

Candidate Name: Chris Bruce Phone number: 208-615-5839

Candidate Website/Facebook Page Link: www.brucefor22.com

Best email to reach you: chrisforkuna@gmail.com

General Legislative Questions:

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected to the State Legislature.
I want to bring the people's voice back to the capital, loud and clear. People feel like no one listens. Elected officials have their own agenda that supersedes the people's. Heavily reduce property taxes. Property taxes are out of control. But again, nothing was done in 2020. We must direct our efforts toward relieving the plight of educators. We ask our teachers to be part parent, counselor, disciplinarian and teacher. We need to make sure they are more than adequately compensated for this position.

2. In your view, what are the top three challenges currently facing the Meridian community?
Property Taxes/ Living affordability
Sustainable Growth
Education/ teacher pay

3. What would you do to address those issues? 1.We need to reduce property taxes. Increasing the homeowner's exemption is a start. This will also help with housing affordability. 2.We need growth to pay for itself. To many times the current homeowners carry the burden for growth. 3. Education needs its own fund. Having it pulled out off the general fund creates competition not to fund schools. It becomes schools or something else. And it seems schools always lose. Also, I have said before we need to make sure our teachers are competitively paid. If we cannot pay them more now, then we need to take less. Move the insurance to a state level. And a possible tax exemption.

4. Please describe your philosophy on education and how you interpret the state's role as outlined in the Idaho State Constitution "to establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools"? Fund the kid. We also need a dedicated education fund so the legislature doesn't have to decide education or some other need.

5. Please rank in order form 1-8 the priority you would place on the following legislative issues:

 __4__ Economic Development
 __2__ Education
 __4__ Healthcare Policy
 __7__ Local Government

- 8 State Operations
- 1 Tax Policy
- 3 Transportation
- 6 Other (Please Identify) Sentencing reform

6. What separates you from other candidates running for the State Legislature? I spend a lot of time in our community. From talking with business owners as a board member for the chamber of commerce or participating on the superintendent's advisory council for the school district. I hear our community. As a mortgage banker I help people manage their finances to get them in a place to purchase a home. (including reduce spending or paying off debt) I know this is needed at the state level. Need to be present in the community.

Specific Legislative Issue Questions:

7. What are your thoughts to bring a solution to the high rise in property taxes? If we update the student funding formula, this should reduce the need for continued levies. (this effect primary residence homeowners and investment property owners) Also raising the homeowner's exemption.
8. How do you propose to manage the growth that our state is experiencing? Growth must pay for itself. We cannot continue to bleed our community with high taxes.
9. With that growth comes challenges for our transportation infrastructure to keep pace, how do propose we approach the transportation issues? Anything that uses the roads need to pay for transportation cost. It needs to be tied to how you use the road.
10. Do you support the Tax Reimbursement Incentive as a tool to stimulate economic development? I would be open to having this discussion. But my goal is to lower the overall tax burden of the citizens
- Yes or No
- Explain
11. Do you support Local Option Tax authority for cities and counties? I would be open to having this discussion. But my goal is to lower the overall tax burden of the citizens.

Yes or No

If yes, for what purposes would you support it and what, if any, specific requirements do you feel should be in place? If no, why not?

12. Do you believe the Idaho's tax structure is competitive with other states?

Yes or No It depends we need to make sure we have the correct structure for Idaho.

Income tax per capita 21st lowest

Property tax 13th lowest

General Tax 17th lowest

But we know its not what you make its what you spend.

If no, what specific changes do you support to making it more competitive?

13. Do you support the building of needed K-12 schools by bonds or other mechanisms related to growth? Bonds are the method we use right now. But again, we need an education fund.

Bonds or Other

Explain

14. How do you feel about the State of Idaho's response to the pandemic and the closure of non-essential businesses? All businesses are essential for the owner. We need to have a plan moving forward on how these businesses can be safely open.

15. What do you see as the greatest challenge the coronavirus pandemic has created for Meridian? Loss of tax revenue. Local business loss of revenue. How to open all business up again in a safe manner for all. How will the local schools handle the expected 5% cut to education budget.

16. How can the legislature help Meridian businesses recover from the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic? Make sure the business that did not receive the PPA get access to it. Maybe providing a tax exemption for a certain amount of time to businesses.