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1. Please list your top three priorities if elected to the Ada County Commission.

1. Budget. Rein in the runaway Ada County budget. In the last three fiscal years the tax burden this county has strapped to the backs of property taxpayers has skyrocketed from \$228,852,163 in 2017 to \$288,104,146 today. It is, in a word, unsustainable.

2 Tough choices. Make the hard choices, with limited resources, so we can provide quality essential services.

3. Jobs! I will lead out in listening to, learning from, and collaborating with both large and small business leaders, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders in the education, nonprofit, and government sectors across Ada County and throughout the valley to facilitate smart business growth and meaningful reduction of red tape.

2. In your view, what are the top three challenges currently facing Ada County?

Growth and property taxes are the most important challenge facing the county. I would streamline the application process ensuring that all laws and ordinances are followed and that growth would have a limited effect on current citizens. The best way to tackle the increasing property tax burden is to reduce or freeze the budget

3. What specific steps would you take as a Commissioner to address those issues?

My number one priority is to reduce the property tax burden on residents of Ada County. There are several approaches to use in this effort. 1. I would support the legislation brought forward by Representative Mike Moyle to freeze property taxes for one year thereby allowing all parties to negotiate a long term solution. 2. We must stop the growth in the Ada County budget. This year alone the budget has grown 11.4% which is beyond the population growth.

4. What separates you from the other candidates running for your district?

My personal background; I was born in Idaho and raised on an Idaho potato farm. I've lived in Ada County for 44 years. My children all graduated high school in Ada County.

I had the privilege of serving in the Idaho State Senate, where my fellow Republican senators elected me to serve as their Senate Majority leader. In that role I interfaced weekly during each session and periodically throughout the year with the Governor's office and with business, government and educational leaders throughout the state. Later, Governor Phil Batt asked me to run the Idaho Housing Agency. In 2016 I served as the chairman of the Idaho Donald Trump for President campaign. In that capacity I represented Idaho with leaders throughout the country and at the national Republican convention.

All of these experiences will be a valuable resource to draw on in the problem-solving ahead with citizens and leaders from all political perspectives and walks of life.

At the same time, I am a tested, conservative Republican leader. I will advance a principle-based approach to reduce or freeze the property tax burden that Ada County residents now pay towards a smaller, smart, government.

5. What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the County.

The most pressing needs for infrastructure are our roads, highways and bridges. I support the private sector in building and maintaining capital projects.. Ada County government should get out of the way and pave the way for private capital projects.

6. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

I was a member of the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee of the State Legislature. This committee set the budget for the State of Idaho. Including, Education, Higher Education, Health and Welfare and the Prison system and the rest of state government. As the Executive Director of the Idaho Housing and Finance Association I was responsible for preparing a multi-million dollar budget that spanned all across the state of Idaho.

7. Do you feel property taxes are too high in Ada County? If you answer is yes, please explain what you can do as a Commissioner to reduce taxes.

YES! Property taxes are too high in Ada County. Property taxes are driven by the county budget. I do not agree with the county's current budgeting priorities. With an 11.4% increase just this year alone, Ada County taxpayers cannot sustain such continued growth. I will examine each department and determine if they have exceeded their statutory responsibility and cut the budgets where possible. Ada County has expanded the public workforce beyond the ability of the taxpayers to continue to pay higher taxes. We need to adopt a freeze similar to the bill proposed by Representative Mike Moyle in the 2020 Legislative session.

8. How do you propose to manage the growth that Ada County is experiencing?

Ada County should ensure that the proper planning relating to roads, sewer and water and other infrastructure needs are established in compliance with current plans, laws and ordinances. Population growth should benefit local citizens and not cause additional burdens to the taxpayers.

9. With that growth comes challenges for our transportation infrastructure to keep pace. How do [you] propose we approach the transportation issues in Ada County?

Ada County is the only county in the entire United States with a County Highway District. The Ada County Highway District (ACHD) The ACHD and the cities are an important coalition of Ada County governments and I will meet with each group to find common ground to advance the interests of the citizens of Ada County in a fair and reasonable manner. Ada County is the only county in the State of Idaho without significant legal leverage to influence the ACHD.

10. Would you support legislation to allow counties and cities to have local option taxing authority? 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. Idaho has a balanced taxing system in place. If a local option taxing authority were to be authorized Idaho could become a hodgepodge of differing tax rates within counties and even cities. Local governments don't need new taxing authority, they just need to live within the current taxing capability and not expand government.

11. How can Ada County help Meridian business recover from the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic?

The best help Ada County can provide Meridian business is to reduce the Ada County property tax burden on business. The best way to tackle the increasing property tax burden is to reduce or freeze the budget