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General Legislative Questions:

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected to the State Legislature.
 1. To overcome the effects from the coronavirus and related restrictions. With my experience as a small business owner, CPA, and a school board trustee, I will help get our economy moving again, create quality jobs and provide the training and education our children deserve.
 2. To reduce traffic congestion in District 14, by widening Chinden Blvd. and Highway 44 to the Canyon County border, and by extending Highway 16 to the freeway (which will help alleviate traffic congestion on Eagle Road).
 3. To get property tax relief for homeowners. Residential property taxes in Ada County have increased by nearly 40% during the last two years.

2. In your view, what are the top three challenges currently facing the Meridian community?
 1. The effects from the coronavirus and related restrictions. Many individuals have lost their jobs. Small businesses are suffering financially. It will take considerable effort to get our economy moving again. I will make that a priority.
 2. Traffic congestion. It seems like it takes forever to get anywhere, especially if you are driving on Chinden or Eagle Road during rush hour. I will work to get state funding to widen Chinden Blvd. and Highway 44, and to extend Highway 16 to the freeway (which will help alleviate traffic congestion on Eagle Road).
 3. Excessive property taxes. Residential property taxes in Ada County have increased by nearly 40% during the last two years. We can't continue to increase that oppressive burden on our taxpayers.

3. What would you do to address those issues?
 1. Recover from the effects of the coronavirus: I will work with the Governor, other legislators, and local business groups, including the Chambers of Commerce, to see the federal funds are appropriately distributed to our small businesses, and to

encourage citizens to get back to their normal buying habits so that the businesses can recover and hire the unemployed.

2. Traffic congestion: We will work with major businesses, such as COSTCO and AMAZON to front the costs of the road expansions needed adjacent to their new buildings. I will work with other legislators to encourage them to make these road expansions a priority in the state transportation budget. I will work to get GARVEE bonding for the extension of Highway 16 to the freeway.
3. Property taxes: Recently I was appointed to serve on a legislative property tax interim committee to address this property tax crisis. I will explore all possibilities to give property tax relief to homeowners and to stop these unbearable annual increases in our taxes (nearly 40% in Ada County during the last two years).
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"?

Our children are our future. Their education has to be a top priority.

Because of my two terms as a school board trustee in the West Ada School District, I understand the needs of public education. This District has always been underfunded compared to the Boise School District. This is an example of the lack of uniformity in the treatment of school districts across the state.

During the last two legislative sessions I have voted to fund the career ladder for experienced teachers and to raise the minimum salary to \$40,000 for newer teachers.

We need more career technical training in the public schools for those students who do not intend to go to college.

I support a strong public education system while recognizing the parental choice.

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

- 1 Economic Development
- 3 Education
- 8 Healthcare Policy
- 5 Local Government
- 7 State Operations
- 4 Tax Policy
- 2 Transportation
- 6 Managing Growth
- Other (Please Identify)

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

Experience:

I serve as Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Local Government & Taxation, as a member of the Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee, and as a member of the Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee.

As a member JFAC, I am experienced in Idaho State revenue forecasting, as well as budget preparation and administration. That is critical as we deal with the effects of the coronavirus on jobs and businesses of our citizens, as well as budgeting for the anticipated decrease in our state revenues.

30 years' experience in Boise as a small business owner, CPA and income tax expert. With that experience I understand taxation and am committed to minimizing the tax burden on our citizens. As the Vice Chair of the Senate Taxation Committee, I am in a critical position to make it happen.

Served on the National Tax Committee of the American Institute of CPAs.

West Ada School Board trustee for two terms and a leader in the Idaho School Boards Association. My wife and I have nearly 20 grandchildren attending public schools in the Treasure Valley, so I am highly motivated to assure that they get the best possible education.

Specific Legislative Issue Questions:

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

As I mentioned in my answer to question #3, I was recently appointed to serve on a legislative property tax interim committee to address this property tax crisis. I will explore all possibilities to give property tax relief to homeowners and to stop these unbearable annual increases to our taxes (nearly 40% in Ada County during the last two years).

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

For the time being, the effects of the coronavirus have certainly put a halt to our growth. However, with time and effort, I am confident that the growth will return. Even though growth brings its own challenges, a vibrant economy contributes to the wellbeing of each of us.

Cities need to consider all ramifications when considering requests for new subdivisions, etc. so that the proper infrastructure accompanies those decisions. There has to be better coordination between the cities, counties and the highway districts. A good example of this is the historic agreement recently entered into between Star and the Idaho Transportation Department.

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

I will repeat some of my response to questions #1 and # 3.

As legislators we deal primarily with state highways. We work with major businesses, such as COSTCO and AMAZON to front the costs of the road expansions needed adjacent to their new buildings. I will work with other legislators to secure funding to widen Chinden Blvd. and Highway 44 to the Canyon County border. I will work to get GARVEE bonding for the extension of Highway 16 to the freeway.

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

Yes or No

Yes, I definitely support the Tax Reimbursement Incentive program.

Explain

When we give tax incentives to encourage businesses to grow and they meet the prescribed requirements, such as hiring new employees or making capital improvements, the entire community benefits.

In the last session I voted to renew this incentive program.

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

Yes or No

Not at present.

At present I do not support giving Local Option Tax authority to all cities and counties. The financial impacts from the coronavirus restrictions have caused a major blow to our small businesses and their employees. Now is not the time to increase the tax burden on our citizens.

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?

Yes, possibly in specific instances.

When we once again have a vibrant economy, I would consider giving that taxing authority on a case-by-case basis. It could be approved for specific transportation needs, with majority approval by the voters.

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

Yes or No

Yes. We have a "three-legged-stool" system of taxation: income tax, sales tax, and property tax.

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

We can always improve.

Some of our neighboring states don't have one or other of the three types of taxes I just mentioned. That can give them an advantage in certain instances.

The legislature recently reduced the individual income tax rates. At times property concessions are given to incentivize businesses to come to Idaho.

Many of our citizens are frustrated by the sales tax on groceries. During the next legislative session I will propose legislation to eliminate that tax.

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

Bonds or Other

Explain:

Bonds, at present. As a former school board chairman, I advocated for bonds to build a new school buildings.

I say at present, because that is the system we currently have. However, I am concerned that such bonds put a heavy property tax burden on our homeowners. Also, the burden of bonding doesn't isn't equitable from one school district to another, since taxpayers in growth areas are repeatedly asked to pay for more and more bonds.

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

I empathize with those businesses and individuals who are suffering financially from the closure of non-essential businesses and the social distancing order. That includes members of my own family.

Governor Little has repeatedly told us as legislators that his priority is to keep the citizens safe and healthy. He wants to avoid a second wave of the virus.

I'm concerned now that the economic effects have become more damaging than the risks to our health.

I support getting our lives, businesses, etc. back to normal as quickly as possible.

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

The financial impact on our small businesses and their employees is our greatest challenge. As I said in the previous question, I am anxious to get our lives, businesses, etc. back to normal as quickly as possible.

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

The federal government has given the state of Idaho more than \$1 Billion to assist with the economic impact. The governor has established a COVID-19 Advisory Committee to assist with the distribution of those funds. One goal of the committee is complete transparency as to how those funds are allocated.

The appropriate share of those funds will be allocated to businesses which are in Meridian.