

Election 2020: Candidate Questionnaire by Redoubt News

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

Richard Whitehead, Kootenai County SHERIFF

There are several areas in this questionnaire that are not applicable to the Office of Sheriff and my answers reflect my personal opinion.

Abortion

- 1) When does life begin? Heartbeat
- 2) Do you believe that Roe v. Wade is settled law? No, it is an opinion, not law.
- 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? *Yes, I do not believe a woman should have to live with the consequences of an aggravated act of which she is a victim. However, once there is a heartbeat the option no longer exist.

Criminal Justice

- 1) Are you in favor of decriminalizing drug use? No
- 2) Do you support the legalization of Marijuana? No. I do support legalization of Hemp.
- 3) Do you support mandatory minimum prison sentences for people charged with drug possession? No
- 4) Do you support the Patriot Act? No, it infringes on numerous civil liberties.
- 5) Should it be illegal to burn the American flag? No, it's freedom of speech
- 6) Are you in favor of a National Identification card system? No, this is a state issue
- 7) Should producers be required to label genetically engineered foods (GMOs)? Yes, we have a right to know what is in our food and where it comes from.

Economic Issues:

- 1) Should the current estate tax rate be decreased? Yes, to zero
- 2) Should the government use economic stimulus to aid the country during times of recession? No, it runs in the face of the free market system.
- 3) Should the government break up Amazon, Facebook and Google? Yes

- 4) Should the government subsidize farmers? If they interfered in their production or lack thereof. **Yes**
- 5) Would you favor an increased sales tax in order to reduce property taxes? **Yes**
- 6) Should the Federal Reserve Bank be audited by Congress? **Yes**
- 7) Should the government raise the retirement age for Social Security? **No**
- 8) Should Social Security be phased out over time? If there is a viable alternative option **Yes**
- 9) Should the State of Idaho get out of the sales of liquor business? **Yes, it's a free market issue.**
- 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? **Yes, if the citizens (through their elected councils) desire to.**
- 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.? **It already does on Indian Reservations, which should continue, as surrounding states have it so to have it here helps keep our dollars from leaving 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? **Not sure, but the elections for them should coincide with other 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? **No. They're not following the constitution now, why would they follow a revised one?**
- 4) Should convicted criminals have the right to vote? **Yes, ONCE they have "paid their debt" to society and their offense was non assaultive or aggravated.**
- 5) Should all elections in Idaho be on the same date as the Primary/General elections only? **YES**

- 6) Would you be in favor of each County in Idaho having a State Senator (44) as opposed to each legislative district (35)? Not sure, however some districts are so large I believe they can be a burden for their representative.
- 7) Would you be in favor of a State Constitutional Amendment authorizing an Electoral College system in Idaho? Probably
- 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? Mail-in ballots I think are better to prevent fraud. Each voter should have a way to identify their ballot.
- 10) Should the primary election be changed to a later date? No, sooner maybe
- 11) Should the election be changed to an all mail-in ballot system? IF it can be done to ensure the lack of fraud.

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? I don't know enough about this to have an educated answer.
- 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? No

Firearms

- 1) What kinds of firearms should be registered? None
- 2) Should teachers be allowed to carry guns at school? If their district allows it.
- 3) Should the Sheriff be authorized to remove firearms from people suspected of having mental health issues? No, they need to present a cause to a court, much like a search warrant, to justify a seizure. A temporary seizure may occur during this process.
- 4) Who should not be allowed to carry firearms? Everyone
- 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? I think a couple of years of military service would be good for this group but I'm not sure about "required".

2) Should the U.S. remain in the United Nations? No

Health Care

- 1) What would you do to lower health care costs? It's a free market issue. The government needs to get out of it.
- 2) Should there be a plan in place before attempting to repeal Obamacare? No, the free market system can and will fill the void.
- 3) What role should government play in advancing science-based medicine? There is no constitutional justification for this. Maybe.... Under General Welfare but even then, it should be minimal.
- 4) Should people be required to work in order to receive Medicaid? If able.
- 5) Should the government regulate the prices of life-saving drugs? No, but it should prevent obvious gouging.
- 6) Should health insurers be allowed to deny coverage to individuals who have a pre-existing condition? Yes, in a free market. There is no right to health insurance.
- 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? If they so choose. Depending on the illness this may be much more humane than the results of the illness.

Immigration

- 1) What steps would you take in our state to handle the immigration issues? I would work with ICE in referring illegals arrestees to them.
- 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? If they came through the process legally.

Lands

- 1) Do you believe the Federal Government is managing the public lands well? No, this is a State issue.
- 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? I don't know enough about this to have an educated answer.
- 8) Do you think our state should discontinue licensing marriage? Yes