastrophic care insurance policies. More than 55% of employees across the country were enrolled in "self-insure" plans in 2008.

**Hardship Exemptions:** If a person has experienced qualifying "financial or domestic circumstances," that "prevent him or her from obtaining coverage under a qualified plan," they can be exempted from having to purchase a qualifying plan through a health exchange.

**Religious Exemption:** The Medi-share Ministry option can be applied through the "health care sharing ministry" provision of the Internal Revenue Code and enforced by the IRS. Also, there is a "religious conscience" clause that exempts people where the religion is "opposed to accepting any insurance benefits." The Social Security Administration enforces this rule.

### **Court Decisions**

The State of Idaho can use the following court decisions (along with others) to fight the implementation of Obamacare:

New York v. United States

Printz v. United States

NFIB v. Sebelius

Continued on page 6



## WHAT HAPPENED TO BUTCH OTTER? COURTESY OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT PAC

*Below you will find an excerpt from “Integrity in Government” political action committee. This is their assessment of the problems with the leadership of this state. Their focus is the office of Governor and the departments and agencies under the executive branch. We trust you will find this informative. (Please Note: It has been edited for space purposes. If you would like the full version, you will find their contact information at the end of this letter. Thank you.)*

Dear Fellow Republican,  
Butch Otter has been on the ballot for more than four decades, and often, perhaps like you, **we have voted for Butch**. This year, we have decided that we can no longer do that. Butch is not the same man we once supported. **He no longer supports conservative principles.**

Longtime conservative friends see a different Otter than the one we once supported. Former **Rep. Maurice Clements**, who served with Otter in the 1970s, said recently, **“Butch is a great speechifier and he says the right things. He just doesn't do what he says.”**[1]

Otter caves in to the federal government and no longer stands up for our state sovereignty. He helped Idaho become the only Republican-controlled state in the Nation to implement Obamacare. He's no longer interested or invested in helping principled conservative Republicans win elections.

**He's only interested in self-preservation and cronyism.** And, he's no longer focusing on running government like a business, has lent himself **to numerous scandals** for which Otter should have taken some measure of responsibility. **Butch Otter refuses to endorse the Republican Platform.**

**Otter supports all forms of higher taxes** While Gov. Otter has said he supports lower taxes, and it is true that he has supported some tax cuts, the list of Otter's tax increase proposals is stunningly long. In 2009, Otter **supported raising fuel taxes** and vehicle **registration fees**. He said the money from the higher taxes and fees were imperative to deal with the state's highway and bridge infrastructure problems. Otter was so determined to raise taxes and fees, he vetoed dozens of bills just to make this point. And when Republicans in the Legislature continued to object to the tax and fee increases, Otter vetoed even more bills.[2]

Fuel isn't the only thing Otter wants to raise taxes on. Otter now also has become a strong advocate for **local option sales taxes**, even though its constitutionality questionable. He said so in his 2013 State of the State address: “My preference is granting local-option taxing authority that enables county voters to decide for themselves how to address their most pressing needs.”[4] That's not all. Otter said he **supports taxing sales made via the Internet.**[5]

**Federal dependency grows under Otter, rejects state sovereignty** Under Otter's “leadership,” the state is more dependent on the federal government than ever before. Since 2003, the state's reliance on the **federal government has grown 82 percent**, and the state now uses federal money to sustain **more than 440 government programs.**[7]

Continued on page 7

## **WHAT HAPPENED TO BUTCH OTTER? COURTESY OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT PAC**

Otter also appears quite comfortable with the Federal government's control over state land. Other states, including Utah, have specifically called for states to assert their control over the land inside their borders. Idaho Republicans have passed a resolution in support of states controlling their own land. Otter even attended a meeting of the state Republican Central Committee, asking state GOP officials to support state control of public lands.[8]

### **Otter opposes the free market, supports corporate welfare**

Higher taxes do not help our economy. Our Republican Platform gives us the blueprint for a better economy: support of the free market. Unfortunately, Governor Otter does not back the free market. His recent proposals have **abandoned the free market**, embracing corporate welfare and special deals.

In 2013, the Governor backed legislation to give special deals to businesses via a so-called "opportunity fund." Under the governor's bill, it's not what you know, **it's who you know** that decides whether your business idea will become reality.[10]

His administration also brought another bill to give a tax break of up to businesses that hire 20 new employees in rural areas or 50 new employees in urban areas.[11]

The Department of Commerce **will get to decide whether businesses are deserving** or not of the tax break. And if you're in business and you only employ just 2 people or 5 people—even if your business doubles its payroll or triples its capital investment—you're just out of luck. This type of corporate welfare has been shown to do nothing to help the economy, because there's nothing free market about it. But that's the type of policy that was decreed in Boise these days under the Otter regime.

### **Otter's state government buys storage business, competes against private enterprise**

Otter, as Chairman of the State Land Board, got the state to purchase a commercial business and then launched that government owned business **to compete against the private sector**.<sup>[13]</sup> The state bought a storage unit business—a place where one stores household supplies like furniture, clothing and appliances—and that government business operates tax free against other similar tax paying private sector ventures. Otter voted to buy the storage business for \$2.7 million. And the State Land Board set about an expansion strategy of buying other commercial businesses until the public caught wind of what was happening, prompting Otter to reverse course. Still, this episode **clearly reveals where Otter's heart is** when it comes to conservative values.

### **Otter supports Obamacare**

Governor Otter's support for the Obamacare insurance exchange is well known. Otter likes to claim that his support of the exchange came after all other options were exhausted. **That's not true**. Here's the true story of Otter's evolution as an Obamacare supporter: In 2010, Otter attended an Idaho Freedom Foundation event with Thomas Woods, author of the book "Nullification." At that time, Otter **claimed to be interested in nullifying Obamacare** in order to stop it. In January 2011, Otter told lawmakers he's considering "nullification" as an option to stop Obamacare.[14]

Continued on page 8

## **WHAT HAPPENED TO BUTCH OTTER? COURTESY OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT PAC**

Lawmakers drafted a nullification bill, and presented him a copy. Otter expressed support for the bill, which passed the House and failed to clear a Senate committee. As a result, a second bill, blocking just the “optional” provisions of Obamacare, was introduced and passed the Legislature overwhelmingly. **But Otter VETOED it on April 20, 2011.**[15]

Instead, he authored an executive order that allowed the Department of Insurance to covertly work on the development of an insurance exchange.[16] **(Just Like Obama)**

Understand, Otter’s push for an insurance exchange came well before the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling on Obamacare and well before the 2012 presidential election. In fact, while Otter was talking up nullification in his State of the State, his budget for that same year called for the Department of Insurance to collect \$2.5 million from the federal government to start putting the insurance exchange in place.[17] Fortunately, state lawmakers at that time blocked Otter’s request.

In 2012, Otter avoided the fight on the insurance exchange altogether. He decided instead to appoint a “taskforce” to study the insurance exchange issue. **The taskforce was heavily weighted toward the insurance industry,** and as a result, no one was really surprised when the taskforce concluded that an insurance exchange was the right way to go. Otter fought hard for the exchange, and this exchange has since become his greatest legislative accomplishment. Even though the bill **failed to win a majority of House Republican support,** he had to utilize the support of Democrats and the minority of liberal Republicans to pass the legislation.[18]

It’s important to understand that, in addition to **Idaho being the only Republican-controlled state to implement an Obamacare insurance exchange.**[19]

Senator Russ Fulcher said this about the insurance exchange and Medicaid expansion: *“We don't need a health exchange, Medicaid expansion or anything else tied to Obamacare. Idaho can lead the nation in health care choice, competition, and security. The federal government brings nothing but rules, red tape, and costs. They create uncertainty for Idahoans, making our people wonder if they'll keep their insurance, and, if they do, what it will cost. Idahoans want choice, responsibility, incentives, and improvement in their health care. They deserve nothing less.”*[21]

### **Otter fails to address prison scandal**

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the operator of the private prison, ripped off taxpayers by billing for unworked hours, understaffing prisons, and encouraging violence, permanently injuring some prisoners. At times, just two guards supervised as many as 350 inmates.[22]

Otter eventually, under pressure, agreed to an investigation, but by then the state had signed a settlement with CCA, which **has been sealed from public disclosure.** CCA has now been held in contempt of the court for violating its settlement agreement.

### **Otter fails to address broadband scandal**

Another one of the scandals that has embroiled the Otter administration is the embarrassing decision by one of Otter’s friends, working as the head of the Department of Administration, to award a contract that is now costing state taxpayers millions of dollars and leaving our schoolchildren in great uncertainty.

Continued on page 9

## **WHAT HAPPENED TO BUTCH OTTER? COURTESY OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT PAC**

The issue stems from a contract **unfairly awarded by an Otter crony** and administration head to provide broadband connectivity to Idaho schools. Syringa Networks sued the state over the deal, saying the Otter administration tilted the contract criteria **to favor Qwest**. Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jim Jones wrote, “Gwartney appears to have been the architect of the **state’s effort to bend the contracting rules** ... All contracts made in violation of these statutes are void and any money advanced by the state ... **must be repaid.**”[24]

### **Otter fails to address Tax Commission scandal**

Another of Otter’s appointed buddies created a scandal in the state Tax Commission. Otter appointed Royce Chigbrow to chair the tax commission. Chigbrow was Otter’s campaign treasurer, and his son, Cordell, now serves in that role.

Royce Chigbrow was accused of **using taxpayer resources** to benefit a buddy who supported his run for state controller in 2006. “The Tax Commission employees also say the chairman intervened in early 2010 on behalf of a client of his son’s Boise-based accounting firm to reduce a payment plan to remedy delinquent taxes, **despite objections of agency staff,**” according to a newspaper report.[25]

Chigbrow resigned as an investigation into his actions were looming. Otter’s response? He issued a statement calling Royce Chigbrow “**my friend and trusted adviser for a number of years**. He was kind enough to enter the arena of public service at my request, and I applaud his hard work, knowledge and expertise in that role.”

### **Otter administration tax commission targets children**

Despite the fact that Chigbrow is gone, Otter’s Tax Commission is still a mess. In 2010, the Tax Commission forced 4- and 6-year old children from Lewiston to close down their pumpkin stand. They were selling pumpkins to raise money for sports and other activities. The tax commission complained that they did not have the proper permits to business in the state.[26]

In 2013, the tax commission went after a 12-year-old boy selling raspberries at a roadside stand in Pocatello. [27] They told the kid he needed to remit the state’s 6 percent sales tax, prompting outrage from lawmakers who wondered why the agency was wasting its time on little kids.

### **Otter is unfaithful and abandons his party**

One of the most frustrating problems with Gov. Otter comes from the way he has engaged with the Republican Party. In 2008, party faithful grassroots activists such as yourselves voted for a new party chairman. **This conservative chairman did not meet with Otter’s approval.**

So how did Otter respond? Did he continue to work with the party and precinct committee people to help advance conservative, free market principles? **No**. In fact, Otter has done **everything he can to starve the party of funding**, refusing to do anything that will help elect conservative officials in the most conservative state in the country.

What’s more, Otter has **refused to endorse our Republican Platform** and will not give any kind of indication regarding where he aligns or doesn’t align with the party, information that would help you make an informed choice at the ballot box.

As he condescendingly told a group late last year **“Idaho’s greatest challenge for 2014 ... is Gettin me re-elected.”**

Continued on page 10

## WHAT HAPPENED TO BUTCH OTTER? COURTESY OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT PAC

### Conclusion

We want you to thank you for considering our letter. **It was not easy to write**. Butch Otter has been a friend of ours for many years. **We've voted for him**. We considered him a champion of free market values, of limited government and lower taxes.

The governor that we have today is **not the same man who stood up** against Big Government, who stood up against the Federal government. It is up to us to recognize that something has happened, and it affects our vote.

- [1] Otter loses some political ties as pamphlet is republished, Idaho Statesman, May 3, 2014, <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/05/03/3166443/otter-loses-some-political-ties.html#storylink=cpy>.
- [2] <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/may/16/butch-otter-evolution-libertarian/>.
- [3] Idaho Freedom Foundation budget would dramatically cut taxes, fund schools and roads, January 27, 2014. <http://idahofreedom.net/iff-budget-proposal-would-dramatically-cut-taxes-and-funds-schools-and-roads/>
- [4] Governor Otter's State of the State Address, January 7, 2013. [http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp\\_2013/State%20of%20the%20State%202013.pdf](http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp_2013/State%20of%20the%20State%202013.pdf).
- [5] Otter supports Internet sales tax, Bloomberg Businessweek, January 20, 2012. <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9SJDEG80.htm>.
- [6] House Bill 509, 2014 legislative session. <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2014/H0509.htm>.
- [7] Idaho unprepared for the next federal spending crisis, Idaho Freedom Foundation, Feb. 19, 2014. <http://idahofreedom.net/idaho-unprepared-for-next-federal-funding-crisis/>.
- [8] Idaho GOP winter meeting, January 2013.
- [9] Our View: Otter's land plan worth a look, Twin Falls Times News, Sept. 18, 2013, [http://magicvalley.com/news/opinion/editorial/our-view-otter-s-land-plan-worth-a-look/article\\_041f72ae-d5c8-58f7-a1fe-86c9b84f7eb2.html](http://magicvalley.com/news/opinion/editorial/our-view-otter-s-land-plan-worth-a-look/article_041f72ae-d5c8-58f7-a1fe-86c9b84f7eb2.html)
- [10] House Bill 100, 2013 legislative session. <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/H0100.pdf>.
- [11] House Bill 546, 2014 legislative session, <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2014/H0546.htm>.
- [12] House Bill 498, 2014 legislative session, <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2014/H0498.htm>.
- [13] Storage company just the beginning, Idaho has big business expansion plans, Jan 6, 2011, <http://www.idahoreporter.com/2011/storage-company-just-the-beginning-idaho-plans-to-go-into-business/>.
- [14] Governor's State of the State address, January 10, 2014, [http://www.gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp\\_2011/State\\_of\\_the\\_State\\_2011.pdf](http://www.gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp_2011/State_of_the_State_2011.pdf).
- [15] House Bill 298, April 20, 2011. <http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2011/H0298.htm>.
- [16] [http://www.gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/execorders/eo11/eo\\_2011\\_03.html](http://www.gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/execorders/eo11/eo_2011_03.html)
- [17] Senate Bill 1158, 2013 legislative session. <http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2011/S1158.pdf>
- [18] House Bill 248, 2013 legislative session. <http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/H0248.htm>
- [19] Oklahoma Lawsuit Could Effectively Defund Obamacare, July 31, 2013. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/merrillmatthews/2013/07/31/oklahoma-lawsuit-could-effectively-defund-obamacare/>.
- [20] Conflicting messages on Medicaid expansion, February 24, 2014. [http://www.idahopress.com/members/conflicting-messages-on-medicaid-expansion/article\\_a2853f06-9b62-11e3-86b9-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.idahopress.com/members/conflicting-messages-on-medicaid-expansion/article_a2853f06-9b62-11e3-86b9-001a4bcf887a.html).
- [21] Russ Fulcher on Medicaid expansion, health care, March 29, 2014. <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/03/29/3108223/lineylineymedicaid-expansion-health.html>.
- [22] Sen. Russ Fulcher on Idaho's prison challenges, April 6, 2014, <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/04/06/3120038/lineyliney.html>.
- [23] New lawsuits against Idaho Dept. of Juvenile Corrections, Feb. 5, 2014, <http://www.jrn.com/kivitv/news/New-lawsuits-against-Idaho-Dept-of-Juvenile-Corrections-243892631.html>.
- [24] Idaho lawmakers get surprise \$14 million bill for broadband, Jan. 31, 2014, <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/01/31/3001516/lawmakers-get-surprise-bill-for.html>.
- [25] Idaho Tax Commission chairman resigns, January 7, 2011, <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2011/jan/07/idaho-tax-commission-chairman-resigns/>.
- [26] Idaho makes national news for shutting down roadside pumpkin stand, IdahoReporter.com, Oct. 23, 2010. <http://www.idahoreporter.com/2010/idaho-makes-national-news-shutting-down-roadside-pumpkin-stand/>.
- [27] Idaho legislators unhappy with tax commission for going after a 12 year old, IdahoReporter.com, Sept. 5, 2013. <http://www.idahoreporter.com/2013/idaho-legislators-unhappy-with-tax-commission-going-after-a-12-year-old/>.
- [28] Idaho pays fired transportation chief \$750,000, Spokesman Review, August 22, 2012, <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2012/aug/22/idaho-pays-fired-itd-chief-750000/>.
- [29] Otter loses some political ties as pamphlet is reprinted, Idaho Statesman, May 3, 2014. <http://>

## THE SHACKLES OF COMMON CORE

By Cache Wood

*The following Goals Statement was done begrudgingly to fill a requirement in my sons Senior Project at Middleton High School. A requirement that was added after he had turned his project in early. In this "reflection paper", he wanted to let the school know, with clarity, what his four years at Middleton High had been like. To let them know that instead of being leaders, mentors, and teachers, they were acting more like lords and masters with us as their subjects. This year especially, was filled with more unfunded mandates and unpreparedness. They brought in mandatory laptops, which we refused, mainly due to unreasonable data mining practices required by Common Core and the other three assurances signed onto by Otter and Luna and even warranted by our own AG Wasden in a letter dated May 3, 2013. His letter stated that personal information including SSNs and BIOMETRIC data is now educational in nature and can be shared without parental consent. The school needs to be reminded that students are human beings, not human capital, and that parents and children recognize when they are treated without concern or respect. Parents do have rights that we are willing to fight for. Children, parents and taxpayers deserve better than a "we are building this plane as we fly it" sentiment, which was echoed many times over from IDOE, and this district. ~ Mila Wood*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2014 LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Today I am writing one of the last items of my high school career, my Senior project summary on my experience here at Middleton High School and my future goals. When reading through my portfolio, I hope you will get a sense of me as an individual, my goals for becoming successful, and my plans for pursuing a career in communication and business. You will see that I have a plan that includes research into my future schooling, my planning of my new adventure and my ability to use common sense to make my plan come together. I would also caution, that I may change my mind, as I am yet a young man, with lots to experience, and I am open to events that may change my direction. My direction may change, but my adherence to my personal constitution will remain the same. I plan to build my life on the principles of freedom, self-reliance, personal and fiscal responsibility.

My experience here at Middleton High has been like being a ticketed passenger stranded at an airport, with a ticket to ride on a plane that is still under construction and me still needing to get to an important, faraway destination. Some of the folks at the airport are grumpy, and some are helpful, most are just going through the motions waiting for their shift to end. None seem to be concerned with my personal journey, or even seem to care if I make my final destination. They do wish me an exhausted, bedraggled good luck as I tote my heavy backpack around, hoping to find an exit where I hope to seek out a mode of transportation that is at least assembled and working. Many good life lessons and examples of how NOT to do things, is what I have taken from Middleton High.

My future travel plans away from here will include a destination of a community college, where I will play tennis. My family helped me research different colleges, interview professors, and look for tennis teams that fit my personal needs and interests. Tennis has been a skill I have spent my whole life developing, hoping to one day earn money for school. I am hoping to get my feet wet, experience life somewhat on my own, and decide if college is a necessary part of life for me. I have seen many examples of supposedly educated folks at Middleton High, yet they work at a job, where they are forced by federal regulations to do work that has nothing to do with my education, nothing to do with helping to make me a better person prepared for the world, and with governing agencies above them that tell them every day they are not trusted, not valued and certainly not important. I have had teachers that I liked, that I felt had a lot to give, but are clearly bogged down by not being able to actually do their jobs and teach. I will reflect back on that, and strive for more.

Continued on page 12

## THE SHACKLES OF COMMON CORE

By Cache Wood

The life I make for myself may possibly be following in my dad's footsteps and running our family business. I feel good when I work hard during the summers with him. I have learned the value of a shovel, being able to take pride in working harder than the next guy. Earning a living as a producer and not a free loader, is appealing to me. I have many hobbies that will require me to work to maintain. There are also many ways I give back to my community, besides being a current taxpayer, I volunteer for veterans to show my appreciation for their sacrifice. I will plan on working to be fiscally independent, not taking out student loans, not getting over extended in my personal life, which is completely the opposite lesson of public school. Free lunch, free computers, free money for college? Nothing is free, for the school to provide these free things, they need to acquire money from somewhere, someone, like my dad has to work, to produce, to pay taxes. Again, nothing is free. The lack of critical thinking on issues like this in public school is so confusing to me as a critical thinker. All the adults in the building basically selling me on FREE, when my common sense tells me that FREE is unsustainable, unreasonable, unfunded. I have to wonder if they know where FREE comes from? Because they are selling it, as if they get a commission.

I have witnessed the ridiculousness of unions at Middleton High School. The teachers that are unionized have had no problem singling me out, calling me into the office to be curtly given paper assignments, because my parents, concerned for my personal privacy, had opted me out of the mandatory laptop program. Unionized teachers had no problem tearing my work up in front of the class and ridiculing me when my opinion paper differed from theirs. Judging me, and isolating me was obviously more important than dialoging with me. I felt pressure by these teachers to succumb to their requests to conform as it obviously was interfering with their own teacher evaluations later in the year. I, as a result, will NEVER be part of a union. I am an adult, I am kinder, smarter, and more self-reliant than that.

In the end, I may choose a totally different path than my dad. However, the skills of hard work, common sense, being a good person, a personally responsible citizen, and a good provider will always be my goals. Public school has taught me that adults do not always know best, nor do they always have my best interest at heart, and just because you have a college degree does not mean you have common sense. I will choose not to be a cog in the wheel of a manufactured workforce. I will continue to question with boldness when something doesn't seem right. I will strive to be more than a test score, more than a human subject in a poorly constructed education program that has never been tested or proven. I will be a successful human being. I would never build a plane while I was flying it. That is asking for failure, in my opinion.

Revisiting my artifact for my senior project has really made me reflect on the wonderful life skills I have learned from my parents, but also, has given me a new appreciation for the Constitution, personal responsibility, and freedom. Thanks to Middleton High for showing me what not to do, and what to look out for, forcing me to see that questioning with boldness is a necessity in life. Thanks for the times that could have set me up for failure, but instead have made me a better person in spite of them.

Thank you for taking the time to read my goals statement.

Cache Wood, Senior Class of 2014  
(and future college student)

## A NEW VISION FOR LOCALLY CONTROLLED IDAHO PUBLIC EDUCATION

Rather than simply focusing on what we don't like about Common Core, we need to have a vision of what education in Idaho can and should look like. What can we do to make certain that education in Idaho is the best the country has to offer? Listed below are some of the ideas we think could redirect our system to reach that goal.

- Return *real* local control – not just at a state level, but all the way down to a district level by:
- Nullifying Common Core in Idaho
- Reducing each local school districts' size to one high school and the middle / elementary schools that feed into it.
  - *Parents will be more likely to get involved in their children's education and vote for school levies if they feel they have some control over what goes on in the halls of the local schools and the school district is small enough to be managed efficiently with transparent budgets*
- Wean the state and school districts off federal dollars and federal mandates. Currently some [50% of Idaho's State Dept. of Education budget](#) comes from federal monies.
- Pull out of Common Core and its onerous, expensive infrastructure requirements. Doing so will immediately make a huge difference in the amount of money required to operate great schools
- Eliminate disaggregate data collection. Only basic aggregate data is necessary to monitor school and student performance.
- Adopt the best standards available in the nation that promote American ideals.
- For example, Massachusetts's ELA standards and California or Indiana's math standards. These standards are all available *free* for our use here in Idaho – right now.
- Do away with high-stakes tests. Instead, conduct a non-Common Core aligned reading/writing test on odd years and a math achievement test on the even years starting in the third grade.
- Dramatically increase teacher pay (double it, if possible) while still limiting union overreach with short-term (2-5 year) teaching contracts. This can be accomplished as districts and the state shed Common Core and its associated high cost for technology, textbooks, testing, and teacher training. We're losing far too many great teachers every year who would otherwise stay but can't justify it because they see a professional dead-end in Idaho education.
- Restrict the ability of the State Board of Education and State Department of Education to enter into contracts and agreements without legislative approval.

**With these basic ideas put in place we can return to a truly local education system where those who care the most, parents teachers, and community members, can have the most influence for good**





## CONSERVATIVES UNDER SIEGE BY OTTER & LOBBYISTS By Monty Pearce

There is a book entitled God, Family, Country-The Three Great Loyalties. These three great loyalties are obviously interconnected but listed in order of priorities. The Constitution, which allowed this great country to develop, was inspired of God. In order to please God we need to protect our families and our country by correct principles, but it is His word and principles that rule supreme. Our government was formed to create an environment that allowed us to thrive and to live peacefully. The principles of the Constitution are the greatest safeguards we have to insure protection for each individual. These beliefs have guided my behavior as a legislator.

I have not been able to support our current governor in much of his proposed legislation. I opposed him on the Health Care Exchange, the gas tax increase, the implementation of Common Core, using endowment money to compete with private businesses, Medicaid expansion and increasing Idaho's debt through GARVEE. I also opposed him in appointing a pro-wolf individual to the Fish and Game Commission. It seems like a continuing battle to hold back socialistic legislation. It is because I do not support his agenda that he has endorsed my opponent. A number of other outstanding conservative legislators around the state have also been targeted by him. My allegiance is not to the governor, but to my oath to uphold the Constitution.

In my current campaign I am being criticized for my stand against Common Core. My opponent says I am using fear tactics when I talk about data collection and the direction Common Core is taking our students. After much study, it is my belief Common Core is to education what Obama Care is to the health industry—a total federal take-over.

I have also been criticized by my opponent for the role I played with HB571. The bill was brought to the House as a result of a six year conflict between the city of Caldwell and the Pioneer Irrigation Company. They had spent five million dollars on attorney's fees and were still in court. The bill passed the House and came to the Senate. After two committees refused to accept the bill, it was assigned to my committee by the Senate Pro-tem. I brought in legal counsel and was informed by them that if the bill passed the senate, the state of Idaho would very likely be brought into court to defend this new legislation.

The passage of HB571 would not have taken the Pioneer Irrigation Company and the City of Caldwell out of court; it wouldn't have ended the lawsuit. I brought in the mayor and the ditch president with their lawyers and we negotiated and worked on a solution. We signed an agreement that has them near a complete settlement now. After they signed the agreement, the bill was no longer necessary and so it was not taken out of my drawer. That means the bill was dead.

This summer I am Co-chairman of an interim committee wherein we will study eminent domain in regards to cities and water districts to see if legislation needs to be brought. We won't be hurried like we were with HB571 at the end of the session. Oftentimes legislation brought at the end of session, when hurried and not studied well, turns out to be bad legislation.

My opponent has expressed over and over that a chairman should not have the power to put a bill in the drawer. She does not understand the legislative process. Any senator can rise on the floor of the senate and make a motion to pull a bill out of any chairman's drawer if he can raise 18 votes. It is an amazing system of checks and balances which is designed to give every legislative district an equal voice.

The weakness in our system is not in the Constitution but in the people we elect who are too easily swayed by lobbyists and the governor. We need people who will stand firm on constitutional principles. Every elected official takes an oath of office to uphold and defend the Constitution, but I am afraid the promise is soon forgotten.

# RUNNING WITH THE RINOS



**AFTER THE STATE HEALTH  
CARE EXCHANGE WOULD  
ANYONE VOTE FOR THESE  
REPRESENTATIVES OR  
SENATORS?**



Thanks Governor CL "Butch" Otter

## REPRESENTATIVES YOU CAN'T TRUST

Brandon A. Hixon R Dist 10

Clark Kauffman R Dist 25

Donna Pence D Dist 26

Elaine Smith D Dist 29

Gary E. Collins R Dist 13

Grant Burgoyne D Dist 16

Janie Ward-Englking D Dist 18

\John Gannon D Dist 17

Lance Clow R Dist 24

Mat Erpeiding D Dist 19

Neil A. Anderson R Dist 31

Richard Wills R Dist 23

Scott Bedke R Dist 27

Steven Miller R Dist 26

Carolyn Meline D Dist 29

Darrell Bolz R Dist 10

Douglas A. Hancey R Dist 34

Eric R. Anderson R Dist 1

Fred Wood R Dist 27

Holli Woodings D Dist 19

Jeff Thompson R Dist 30

Julie VanOrden R Dist 31

Luke Malek R Dist 4

Maxine T. Bell R Dist 25

Paul Romrell R Dist 35

Rick D. Youngblood R Dist 12

Shirley G Ringo D Dist 5

Susan B Chew D Dist 17

Christy Perry R Dist 11

Dell Raybould R Dist 34

Ed Morse R Dist 2

Frank N. Henderson R Dist 3

George E. Eskridge R Dist 1

Hy Kloc D Dist 16

John Rusche D Dist 16

Kelley Packer R Dist 28

Marc Gibbs R Dist 32

Neil A. Anderson R Dist 31

Phylis K. King D Dist 18

Robert Anderst R Dist 12

Stephen Hartgen R Dist 24

Wendy Horman R Dist 30

## SENATORS SOLD OUT FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER

Bart M. Davis R Dist 33

Cherie Buckner/Webb D Dist 19

Dean L. Cameron R Dist 27

Jeff C. Siddoway R Dist 35

Jim Guthrie R Dist 28

Lee Heider R Dist 24

Michelle Stennett D Dist 26

Shawn A Keough R Dist 1

Bert Bracket R Dist 23

Dan J Schmidt D Dist 5

Elliot Werk D Dist 17

Jim Rice R Dist 10

John W. Goedde R Dist 4

Les Bock D Dist 16

Patti Ann Lodge R Dist 11

Steven R. Bair R Dist 31

Brent Hill R Dist 34

Fred S. Martin R Dist 15

Jim Patrick R Dist 25

John H. Tippetts R Dist 32

Marv Hagedorn R Dist 14

Roy Lacey D Dist 29

Todd M Lakey R Dist 32

## DO SOMETHING OR DO NOTHING - TROUPIS VS WASDEN

By Chris Troupis

Pursuing recovery of our public lands from the Federal Government is no longer just an option for Idaho – it is an economic necessity. Idaho has more minimum wage jobs than all but one other state, and ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in Gross Domestic Product. Our state government balances its budget only by relying on federal funds for 36% of it. That is a grim prospect, since the U.S. is \$18 trillion in debt. Our State's current path can only lead to disaster. It is time for a change. I have championed the legal case to recover the almost 2/3 of our state lands now in federal hands, while my opponent claims we have no right to these lands, and should wait for a grid-locked Congress to decide whether to give our lands back some day in the future. My opponent's legal arguments don't stand up to close scrutiny, and we can no longer afford to sit on our hands, expecting the federal government to bail us out, or make a gift to us of what is rightfully ours.

The incumbent has adopted a liberal interpretation of our State Constitution and the Federal Constitution, failing to consider their original intent, and failing to read them together with our admissions documents. He has also quoted the Idaho Constitution out of context. The U.S. Constitution, Article I, limits the federal government to ownership of 10 square miles of land and properties purchased with the consent of the states for military bases, dockyards, etc. Article 4 provides that the federal government shall dispose of all other lands as new states were added to the union. When we became a state, Idaho disclaimed lands that were not homesteaded or claimed, with the expectation that the federal government would dispose of those "unappropriated" lands and pay us part of the proceeds. That is in our Act of Admission, which also states that we are on an "equal footing" with all other states who own their lands. My opponent said Idaho's Constitution disclaims title to these lands, but failed to quote the rest of the sentence, which states "**until** the title thereto shall have been extinguished." That part of our Constitution did no more than give the federal government authority to dispose of our lands in connection with its duty to pay Idaho some of the proceeds. It is no bar to recovery of our lands. In fact, the same language is found in North Dakota's Act of Admission as well as that of virtually every other state that has recovered its lands from Washington.

Nor is there cause for concern that claiming our lands will draw Idaho into a protracted or expensive lawsuit. In 1890, the federal government owned vast tracts of land in states east of the Mississippi River, and owned almost 50% of the land in North Dakota. Today, it owns less than 5% of lands east of the Mississippi, and less than 4% of land in North Dakota. When those states stood up to the federal government, it recognized the validity of their claims and backed down without a court battle. As a result, North Dakota's economy is booming. Minimum wage jobs pay \$15-\$17 an hour, highly paid jobs are in abundance; there is no unemployment. The state boasts budget surpluses for education, roads and community improvements; business is flocking to the state. Idaho has similar vast natural resources locked away in federal control. Idaho could be as prosperous and economically independent as North Dakota. We must accept the challenge to demand our lands back. We need the right Attorney General to do that.

## **MUDSLINGING FROM THE BAD KIDS AT” IACI” The Idaho Association for Cronyism and Influence**

Decision time is just around the corner, and the mud is flying around like a bunch of 3 year olds in a school yard. You will usually see this type of mudslinging when candidates have no record to run on or have been voting against the peoples wishes. There was a lot of that going on for the past 2 legislative sessions and if you the people of Idaho don't change it in this primary election, we will have another 2 to 4 years of the same. Lobbyists like IACI The Idaho Association of Cronyism and Influence has been very busy smearing the real conservative candidates to make sure they keep their jobs and the taxpayer money flowing. When someone pokes you in the eye there should be a reaction other than thank you sir may I have another. We all know who the Rinos are, and if you have any doubt please go to page 16 of this newsletter, and they are all listed for you to see.

We have included several articles from the Idaho Reporter.com that we felt were interesting races where we see a lot of influence coming from the liberal left to keep the Rinos in their seats. The Idaho Freedom Foundation sent out a survey on the issues to all of the candidates running for office. You will see by some of the articles that not everyone took the time to fill the survey out. I personally would find it hard to vote for a candidate that refused to fill out a survey sent out by such a conservative foundation like Idaho Freedom, but then if you're a left leaning moderate, you would not be inclined to fill out such a survey as it would expose you for what you really are, Much like Luke Malek and Shawn Keough.

There are many really good candidates running in this primary against the left wing moderates who pretended to be conservatives in the 2012 election, but by now we should all know who they are. These are the ones that have no interest in keeping big government out of Idaho, or balancing our budget without that 36% that comes from the FED's. These left wing moderates are being supported by our left leaning Governor Butch and the lobbyists that have influenced our legislators to vote for crony projects, The State Healthcare Exchange, Common Core and so many other wasteful government projects.

It is time that the citizens of Idaho exercised their voting power and dismantled this left leaning moderate engine of mass destruction of our constitutional rights assembled by the Governor and the Lobbyists. You are the only ones that can turn our state around and take the power back to the people. This is your opportunity to shine and tell those that didn't listen to us NO MORE. We are not going to take any more of your government intrusions in our healthcare system or our education system. No more of your bogus regulations and picking winners and losers which keep good paying jobs from coming to our state. No more taxes on the middle class and how about eliminating the Grocery tax.

Butch Otter says he reduced taxes by \$150 million last year. Have you seen any more money in your pocket? Just who got that tax reduction? I can tell you right here and now it wasn't anyone in the middle class. He says he has increased jobs, but only those paying less than \$15 an hour. The question you need to ask yourself is am I better off today than I was 8 years ago?

**WE GET THE GOVERNMENT WE DESERVE. VOTE ON MAY 20TH.**

Tea Party Bob

## **District 2, House: Incumbent Barbieri vs Wiedenhoff Reprint by Austin Hill**

Taxes, Obamacare, education funding and the national Common Core academic standards initiative have divided two opposing candidates for Idaho's House of Representatives ahead of the May 20 primary election.

District 2 Rep. Vito Barbieri, R-Dalton Gardens, and his Republican challenger, Fritz Wiedenhoff of Rathdrum, have registered significantly different positions on several key issues asked in a candidate survey distributed by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.

A portion of the survey explains that under the federal Obamacare law, individual states were compelled to create a state-based health insurance exchange or allow the federal government to create an exchange within the state. "Supporters of a state exchange say Idahoans are better suited to run the government program than the federal government," the survey states. "Opponents of a state exchange say the state doesn't really have control over what the exchange does and that resistance to the exchange is one of the best ways to continue the fight against the health care law."

Noting that there may be a legislative effort in 2015 to repeal the Idaho state insurance exchange, the survey asks candidates if they support or oppose a repeal effort. "I support repealing Idaho's state insurance exchange," Barbieri said.

Wiedenhoff, who did not respond to the survey but spoke with IdahoReporter.com via telephone about the questions, expressed a very different view. "I do not support repealing the exchange. It was very clear from the U.S. Supreme Court that we would have either a state exchange or a federal exchange. Idaho can run anything better than the federal government. We are stuck with it. The Supreme Court mandated it. With a state exchange, Idaho is in the driver's seat."

The candidates were also asked about K-12 public education funding. Noting that the Legislature faces pressure to restore state education spending to pre-2009 recession levels, the survey asks candidates what Idaho should do about the matter.

"Slightly DECREASE public higher education spending," was the option Barbieri selected in response to the question.

On the other hand, Wiedenhoff told IdahoReporter.com that "we need to increase education funding because we've identified education as a priority."

With respect to implementing the nationwide Common Core academic standards initiative in Idaho's K-12 public schools, the survey states that "supporters see the standards as advantageous because they make it easier for students to transfer between districts and even states, but critics see a loss of local control and increased centralization combined with a move away from traditional education and toward government-centric propaganda." It then asks candidates, "What should Idaho do about Common Core and education standards?"

"We have adopted Idaho Core standards, not Common Core standards," Wiedenhoff stated to IdahoReporter.com "Idaho Core puts control back into local school districts. We cannot do any worse on education than we are currently doing, I think we all agree with that. Idaho Core standards is an improvement."

Barbieri, however, responded by stating "I oppose Idaho's adoption of the Common Core standards, I oppose standardized tests and I oppose centralized standards of any kind. All education decisions should be made by teachers, parents and students."

On the issue of taxation policy within the state, the survey notes that "some have advocated for broad tax cuts such as eliminating the sales tax on groceries, reducing/eliminating the corporate income tax or reducing the individual income tax rate." It then asks candidates "Do you support or oppose the Idaho Legislature implementing broad tax cuts?"

"Tax cuts can be a valuable tool," Wiedenhoff told IdahoReporter.com. "Idaho has a very balanced tax system right now. We may need to shift a tax burden or reduce services. These decisions need to be well thought out, well inputted and I need to see the plans in their entirety before I make a decision."

"I never met a tax cut I didn't like," Barbieri noted. "I support eliminating the sales tax on groceries, I support reducing or eliminating the corporate income tax, I support reducing the individual income tax rate."

**Note: IdahoReporter.com is published by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.**

## District 28, House: Incumbent Packer vs Lance Earl

### Reprint by Austin Hill

With Idaho's May 20 primary election approaching, the issues of health care, job creation and education funding have begun to define a House race in legislative District 28. Rep. Kelley Packer, R-McCammon, is opposed by Lance Earl of Rockland.

Earl submitted written responses to the Legislative Candidate Survey, an 18-question survey produced and distributed by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.

A portion of the document notes that in 2013 the Legislature voted to create a state-based health insurance exchange in response to the federal Obamacare law. It also notes that while opponents of the exchange claim that the state has very little control over the entity, supporters say that Idahoans are operating the exchange better than federal officials would otherwise, and then asks the candidates if they support or oppose repealing the exchange legislation.

"I support repealing Idaho's state insurance exchange," Earl stated in his written response. "This is a necessary first step in Idaho's resistance to unconstitutional Obamacare."

"I have no problem repealing the exchange as soon as Obamacare is repealed," Packer said to IdahoReporter.com when reached by telephone. "I despise the federal law, it causes more problems than it solves. One of those problems is the imposition a federal exchange in our state, or the necessity of a state exchange. The state exchange provides a safety net until that terrible federal law is repealed."

The candidates were also asked what Idaho should do about K-12 public education funding, whether it should be increased or decreased.

"INCREASE public education spending based solely on the increase in enrollment," Earl wrote, which was one of the responses listed on the survey. "Idaho is in a tough spot. Because the federal government owns most of Idaho lands, the resources are not available for Idaho as they are in most other states. Therefore, unemployment is high, income is low and education may be underfunded. The most important long-term solution is to fight for our state lands. The best short-term solution is to identify waste in the schools by focusing on education as the only essential element."

"I believe we should always be looking at spending in our education system to be sure that we are only paying for things that positively impact our students," Packer told IdahoReporter.com. "We should fight to get control of our federal lands under state management so we have the economic resources we need for education, as well as for other needs."

Another section of the survey probes the issue of targeted tax and business incentive programs in the Gem State. "Supporters have claimed that targeted tax incentives and other such fiscal policies help Idaho compete with other states," the document notes. "Opponents argued that these narrowly focused programs were actually corporate welfare and social engineering designed to prod businesses into doing those actions or expanding in a manner that the Legislature believes is desirable." The survey then asks candidates if they support or oppose such programs.

"There are targeted incentive programs that I would oppose, but I consider these on a case-by-case basis," Packer said. "The recent program we approved for the Department of Commerce was not so narrowly scoped and any qualifying business can apply for it. The program increases our tax revenues."

Earl, on the other hand, opposes such programs. "I oppose targeted tax incentives and/or other re-distributive fiscal policies for certain businesses or activities," he responded.

**Note: IdahoReporter.com is published by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.**

## District 1 House & Senate Two Candidates Respond to Survey Two Decline

Reprint by Austin Hill

Two legislative candidates from north Idaho—one seeking election to the House and the other seeking re-election to the Senate—have declined to respond to a statewide opinion survey.

Republican Sen. Shawn Keough and House candidate Stephen Snedden, both residents of Sandpoint and both running in legislative District 1, have issued no responses to the 2014 Legislative Candidate Survey, an 18-question survey published and distributed by the Idaho Freedom Foundation focusing on key public policy issues that will likely emerge during the 2015 legislative session.

The survey was sent to all candidates vying for a seat in Idaho’s House and Senate. When reached by telephone by IdahoReporter.com, Keough said that she preferred to not respond to the survey. Efforts to contact Snedden were unsuccessful and calls to his home and office were not returned in time for this publication.

Sandpoint resident Danielle Ahrens, who is running against Keough, and Blanchard resident Heather Scott, who is opposing Snedden, responded to the survey.

One of the key issues addressed in the survey is the Idaho Department of Lands’ practice of acquiring and operating commercial businesses. “Supporters of this increased diversification see it as a way of complying with the constitutional mandate that the Land Board endeavor to maximize its return,” the survey states. “Critics argue that government ownership of commercial property puts Idaho on the ‘slippery slope’ to socialism and that government-owned businesses don’t pay property tax and, therefore, have an unfair advantage compared to private businesses.” The survey then asks candidates “Do you support or oppose the Idaho Land Board owning or continuing to acquire commercial property?”

To this question, Ahrens and Scott offered the same response, one of the options on the survey: “I oppose the Idaho Land Board continuing to acquire commercial property and I believe it should divest itself of all such existing assets as soon as practicable.”

Another portion of the survey addresses the formation of Idaho’s government-run health insurance exchange and the possibility of expanding the state’s Medicaid welfare program, two public policy considerations that have emerged directly from the federal Obamacare law.

Both Ahrens and Scott noted in their survey responses that they would support an effort to legislatively repeal the state health insurance exchange. They both also stated that they oppose the possibility of expanding the Medicaid program in Idaho.

The issue of K-12 public education funding is also addressed in the survey. Noting that the Idaho Legislature faces pressure to restore public education funding to the pre-recession spending levels of last decade, the survey asks candidates what Idaho should do about the matter.

“Greatly DECREASE public education spending,” Scott stated in reply to the question, which was one of the options listed in the survey.

“INCREASE public education spending based solely on the increase in enrollment,” noted Ahrens, which was also an option in the survey.

The survey asks a similar question about funding for the state’s colleges, community colleges and universities. “Greatly DECREASE public higher education spending,” Scott replied.

“Slightly DECREASE public higher education spending,” was Ahrens’ response.

**Note: IdahoReporter.com is published by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.**

## **District 1 House: Eskridge vs Dixon Reprint by Austin Hill**

With the Gem State's May 20 primary election just days away, one northern Idaho race for the House has produced sharp distinctions between competing candidates. Incumbent Rep. George Eskridge, R-Dover, and his Republican challenger, Sage Dixon of Ponderay, have significant differences of opinion on issues ranging from health care to public education.

Both candidates responded to the 2014 Legislative Candidate Survey produced by the Idaho Freedom Foundation. The survey raises questions of all candidates running for a seat in the state Legislature about 18 specific public policy issues that will likely be addressed in the 2015 legislative session.

A section of the survey explains to candidates that under the federal Obamacare law, each of the individual states was compelled to either create its own health insurance exchange or allow the federal government to create an exchange for them. Noting that while the Idaho Legislature voted in 2013 to create a state-based exchange, critics of the operation nonetheless contend that Idahoans don't have much control over its operations. The candidates are then asked if they would support a legislative plan to repeal the exchange in 2015.

Dixon, who formally responded to the survey, stated that "I support repealing Idaho's state insurance exchange."

Although Eskridge did not formally respond to the survey, when reached by telephone he told IdahoReporter.com that "I do not support repealing it. The Legislature voted to create the exchange, not because we support Obamacare, but because the state exchange we have created is better than Obamacare. If we repealed it, it would default to the federal exchange, which is worse."

The survey also notes that another key component of the federal Obamacare effort involves the individual states reducing eligibility requirements and expanding enrollment for their respective Medicaid welfare programs. Under current proposals from the Obama administration, states that do expand enrollments will be given federal funds to pay for the additional costs for the first few years.

When asked "Do you support or oppose Idaho expanding Medicaid?" Dixon replied "I oppose Idaho expanding Medicaid."

Eskridge, on the other hand, told IdahoReporter.com "I take a wait and see approach with this. I want to see what the conversation about this is next year. There are pros and cons to both approaches. I want to know that the federal government will uphold its commitments, but I'm not ready to make a decision on that one way or the other."

The candidates were also asked about the nationwide Common Core academic standards initiative for the nation's K-12 public school students. "Supporters see the standards as advantageous because they make it easier for students to transfer between districts and even states," the document states, "but critics see a loss of local control and increased centralization combined with a move away from traditional education and toward government-centric propaganda." The survey then asks candidates what Idaho should do about the standards agenda.

"I oppose Idaho's adoption of the Common Core standards and standardized tests in general, but I am supportive of state standards that apply to all districts," Dixon reported in his survey response. "A basic standard of education for government-funded schools is proper in my opinion. It must be one that upholds the Idaho State Constitution's vision of educating to maintain a republican form of government, and should not be imposed upon charter schools, home schools or any other independent school options."

Eskridge told IdahoReporter.com that "Idaho was involved in setting the national standards, and we then adopted them. We call them Idaho Core Standards, and they are really kind of a continuation of what we've always done. I support them and I believe they will be beneficial for Idaho students."

**Note: IdahoReporter.com is published by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.**



## **District 9, House: Kirby vs Rynearson for Denny's Vacated Seat Reprint by Austin Hill**

With Idaho Rep. Lawrence Denney, R-Midvale, vacating his District 9 seat to run for secretary of state, the battle is on to replace him. Republicans Ryan Kerby, New Plymouth, and Howard Rynearson, Payette, are vying in the May 20 primary for the opportunity to face voters in the general election in November.

Having both responded to an 18 item-long Legislative Candidate Survey, a questionnaire issued by the Idaho Freedom Foundation, Kerby and Rynearson have registered divergent views on issues ranging from occupational licensing to state-funded business incentive programs. All candidates for seats in the state Legislature were invited to weigh in on the roster of policy proposals that will likely face the House and Senate in 2015.

A portion of the survey states that “during nearly every legislative session, one or more proposals to regulate new industries under Idaho’s occupational licensing board are brought forward for consideration. Supporters of these laws argue that they ensure quality and uniformity and protect customers from dangerous or poorly performed services. Critics argue that these laws infringe upon the free market, impose excessive fees and regulations on service providers and prevent voluntary transactions between consenting individuals.”

The candidates are then asked, “Do you support or oppose Idaho adopting additional occupational licensing mandates?”

“I not only oppose Idaho adopting additional occupational licensing mandates,” Rynearson stated in response, “but I advocate repealing some of the existing ones as well.”

Kerby, on the other hand, responded with “I am not sure/undecided.”

The survey also explains to candidates that under the federal Obamacare law, each of the individual states was compelled to either create its own health insurance exchange or allow the federal government to create an exchange for them. Noting that while the Idaho Legislature voted in 2013 to create a state-based exchange, critics of the operation nonetheless contend that Idahoans don’t have much control over its operations. The candidates are then asked if they would support a legislative plan to repeal the exchange in 2015.

“I support repealing Idaho’s state insurance exchange” Rynearson replied. Kerby, however, registered an “undecided” response.

The survey also takes aim at taxpayer-funded business incentives programs. “In 2014 (and in many other years as well) the Idaho Legislature passed targeted tax incentives that supporters claimed would encourage economic development” a portion of the document explains. “The Legislature has also used other redistributive fiscal tools such as the Workforce Development Training Fund to transfer tax money to private businesses. Supporters have claimed that targeted tax incentives and other such fiscal policies help Idaho compete with other states.

“Opponents argued that these narrowly focused programs were actually corporate welfare and social engineering designed to prod businesses into doing those actions or expanding in a manner that the Legislature believes is desirable. Opponents also said the tax incentives serve to pick winners and losers and put smaller businesses at a disadvantage.”

The candidates are then asked, “Do you support or oppose the Idaho Legislature implementing targeted tax incentives and/or other redistributive fiscal policies for certain businesses or activities?”

“I oppose targeted tax incentives and/or other redistributive fiscal policies for certain businesses or activities,” Rynearson replied. “There is a reason the Workforce Development Fund is under legislative review—it isn’t working!”

On the other hand, Kerby replied that “I support targeted tax incentives and/or other redistributive fiscal policies for certain businesses or activities.”

**Note: IdahoReporter.com is published by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.**

## **IDAHO FREEDOM FOUNDATION HONORS 23 FOR ADVANCEMENT OF LIBERTY by Wayne Hoffman**

At its annual Freedom Celebration Friday evening, May 9, in Boise, the Idaho Freedom Foundation (IFF) presented a number of awards to individuals who have advanced the causes of liberty and freedom during the past year.

IFF recognized 23 individuals for their contributions in those areas.

For their work on behalf of opposing Common Core the Education Award went to Stephanie Zimmerman, Stacey Knudsen, Mila Wood, Mary Adler, Rome Saranto and Valerie Candelaria.

The Patriot Award for their grassroots work in bringing liberty organizations together: Bob Neugebauer, Steve Ackerman and Russ Smerz.

Legislators face a challenging task in fighting Big Government and statism. To that end, each year IFF gives the top 10 percent of the House and Senate its Friend of Freedom Award. This year's recipients were Steven Harris, Ron Mendive, Shannon McMillan, Vito Barbieri, Paul E. Shepherd, Lenore Hardy Barrett, Judy Boyle, Kathleen Sims, Sheryl Nuxoll, Steve Vick and Monty Pearce.

One of IFF's first employees when the organization was formed in 2009 was Erik Makrush, who recently left the organization to continue fighting for liberty and freedom with a freedom-values group in Florida. Makrush led the charge for IFF's AccountableIdaho.com website, processing and entering thousands of data points and collecting public records from all across Idaho. IFF presented him with the Pioneer Award.

This year's Ralph Smeed Lifetime Achievement Award, IFF's highest honor, was given to Elizabeth Allan Hodge. She is a tireless fighter for free markets, her most recent endeavor being coordinator for the Northwest Patriot Academy, which is dedicated to influencing its attendees to understand the importance of constitutional principles in considering legislation and public policy.

**This is a Reprint from the Idaho Reporter.com which is published by the Idaho Freedom Fdn.**

*Editors Note: It is interesting to note that almost all of the members of the House and Senate who received awards have met with primary challengers in this May 20th primary. Guess the Governor and his lobbyists buddies don't want any interference with their plans for more Federal intrusion into our states healthcare and education systems. in the next legislative session of 2015.*

## **District 4 House: 3 Candidates Respond to Legislative Issues Survey**

### **Reprint by Austin Hill**

Voters in north Idaho's legislative District 4 may have difficulty determining where one of their candidates for the House of Representatives stands on key issues. Among the four candidates who are vying for the district's two House seats, only one incumbent and one challenger have responded to the recently issued statewide Legislative Candidate Survey, while one challenger answered questions about portions of the survey via telephone and yet another incumbent has declined to comment altogether.

The survey, issued last month by the Idaho Freedom Foundation to all candidates for the Legislature, consists of 18 questions about policy considerations likely to emerge in next year's legislative session.

Incumbent Rep. Kathleen Sims, who currently serves in the district's seat B, and Toby Schindelbeck, a challenger to Rep. Luke Malek, who currently serves in the district's seat A, both answered the survey in writing and in its entirety. Sims' challenger, Elmer Currie, spoke with IdahoReporter.com about portions of the survey. Malek neither responded to the survey nor returned calls and emails about it. All four candidates are listed with the Idaho secretary of state's office as Republicans and as residents of Coeur d'Alene.

Both of District 4's Senate candidates, Sen. John Goedde, R-Coeur d'Alene, and his challenger, Mary Souza, responded in full to the survey.

A portion of the survey states to respondents that under the federal Affordable Care Act, the individual states are asked to expand their respective Medicaid programs by lowering eligibility requirements. In exchange for expanding the program, the federal government has offered to pay the states for the first few years of their expansion costs. The candidates are then asked, "Do you support or oppose Idaho expanding Medicaid?"

Sims and Schindelbeck both stated in their survey responses that they oppose the expansion of Medicaid within the state, Schindelbeck adding that "the federal government is broke, so this is just more deficit spending. Idaho needs to DECREASE our dependency on federal money, not increase it."

Currie, on the other hand, said he is undecided about the idea, that he needs more information. "I am a former county commissioner and expanding Medicaid would certainly help the counties and their indigent funds," he told IdahoReporter.com. "I also subscribe to the theory that there is no free lunch and I have concerns that the feds would continue to fund the Medicaid program. We simply don't know enough about this proposal yet."

The survey also states to respondents that under the federal Obamacare law, each of the individual states was compelled to either create its own health insurance exchange or allow the federal government to create an exchange for them. Noting that while the Idaho Legislature voted in 2013 to create a state-based exchange, critics of the operation nonetheless contend that Idahoans don't have much control over its operations. The candidates are then asked if they would support a legislative plan to repeal the exchange in 2015.

Sims said she supports the idea of repealing the insurance exchange legislation. Currie, on the other hand, says that he opposes the repeal idea, noting that "the Idaho insurance exchange is a lot better than Obamacare. As long as the Obamacare law is not repealed at the federal level, we need the state insurance exchange."

Schindelbeck said he supports a repeal of the state insurance exchange. "The state exchange is a farce; there is no control at all. The state exchange is merely a portal to healthcare.gov, and the feds control all aspect of it except operation of that portal. We need to join the 26 states who refused to set up a state exchange and fight Obamacare with everything we have."

The candidates were also asked about the nationwide Common Core academic standards initiative for the nation's K-12 public school students. "Supporters see the standards as advantageous because they make it easier for students to transfer between districts and even states," the document states, "but critics see a loss of local control and increased centralization combined with a move away from traditional education and toward government-centric propaganda." The survey then asks candidates what Idaho should do about the standards agenda.

Schindelbeck responded, "I oppose Idaho's adoption of the Common Core standards, I oppose standardized tests and I oppose centralized standards of any kind. All education decisions should be made by teachers, parents and students."

Sims replied to the survey noting that "I oppose Idaho's adoption of the Common Core standards and standardized tests in general, but I am supportive of state standards that apply to all districts."

**Note: IdahoReporter.com is published by the Idaho Freedom Foundation.**

**HERE ARE LINKS TO CONTRIBUTORS OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

**The Idaho Business alliance** <http://idahobusinessalliance.com>

**The 9-12 Project** <http://912projectidaho.com>

**The Free Enterprise Pac** <http://freeenterprise.com>

**Idaho Carry Open & Concealed** <http://idahocarry.org>

**Idaho Freedom Foundation** <http://idahofreedom.net>

**Idahoans for Local Education** <http://idahoansforlocaleducation.com/>

**Idaho Chooses Life** <http://idahochoosesthegoodlife.org/>

**The Kevin Miller Show 580KIDO Radio** <http://580kido.com/show/kevin-miller/>

**Please take some time and visit our new web site and Tea Party Bob's Blog**  
<http://gemstatepatriot.com/>

**PATRIOT COMPUTER SERVICES**

**PLEASE CALL - 208-649-4184**

**ASK FOR NATHANIEL LONGSTREET**

**Their capabilities include installing new networks servers, PC/workstations,  
and POS systems for the IT needs of small to medium businesses.**

**They will also do in home repair and/or pick-up and repair home PC's  
Laptops or Desk tops.**