

Candidate Name: Greg Ferch Phone number: 208-477-1002

Candidate Website/Facebook Page Link: <https://ferch4idaho.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ferchforidaho/>

Best email to reach you: Greg@Ferch4Idaho.com

General Legislative Questions:

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected to the State Legislature.

Economic Development/ Recovery

Tax Reform/ Simplification

Improved healthcare access

2. In your view, what are the top three challenges currently facing the Meridian community?

Recovering from the Pandemic Shutdown

Over Burdensome Taxes

Traffic and congestion

3. What would you do to address those issues?

I would fight governmental encroachment into the free market-driven recovery efforts. I would fight to limit any tax burden and work for simplification as businesses work to recover in this unprecedented time. Traffic and congestion will continue to cause stress for those who live in the Treasure Valley. I think we need to continue to improve our infrastructure to move people around the Treasure Valley efficiently. This includes widening roads where appropriate, listening to planners, and working within the budget to meet our needs. We should actively promote traffic movement strategies, such as right on red, to minimize vehicular idle time and therefore minimize road congestion and pollution.

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"?

I believe that every child in Idaho deserves a first-class education including vocational opportunities. My parents were public school teachers and my two sisters are public school teachers. I was educated in public schools and I became a successful doctor, small business owner, and property manager. I think parents should be actively involved in choosing the educational path of their children. I believe we need to pay teachers well but curtail public education waste and bureaucracy. However, simply spending more money per student in no way

guarantees students will achieve better results. In my 26 years as an employer, I have probably seen well over a thousand resumes. I would suggest that we need to focus on core subjects and skills that add to the future employability of the students.

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

 1 Economic Development

 4 Education

 3 Healthcare Policy

 6 Local Government

 7 State Operations

 2 Tax Policy

 5 Transportation

 8 Other (Please Identify) Water Rights - we have canals in our district and I will ensure that our water rights are protected.

6. What separates you from other candidates running for the State Legislature?

Experience. I served 11 years as an Army medic and a Desert Storm Veteran. I have 10 years of higher education with a Bachelors's in Human Biology and Doctor of Chiropractic degrees. I have 26 years of active chiropractic practice, employer, and business owner. I have been a property manager for 24 years. I was the Charleston Place Homeowners' Association President for three years. In addition to numerous other volunteer Republican Party positions, I was Ada County Republican Party Chairman.

Specific Legislative Issue Questions:

7. What are your thoughts to bring a solution to the high rise in property taxes?

Obviously, we need to bring this under control. Not every idea or project is a priority or public responsibility for that matter. I look forward to working on this issue if I am given the opportunity.

8. How do you propose to manage the growth that our state is experiencing?

People come to our great state because of our way of life. That includes less government intervention, wide-open spaces, relatively low home prices, clean air, and a great environment. I would work with stakeholders like the Meridian Chamber of Commerce when considering any action on growth management. Finding a path to self-funded growth as much as possible would be a priority.

9. With that growth comes challenges for our transportation infrastructure to keep pace, how do you propose we approach the transportation issues?

Traffic and congestion will continue to cause stress for those who live in the Treasure Valley. I think we need to continue to improve our infrastructure to move people around the Treasure Valley efficiently. This includes widening roads where appropriate, listening to planners, and working within the budget to meet our needs. We should actively promote traffic movement strategies, such as right on red, to minimize vehicular idle time and therefore minimize road congestion and pollution.

10. Do you support the Tax Reimbursement Incentive as a tool to stimulate economic development?

Yes or No

Explain I would be hesitant. This is probably an example of picking winners and losers. Also, there is the potential to cannibalize our own economy by incentivizing competitors to move into our community. There are other ways to provide for economic development. We need to foster a low tax, low bureaucratic, level playing field environment that attracts businesses organically.

11. Do you support Local Option Tax authority for cities and counties?

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?

No. I am substantially resistant to new or additional taxation. I know this is a hot button issue around Ada County and Boise. The tax burdens we face are already heavy enough without adding to it. I believe there is the possibility that an uncertain business climate would be created with the potential for so many jurisdictions to create new or additional taxes. If there is a need, cities and counties can petition the state legislature for additional funding.

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

Yes or No

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

I think we can do better. I would like to see us reduce our over burdensome tax structure and find simplification. For instance a few years ago we reduced the personal business property tax on some smaller businesses. Having it remain on larger ones is a disincentive for instance, to California fleeing companies. If we can find a way to encourage companies to choose Idaho with a low and simple taxing policy that does not pick winners to the detriment of others, we will

continue to attract high paying, competitive jobs. Our children, who graduate from Idaho Universities and colleges, will be able to put that educational investment to use in our communities. I see that as a win.

13. Do you support the building of needed K-12 schools by bonds or other mechanisms related to growth?

Bonds or Other

Explain

Both my parents were teachers, my sisters are both teachers. I have 10 years of post-high school education. I believe in quality, effective education. I would want to know how we are defining "Needed". As I have said previously, I am a product of the public school system and I will support innovation in our public schools. That being said, I am fiercely opposed to a structure that allows our community to be overburdened by tax payments.

14. How do you feel about the State of Idaho's response to the pandemic and the closure of non-essential businesses?

As a property manager and a business owner, I am hopeful that we are on the right track to open our state and maintain our liberties. I think individuals need to continue assessing their particular risk tolerance and be mindful of the safety measures appropriate for their family.

15. What do you see as the greatest challenge the coronavirus pandemic has created for Meridian?

How to get people back to work when in some cases it appears there is an incentive to stay on unemployment. Restoring the pre-pandemic demand for goods/ services and the booming economy. The logistics issues businesses face in ramping back up to meet that demand.

16. How can the legislature help Meridian businesses recover from the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic?

By reducing the tax and regulation burden businesses face.