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General Legislative Questions:

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

My top priority is property tax relief, which the citizens in my district desperately need. Increases in local government budgets are driving up property taxes to the point where some of my constituents are being priced out of their homes. The Legislature must keep working to find a solution to this issue. My second priority is implementing a better funding formula for education. The money should follow the child, rather than being allocated to classrooms without regard for the actual needs of students. My third priority is increasing funding for roads and bridges across the state. Idaho must identify other revenue sources, besides the gas tax, to fund roads. Maintaining existing infrastructure and building new roads is a necessary function of government, but with the increase in vehicle efficiency, the gas tax no longer adequately funds our responsibilities.

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

Growth, Infrastructure, and taxes

3. What would you do to address those issues?

Growth is skyrocketing in the Treasure Valley and with it, property taxes. It is crucial to understand that increases in local government budgets is what drives up property taxes, not the Legislature. Cities need to better control their spending. Last session, the Legislature wrote several bills to limit the percentage by which cities could increase property taxes, but the Senate did not concur with any of our proposals. Idaho must also identify other revenue sources for transportation and infrastructure, besides the gas tax. Maintaining existing infrastructure and building new roads is a necessary function of government, but with the increase in vehicle efficiency, gas tax no longer adequately funds our responsibilities.

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 as many education decisions as possible should be made by the school district, as they know what's best for their students. I support legislation that provides for more freedom for schools to use their funding as they see fit without strings attached by the state. We also need to alter the way we are funding schools. The money should follow the child, rather than being allocated to classrooms without regard to the actual needs of students.

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

<u> 6 </u>	Economic Development
<u> 4 </u>	Education
<u> 5 </u>	Healthcare Policy
<u> 7 </u>	Local Government
<u> 2 </u>	State Operations
<u> 1 </u>	Tax Policy
<u> 3 </u>	Transportation
<u> </u>	Other (Please Identify)

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

My experience separates me from other candidates. I have served in the Idaho House of Representatives for 12 years, during which I have held various leadership positions. Currently, I am the Chair of the House Environment, Energy, & Technology Committee. I am a self-employed small business owner and farmer and I have lived in the District for 40 years. I'm also a U.S. Army Veteran and an active community and church member, which includes 16 years of service on the Nampa Christian School Board.

Specific Legislative Issue Questions:

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

Property taxes are dictated by the cities, not by the Legislature. The increase in property taxes dictated by local government spending and the addition of school bonds and levies. Cities must reduce their spending and understand that taxing Idahoans out of their homes is not an option. During the 2020 session, the Legislature wrote several bills to curtail the percentage by which cities and counties could raise your taxes, but, unfortunately, the Senate did not agree with these proposals. Next session, we need to remedy this issue.

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

We need to continue to incentivize companies to come to Meridian and create high paying jobs. Our economy needs to grow and provide more jobs. At the same time, we must find new, innovative ways to find ways to keep up with the infrastructure that is needed to pay for this growth without overtaxing our citizens.

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

Idaho must figure out alternative revenue sources, besides the gas tax, to fund roads. Maintaining existing infrastructure and building new roads is a necessary function of government, but with the increase in vehicle efficiency, gas tax no longer adequately funds our responsibilities.

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

No

Explain If taxes are too high to attract new business, then they must be too high for those who already have a business in Idaho. The best solution would be to lower all taxes.

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

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?

Because I don't support any measure that would add additional tax burdens to Idahoans.

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

No

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

The top income tax bracket needs to be higher

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

Bonds should be used to fund K-12 infrastructure improvements

Explain

Bonds require a vote of the people to pass. If the cities are going to increase homeowner's property taxes, I believe the citizens should have the opportunity to vote on whether or not they deem the tax increase necessary.

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

I don't believe the government should have the authority to decide which type of business can be open and which have to be closed. All businesses are essential to those who own them and to the people who work there. Small business are the backbone of our economy.

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

The greatest challenge is the strain that business closures have had on the citizens of Meridian. Our state economy has suffered and our citizens are struggling to meet their everyday financial obligations. We need to allow Idahoans to get back to work and reopen their businesses.

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

The Legislature only meets for about three months starting in January. Although we will certainly introduce bills next session to help at that point, if you wait for the Legislature to meet, it will be too late. The people of Meridian need help today. City officials should be creating a plan to increase their citizens' confidence and encourage people to support local small business.