

Election 2020: Candidate Questionnaire by Redoubt News

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

Nicholas A. Henderson, running for Kootenai County Commissioner (District 1)

Abortion

- 1) When does life begin? *Life begins at conception.*
- 2) Do you believe that Roe v. Wade is settled law? *No, I do not, I believe it should be repealed and so does the law's namesake Jane Roe; whom has become an ardent anti-abortion activist.*
- 3) Do you believe a woman has the right to choose to terminate her pregnancy? *No, I do not.*
- 4) Do you believe that our state should ban abortions? *Yes, I do.*
- 5) Do you believe that if our state should ban abortions, there should be exceptions for rape and incest? *No, though these circumstances are dire and tragic - one wrong does not excuse another wrong.*

Criminal Justice

- 1) Are you in favor of decriminalizing drug use? *I am in favor of re-evaluation of current statutes as they pertain to drug use and DEA definitions and standards. I do not believe the "war on drugs" will be won through a prohibitionist approach.*
- 2) Do you support the legalization of Marijuana? *Yes, as stated above prohibition era policy has proven to be failed policy and the resultant black-market enables and emboldens criminal activity. Additionally, the associated criminal penalties for marijuana use can be life destroying, even in non-violent cases. President Trump has stated that he believes the states should make their own decisions pertaining to the legalization of medicinal and recreational marijuana and that he would honor those decisions. Simply put, a rational, logical, intelligent person would not in the same breath argue for marijuana to be illegal while simultaneously not demanding that alcohol and tobacco also be illegal. Pick and choose policy hurts us, it does not make us better; prohibition has never been effective policy.*
- 3) Do you support mandatory minimum prison sentences for people charged with drug possession? *No.*
- 4) Do you support the Patriot Act? *Wrapped neatly under the guise of "national security" the patriot act is an affront to the rights of American Citizens and as such I do not support it.*
- 5) Should it be illegal to burn the American flag? *There are those who would say that the right to burn the flag of the United States is protected as free speech - but I would argue that those people are wrong. Our flag is more than just some colored strips of cloth stitched together and meaning nothing, in fact our flag is the opposite. Our flag is a symbol of liberty and freedom and is the final cover for our fallen heroes - it should be honored as more than just a flag, because it is more than just a flag. When done properly, in accordance with ceremony and with the dignity owed, burning the flag is part of the ceremony to retire a flag. If anything were to be outlawed it should be lude behavior dishonoring the flag.*
- 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? *The current estate tax should not exist – so yes, it should be decreased and, in my opinion, eliminated entirely.*

2) Should the government use economic stimulus to aid the country during times of recession? *No, the free market comes with great reward and great risk, and billion/trillion-dollar bail outs on the backs of taxpayers eliminates the validity of the free market. There is no one company that, if allowed to fail entirely, would end life as we know it. Panic, and low-information policy decisions, lead to the passage of these misguided stimulus packages.*

3) Should the government break up Amazon, Facebook and Google? *Absolutely not, there should be no punishment for doing good business and being successful. If we allow the Government to stick their fingers into Facebook, Amazon and Google – how long will it be until the Government comes looking to stick their fingers into local businesses too? More than the Government already does, anyhow.*

4) Should the government subsidize farmers? *No, subsidies eliminate the playing field altogether and make it so that there is no competition and tax payers lose. Over-regulation, in the first place, is why farmers face the need for subsidies. Pull back the Government over-reach and you'll find that Farmers, Miners, Loggers, and others are all able to stand up on their own two feet.*

5) Would you favor an increased sales tax in order to reduce property taxes? *Yes, a sales tax increase in order to reduce property tax is something I would support.*

6) Should the Federal Reserve Bank be audited by Congress? *The Federal Reserve Bank should lose control over US Currency and the United States Treasury should resume that authority. A private for-profit entity, such as the Federal Reserve Bank, should never have been able to pull off such a major con against the American people and that should be corrected. Audit them, and then fire them.*

7) Should the government raise the retirement age for Social Security? *No, the Government should keep it's fingers out of Social Security and stop treating it as a slush fund for pet projects. People have paid into that program over a lifetime, against their will, and are expecting a meager return at the current retirement age. The Government needs to get out of Social Security.*

8) Should Social Security be phased out over time? *Yes, it has become a slush fund for Congress and is not a smart investment, with minimal return.*

9) Should the State of Idaho get out of the sales of liquor business? *Yes, the sales of liquor should be a private industry business, the State of Idaho needs to get out of it.*

10) Do you believe it is in the public's interest to repeal the grocery tax? *Yes, I do, as with most taxes.*

11) Should cities be allowed to offer private companies economic incentives to relocate? *No. Instead cities should make themselves into shining examples of freedom-based policy, to include low taxes, which would encourage businesses to relocate on their own.*

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.? *I don't see a reason, or need, for Idaho to legalize gambling at this time. If that were to change, I would be open to hearing pros and cons.*

Education:

1) Do you support charter schools? *Absolutely.*

2) Do you support Home schooling? *Yes.*

3) Do you believe that public schools are underfunded? *No, and studies support that position. It isn't a matter of throwing more and more money at the problems our schools are facing, it's a matter of better utilizing the money that is available.*

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

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 - 100% of the time.*

3) Do you support a Constitutional Convention? *The Founding Fathers saw fit to put that power into our hands as citizens. I do not believe that we need a Convention of the States at this time, however I do support the constitution and that includes Article V.*

4) Should convicted criminals have the right to vote? *Upon individual review, and after they have paid their debt to society, yes. There are many non-violent "felons" who cannot vote despite their crimes not being so egregious as to warrant more severe punishments. These people are currently being denied their rights.*

5) Should all elections in Idaho be on the same date as the Primary/General elections only? *Yes - it is a con job meant to swindle voters and steal money to hold votes on matters such as levies and taxes on different days. All elections, all votes, all ballot initiatives, etc. should be cast on the same day.*

6) Would you be in favor of each County in Idaho having a State Senator (44) as opposed to each legislative district (35)? *I'd be interested in hearing the arguments for and against this proposal - beyond the initial sticker shock that the cost of adding an additional 9 Senators to the payroll and benefits system would have on taxpayers.*

7) Would you be in favor of a State Constitutional Amendment authorizing an Electoral College system in Idaho? *As with in #6 I would be interested in hearing the pro's and con's of such a change and would need to do more research on the matter before making a decision. The immediate benefit of protecting rural Idaho from urban population centers having carte blanche regarding policy is a reason why I would support this.*

8) Would you be in favor of term limits for Idaho elected officials? *Yes, and no. Yes, because, career politicians are a problem and often not representative servants in public office. Many/most have lost sight of what it means to be elected to serve. Politics was never meant to be a career, it is a service. No,*

because, term limits are almost entirely ineffectual as elected officials are voted into office by their constituents, and removed by their constituents.

9) Do you believe the country/state should move to a mail-in ballot system, or a computer voting system? *Until computer voting is reliable and secure, we should maintain paper ballots. It pains me to say that in 2020, but the reality of the situation is that there are those that are unable to win without stealing and they would love nothing more than to take advantage of an unsecured e-voting system.*

10) Should the primary election be changed to a later date? *No.*

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? *Yes.*

3) Should the government give tax credits and subsidies to the wind power industry? *No.*

4) Should researchers be allowed to use animals in testing the safety of drugs, vaccines, medical devices, and cosmetics? *For life saving research (drugs, vaccines, medical devices) yes. For cosmetics, no.*

Firearms:

1) What kinds of firearms should be registered? *None. Ever.*

2) Should teachers be allowed to carry guns at school? *Yes, absolutely.*

3) Should the Sheriff be authorized to remove firearms from people suspected of having mental health issues? *No. These "red flag" type laws are wildly unconstitutional.*

4) Who should not be allowed to carry firearms? *Violent convicted criminals.*

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? *Having served in the United States Army, and then looking at those in my generation who did not serve, I can say that that value of service in the armed forces is far and away the most important defining experience a young adult can have and I, personally, believe that 1-2 years of uniformed service would prepare them for facing challenges throughout life, and help them understand what it truly means to be American. With all of that being said, no – the Government should not have the power to mandate anything.*

2) Should the U.S. remain in the United Nations? *No, get out and get out fast. Pull all UN funding immediately.*

Health Care:

1) What would you do to lower health care costs? *The single most effective thing we could do is get government out of the way of the private sector and let the free-market drive costs WAY down.*

2) Should there be a plan in place before attempting to repeal Obamacare? *There should have been a plan written and ready to go while President Obama was still in office. In more than a decade an ineffective and underperforming US Congress has failed to produce a plan – so now, since Obamacare is such a gaping wound, we need to just amputate it entirely. Unchain the free-market and healthcare in American will be better than ever.*

3) What role should government play in advancing science-based medicine? *As minimal a role as possible. Support the private sector researchers, but stay out of the way.*

4) Should people be required to work in order to receive Medicaid? *Yes, benefits should be based on verifiable work.*

5) Should the government regulate the prices of life-saving drugs? *No. Alternatively any life-saving drugs researched using any amount of tax-payer funded research grants should not be allowed to be kept as a “proprietary secret” and it’s formulas and patents released to the public immediately – if we, the tax payers, have paid for the research, than we, the people, already own the research. This would allow the free-market to generate competition and prices would settle at a point commiserate with the cost of research and development.*

6) Should health insurers be allowed to deny coverage to individuals who have a preexisting condition? *Yes, private business should have the right to refuse service to anyone. There are many organizations and charities that are set up in order to help in these instances.*

7) Should the government require children and/or adults to be vaccinated for preventable diseases? *No, the Government should not have the power to mandate anything.*

8) Should terminally ill patients be allowed to end their lives via assisted suicide? *I believe that God is the ultimate authority on life and death and that it is not my place, nor the place of Government to endorse or condone suicide.*

Immigration:

1) What steps would you take in our state to handle the immigration issues? *Though the bulk of the immigration issues we are facing now is handled at the Federal level I would say that in my role as a County Commissioner I would work to ensure that no county programs are accessible for illegals and that our county offices and agencies work with Federal agencies in the enforcement of current immigration laws.*

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, absolutely not. The “anchor baby” program must end.*

4) Should immigrants to the United States be allowed to hold dual citizenship status? *No, citizenship in the United States comes with allegiance and loyalty TO the United States, and dual citizenship creates a conflict of interest in that regard. If a person seeks to become a citizen of the United States than that person should fully assimilate into the United States.*

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? *If a person can afford drugs than they do not need to be on state subsidized welfare programs. So, yes.*
- 6) Should the government raise the federal minimum wage? *No, "minimum wage" is another government overreach and attempt at introducing socialism into the United States bit by bit, the newly proposed "universal wage" is another version of this. The "minimum wage" should be repealed, the free market will drive wages to where they should be based on the work being done.*
- 7) Should there be fewer or more restrictions on current welfare benefits? *I am not familiar with the current restrictions on those who are collecting welfare benefits, therefor saying if there should be more or fewer restrictions on welfare benefits would be illogical.*
- 8) Do you think our state should discontinue licensing marriage? *Ultimately God is the only authority that grants and allows marriage, the State's role should not be in "granting permission" it should be limited to simply serve as a means to provide legal documentation of a marriage between a man and a woman.*



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