

Election 2020: Candidate Questionnaire by Redoubt News

Please tell us your name and seat for which you are running.

Christy Zito, Senate District 23

Abortion

1) When does life begin?

Life begins at the moment of conception.

2) Do you believe that Roe v. Wade is settled law?

Roe vs. Wade was decided by broadly interpreting the 14th Amendment Right to Privacy to fit the outcome wanted. Legal scholar John Hart Ely wrote, Roe "is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be." I believe the framers of our nation saw value in every life, most especially of the unborn. In the Preamble they wrote, "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*" I cannot accept Roe v. Wade as a settled law when it is in complete defiance to the right to life.

3) Do you believe a woman has the right to choose to terminate her pregnancy?

I do not believe that a woman has the right to electively terminate a pregnancy. Who speaks for the child? Who will stand in defense of that small life and give them a voice? We have a responsibility to educate and offer hope to the mother who may not feel or know she has other options.

4) Do you believe that our state should ban abortions?

I do believe the state should consider abortions illegal. We consider the murder of a mother with child double homicide. So why would we consider the mother killing the same unborn child as exempt?

5) Do you believe that if our state should ban abortions, there should be exceptions for rape and incest?

I am torn when it comes to the issue of rape and incest. I see parents who want to have children and can't. I have heard mothers with children born under these difficult circumstances who count their child as their greatest blessing. The children conceived in these cases are innocent, just as their mothers are. Their situation should be decided only with the greatest of concern as I believe abortion would only add to their heartache.

Criminal Justice

1) Are you in favor of decriminalizing drug use?

We have made no progress with the 'war on drugs' through the current incarceration and criminalization system. 70% of the people incarcerated in our prisons are there on parole and probation violations, many due to being found in violation of controlled substance use. We must be in the business of rehabilitation, of giving offenders a chance to succeed. I would not want to have anyone stuck in our justice system when they are needing medical and mental support to overcome addictions. We should be focusing our 'war on drugs' on manufacturers and distributors of illegal drugs.

2) Do you support the legalization of Marijuana?

I support the use of medical marijuana and CBD oil. I support removing hemp from the Schedule 1 list. At this time, I am not in support of legalizing recreational Marijuana.

3) Do you support mandatory minimum prison sentences for people charged with drug possession?

I do not support minimum mandatory prison sentences for people charged with drug possession. Every situation is unique, as such it is important for Judges and Prosecuting Attorney's to have judicial discretion to do what is best for the defendant.

4) Do you support the Patriot Act?

I do not support the Patriot Act, I believe much of it to be an infringement on our Constitutional Rights. I fully believe in due process and the premise of innocence until proven guilty. I do not believe that it is the proper role of government to collect data on our citizens.

5) Should it be illegal to burn the American flag?

I find it very offensive for the American flag to be disrespected in any way. As distasteful as it is, I agree with Justice Anthony Kennedy reasoning in his concurrence with the 1987 Texas v. Johnson case.

“The hard fact is that sometimes we must make decisions we do not like. We make them because they are right, right in the sense that the law and the Constitution, as we see them, compel the result,” Kennedy said. “And so great is our commitment to the process that, except in the rare case, we do not pause to express distaste for the result, perhaps for fear of undermining a valued principle that dictates the decision. This is one of those rare cases.

6) Are you in favor of a National Identification card system?

I am not in favor of a National Identification card system. We are a free people.

7) Should producers be required to label genetically engineered foods (GMOs)?

I believe that the definition of genetically engineered foods has to be defined. Genetically modified through seed selection and germination is different than cross species genetic engineering. Methods of natural selection and cross pollination are naturally occurring events in nature used by man to improve cultivars. Genetically engineering is something different and I believe the consumer has a right to know.

Economic Issues:

1) Should the current estate tax rate be decreased?

Estate tax should be done away with completely.

2) Should the government use economic stimulus to aid the country during times of recession?

Economic stimulus will not help the economy long term, it will devalue the dollar as the money is fiat and has no value beyond the emotional value that we place on it. Printing more money adds to inflation, which is never good for the economy.

3) Should the government breakup Amazon, Facebook and Google?

Unless the government is a part of each organization, they have no right to interfere in our market driven businesses.

4) Should the government subsidize farmers?

No, subsidies were originally created during WW1 to insure a consistent supply of necessary items. I believe that agriculture like all businesses should operate on their own merits. American farmers are the most productive and innovative producers in the world and would thrive in an open market.

5) Would you favor an increased sales tax in order to reduce property taxes?

Property taxes are controlled on a county level, which vary greatly throughout the state. The voter in each community has the ability to be heard by their approval or denial of bonds and levy's, as well as who is elected in their county. Sales tax should not be increased at the expense of the voter losing their power in the polls. I would prefer it if elected officials would reduce their spending so all taxes could be reduced.

6) Should the Federal Reserve Bank be audited by Congress?

Absolutely the Federal Reserve should be audited by Congress, even further the Federal Reserve Bank should be abolished and the power to issue money should be restored to the people and the U.S. dollar should be backed by gold and silver.

7) Should the government raise the retirement age for Social Security?

I believe that as we are living longer and healthier lives people should be encouraged to invest for their retirement in other areas. The age to begin Social Security should be set at 67 and benefits should begin in full.

8) Should Social Security be phased out overtime?

Social Security must be diversified and privatized to allow expansion of individual retirement options as Congress has not been good stewards of the funds.

9) Should the State of Idaho get out of the sales of liquor business?

Yes, I believe that the State of Idaho being in control of the liquor business is a direct conflict of interest. Idaho's liquor control pre-dates prohibition and has created a system which overly burdens business owners with fees and long wait times for approval to conduct business.

10) Do you believe it is in the public's interest to repeal the grocery tax?

Yes, I believe that the grocery tax should be repealed.

11) Should cities be allowed to offer private companies economic incentives to relocate?

I do not believe it is the State Legislature's job to micromanage what Idaho cities choose to do to bring in industry and jobs. Mayors and County Commissioners need to assess what will be in their community's best interest and give ample opportunity for the citizens to voice their concerns. I do believe large corporations should not be given more value than the small, local businesses who are a great asset to our state.

12) Should Idaho have legalized gambling? If so, should it be limited in scope, such as sports betting, horse racing, online casino, lottery only, etc.?

Gambling is already legal for the state and for reservations, it should be legal for private business as well.

Education

1) Do you support charter schools?

I absolutely support charter schools! I absolutely support school choice!

2) Do you support Home schooling?

I fully support home schooling as children are in no better hands than those of their parents. It is a right to decide how your children should be educated.

3) Do you believe that public schools are under funded?

There are sufficient funds being put into education, the issue lies in where the funds are allocated. I believe the money going to our schools should be under the control of local school districts without 'strings' attached by the state. I believe that we put too much money into upper education which is spent on programs that do not have anything to do with preparing a job ready graduate.

4) Should the Supplemental Levy/Plant Facilities Levy process be eliminated?

Not at this time. Community members and parents are losing the ability to have an influence on the education their children are getting at school. Having the right to vote on these levy's allows them to have a say, especially since they are the ones providing the funds.

Electoral Issues:

1) Should the minimum voting age be lowered? If so, to what age?

I do not believe that the minimum voting age should be lowered. 18 is the legal age of consent in the state of Idaho.

2) Should a photo ID be required to vote?

I believe that photo ID is essential to preserving the honesty and integrity of the election process.

3) Do you support a Constitutional Convention?

I do not believe in a Convention of States will be prudent at this time. I believe that if an amendment to balance the budget is to be done, we need to follow the process that has worked since our founding: Amendments being initiated in congress.

4) Should convicted criminals have the right to vote?

When someone who has violated the law has fulfilled their sentence and probation or parole, I believe they have a right to vote.

5) Should all elections in Idaho be on the same date as the Primary/General elections only?

The cost of holding an election is high, I feel that all election issues should be consolidated to the Primary or General election dates. This will ensure a higher turnout and eliminate the confusion that often exists about our many election dates.

6) Would you be in favor of each County in Idaho having a State Senator (44) as opposed to each legislative district (35)?

I fully support having one senator from each county, I believe this will go far in preserving the rural voice of our less populated counties. I believe this will better serve to keep our state government a republic and not a democracy.

7) Would you be in favor of a State Constitutional Amendment authorizing an Electoral College system in Idaho?

I would support a State Constitutional amendment for a State Electoral College system. It works well on the national stage and it would do a lot to balance our state inequality.

8) Would you be in favor of term limits for Idaho elected officials?

We have term limits, it is called an election. The citizens of our state should be engaged and know how their representatives are representing them. I like the quote, "We have the government we deserve". If we don't participate, if we don't know how our legislators vote, it is our fault.

9) Do you believe the country/state should move to a mail-in ballot system, or a computer voting system?

I believe our current system of paper ballots is the most reliable.

10) Should the primary election be changed to a later date?

I do not believe that the primary election date should be changed.

11) Should the election be changed to an all mail-in ballot system?

We will see if that works this election cycle. I believe it may reduce the number of voters. I believe that if we have a mail in system, that the voter must have to request a ballot, ~~this is the only way~~, as we currently do absentee ballots to preserve the integrity of the election.

Environmental Issues:

1)Should the government increase environmental regulations to prevent climate change?

I do not believe that the government should increase regulations for any reason.

2)Do you support the use of hydraulic fracking to extract oil and natural gas resources?

Fracking is not necessary in the state of Idaho, our oil is not in the shale rock. Our oil is in pockets between layers of shale.

3) Should the government give tax credits and subsidies to the wind power industry?

The government should not give tax credits and subsidies for any industry; this again is a tax shift.

4)Should researchers be allowed to use animals in testing the safety of drugs, vaccines, medical devices, and cosmetics?

If testing performed on animals it is imperative it be humane and the animals are treated with respect, only then I can support their use. Many medical advances have been facilitated by our animal friends. I remember when Barney Clark was the first recipient of the Jarvic 7 heart, he felt it was an honor to be able to be part of the research and development of a new technique which could save lives.

Firearms

1)What kinds of firearms should be registered?

None. No firearm should be registered, the Second Amendment is clear, "shall not be infringed".

2)Should teachers be allowed to carry guns at school?

Trained and licensed teachers should be allowed to carry guns at school.

3)Should the Sheriff be authorized to remove firearms from people suspected of having mental health issues?

The Sheriff should not remove firearms from anyone without due process. Suspicion is not conviction. We have a court process to protect the inalienable rights of our citizens, this should never be bypassed.

4) Who should not be allowed to carry firearms?

Everyone who is has not been convicted of a violent felony has the right to carry a firearm.

6) Should the federal government institute a mandatory buyback of assault weapons?

No. The firearms which have been mislabeled as 'assault weapons' were legally purchased and are well within the law to own.

Foreign Policy:

1) Should every 18 year old citizen be required to provide at least one year of military service?

No. The expense would be too great to implement and the armed services have the right to select applicants who fit their needs. I do encourage at least a year of some type of service as I believe it is a great learning experience, but it should not be required by law.

2)Should the U.S. remain in the United Nations?

The United States should absolutely leave the United Nations and absolutely not provide any funding to the United Nations.

Health Care

1) What would you do to lower health care costs?

Get the Government out of health care. Just like any other segment of our economy competition keeps business healthy and will help keep us healthy. When hospitals and health care providers have to be their best so that people will choose them to provide their health care over another provider it not only increases the quality of care, but reduces the cost of their service.

2) Should there be a plan in place before attempting to repeal Obamacare?

I do not believe the government needs to have a plan in place. We can look to the last few weeks as an example of how government stagnates everything with regulations. Coronavirus testing and care was delayed due to government rules, as soon as those were lifted a test was developed which gave results in 5 minutes instead of two days. The healthcare and insurance market would flourish with the same freedom.

As stated above, a market driven system where insurance companies and providers compete for the business of the consumer will ensure that prices are competitive and care is excellent

3) What role should government play in advancing science-based medicine?

Scientists and research hospitals should be the ones who advance medicine. It is not the proper role of government.

4) Should people be required to work in order to receive Medicaid?

If you are able to work, it should be a requirement to receive Medicaid.

5) Should the government regulate the prices of life-saving drugs?

Prescription medications are highly regulated and controlled, competition for development and production is tightly limited, which increases the price to the user. A free market would do a better job of regulating prices than the government does.

We live in the most generous giving country in the world, no one has

6) Should health insurers be allowed to deny coverage to individuals who have a pre-existing condition?

Government needs to get out of the way of private businesses, which health insurers are. Allowing insurance companies to compete out of state would increase their base, which would allow them to take on higher risk, pre-existing condition, clients.

7) Should the government require children and/or adults to be vaccinated for preventable diseases?

The government should never require any one to be vaccinated for any disease, or to submit to any medical treatment that is not of their choosing.

8) Should terminally ill patients be allowed to end their lives via assisted suicide?

Only God knows when it is our time to return to him. It is not our choice. I believe in the sanctity of life from conception to death. It is in God's hands.

Immigration

1) What steps would you take in our state to handle the immigration issues?

As a State we need to support our President in securing our borders. There are many reasons ranging from sex trafficking to drug smuggling to make this a priority.

2) Should local law enforcement be allowed to detain illegal immigrants for minor crimes and transfer them to federal immigration authorities?

Illegal immigrants are committing a crime just by being here, there is no reason for them to be here. I believe that local law enforcement has a duty to turn these people over to the proper authorities to have them sent back to their countries of origin.

3) Should children of illegal immigrants be granted legal citizenship?

Children of illegals should not be granted citizenship, that opens the door for their illegal parents to stay in this country.

4) Should immigrants to the United States be allowed to hold dual citizenship status?

I can see no problem with legal immigrants holding dual citizenship.

Lands

1) Do you believe the Federal Government is managing the public lands well?

I do not believe that the Federal Government is managing public land appropriately. The best managers of the land are those closest to the land. I have always believed that local control is best. We see fires and mismanaged grazelands, this federal control is not working for anyone's best interest.

2) Do you believe it is the right of the individual states to control and manage public lands?

I absolutely believe that it is the right of individual states to control and manage public lands. It is our land.

Social Issues

1) Do you support the legalization of same sex marriage?

I believe that marriage is ordained by God and should be between a man and a woman.

2) Should homosexual couples have the same adoption rights as straight couples?

Believing that marriage should be between a man and a woman, I have to believe that children are to be raised in traditional family units, with a mother and a father.

3) Should transgender athletes be allowed to compete in athletic events for other than their biological sex?

Transgender athletes should not be allowed to compete in athletic events outside of their biological sex. I am so happy H500 was signed by the Governor.

4) Do you support the death penalty?

I support the death penalty only in extreme cases where we now have DNA as proof.

5) Should welfare recipients be tested for drugs?

Welfare recipients should be tested for drugs, most employers test for drugs, the tax paying citizens of the state deserve the assurance that their hard-earned money is not funding a drug habit.

6) Should the government raise the federal minimum wage?

The federal government absolutely should not have anything to do with setting a minimum wage. Wages are driven by supply and demand for employees. The trend to falsely increase minimum wage is a redistribution of wealth and will be passed on to the consumer or end user of a service.

7) Should there be fewer or more restrictions on current welfare benefits?

Welfare was designed to be a hand up and has become a supporter of lifestyle. There should be more restrictions to ensure that those who are really in need of assistance receive it. It would be a better system if the receiver of benefits were expected to give service in return or be actively engaged in job training.

8) Do you think our state should discontinue licensing marriage?

The law recognizes marriage as a civil contract between two people and keeps a record of the marriage contract on file. The marriage license is asking the state for permission to enter into the contract, instead the county the marriage takes place in should be notified to issue a certificate of marriage after the fact. This would provide a public record without the government needing to grant their permission first.