

**Election 2020: Candidate Questionnaire**  
**by Redoubt News**

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

Doug Okuniewicz, Idaho House of Representatives, Legislative District 2, Seat B

**Abortion**

1) When does life begin?

At conception, no exceptions.

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

No. It is only a court ruling. And, it should be overturned as unconstitutional in light of our most basic right to life as codified in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, in addition to conflicting with our most basic religious beliefs.

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

No.

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

Yes.

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

No.

**Criminal Justice**

1) Are you in favor of decriminalizing drug use?

No.

2) Do you support the legalization of Marijuana?

No.

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

No. That has been tried in the past, and most judges and prosecutors agree that they should have more latitude in meting out justice, especially for non-violent crimes. It has also contributed to the overcrowding problem in our prison system driving up our tax burdens.

4) Do you support the Patriot Act?

No.

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

No. But, I wish it was legal to kick the flag burner's a\*\* in response.

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

No.

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

Yes.

#### Economic Issues:

1) Should the current estate tax rate be decreased?

Yes, to the point it is eliminated.

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

No.

3) Should the government break up Amazon, Facebook and Google?

Government should not pick winners and losers in a free market.

4) Should the government subsidize farmers?

No.

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

I am open to learning more about the concept of eliminating all property taxes in order to effect true ownership of our homes and property. But, that would require a complete elimination of property tax forever in order to be worth looking at. Regardless, all government spending should be reduced at both the state and local levels in order to reduce property taxes.

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

Of course. Especially if that results in its abolishment.

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

My preference would be to not pay Social Security tax and let people keep their money and arrange their own affairs. The difficulty today is how to get there from here. Unwinding the program will punish those of us who have been forced to contribute so much of our income over our lifetimes. Socialism is hard to undo once you start down that path.

8) Should Social Security be phased out over time?

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

No.

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.?

No. In hindsight, I think most people in Idaho would rather not have legalized any forms of gambling in the state.

### Education

1) Do you support charter schools?

Yes.

2) Do you support Home schooling?

Yes.

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

No.

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

No. I am reluctant to pass laws that limit the public's voice. However, levy elections should be required to be held on the same dates as the primary and general elections.

**Electoral Issues:**

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

No.

2) Should a photo ID be required to vote?

Yes.

3) Do you support a Constitutional Convention?

I am in support a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget. In turn, I am open to the concept of a convention of states, but only if having one does not endanger conservative states on other issues.

4) Should convicted criminals have the right to vote?

Not unless their voting rights have been restored.

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

Yes. Higher turnout and cheaper for the taxpayers.

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

No. It would cost more. And, Idaho's 44 counties do not have anything near equal populations. Those with very few people would be given out-sized influence over the other counties. For example, Camas County has a population of 886, while Kootenai County has 153,605 (U.S. Census, May 2019).

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

No. At first blush, it seems like it would just add another layer of government and complexity to local elections.

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

Yes.

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

No.

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

I think the presidential primary and the state primary should be on the same date, whether it is in May, or any other month.

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

No.

#### Environmental Issues:

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

No.

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

Depends on the geological circumstances at a given site.

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

No. Government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers.

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

Yes, particularly for drugs, vaccines, and medical devices.

#### Firearms

1) What kinds of firearms should be registered?

None.

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

Yes.

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

No. "Suspected" does not satisfy one's constitutional right to due process.

4) Who should not be allowed to carry firearms?

Felons and non-citizens.

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

No.

### Foreign Policy:

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

No. Although it would be a great learning experience for our youth, it would be really expensive for taxpayers, and unnecessary with respect to our national defense needs.

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

No.

### Health Care

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

Push open market legislation, including more transparency for medical procedures and service-related expenses.

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

No.

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

The best thing government can do here is to stay out of the way. Government should not pick winners and losers.

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

Yes, if they are able.

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

No. That would discourage the development of life-saving drugs. Absent a profit motive, manufactures have no incentive to develop these medicines.

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

Yes.

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

No.

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

A terminally ill patient can do whatever he or she wants in the privacy of his or her home. That is a matter between the individual and God. But, no doctor should be required to assist a suicide. And, arguably, doctors should not be allowed to assist.

### Immigration

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

For starters, a bill to require legislative approval for refugee resettlement, instead of the governor having unilateral authority to accept refugees. I fully support President Trump's efforts to curb illegal immigration and promote legal immigration.

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

Yes.

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

No.

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

My first instinct is to say no, and require that they pick the team they want to be part of. But, I don't know enough about this issue to be certain.

### Lands

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

No.

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

Yes.

### Social Issues

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

4) Do you support the death penalty?

Yes.

5) Should welfare recipients be tested for drugs?

Yes.

6) Should the government raise the federal minimum wage?

No.

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

More.

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

Although that might make it easier to deny legal standing for same-sex marriages, it seems like it could cause a lot of legal problems for hetero-sexual marriages too. Since marriage is essentially a legal contract, discontinuing licensing might have a meaningfully negative impact on legal



proceedings that deal with things like inheritance, taxes, and divorce, to name a few. Without knowing more about this idea, I will have to err on the side of continuing the practice.