



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2020 GENERAL ELECTION

We believe strongly in informing the community about candidates running for public office. As part of our commitment to this effort, we present this questionnaire for candidates running for office. SandpointOnline.com is also a great resource for election information, as well as the Bonner County Elections Page. Finally, don't forget to vote Tuesday, Nov. 3 if you haven't voted by mail already. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Idaho Legislative District 1 – State Senator

Jim Woodward, Republican (incumbent)



Age: 49

Birthplace: Born on an island in the Pacific (Anacortes, Wash.), although I grew up in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry. We've lived in the same spot in Sagle for 20 years now since we moved home after serving in the Navy.

How many years lived in Bonner Co.?: I've been in Bonner County a total of 24 years and in Boundary County for about 12 years.

Government service: Seven years of active Navy service / 14 years of reserve service. Two years as Legislative District 1 state senator.

Profession: Small business owner in the heavy construction industry
Education: B.S. mechanical engineering.

Family: Spouse – Brenda, a science teacher at LPOHS, Two children.

Fun fact: My aunts, Liz Stephenson and Bev Kee, teenagers at the time, took me to Dub's when I was about 6-years-old and said I could have whatever I wanted. They ran out of money before I finished!

1. What are your top three priorities for the next year? How will you help achieve those priorities?

One, I am going to push for two transportation improvements; the first being the south end of the Long Bridge at Lakeshore Drive and the other the long-awaited McArthur Lake curve project. Another priority is to continue the shift of education funding from property tax dollars to state General Fund dollars to reduce the need for local supplemental levies. I will again be on the Education Committee and the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee to advocate for this shift. Finally, I will do whatever is in my sphere of influence to return some sense of normalcy after what most will describe, at a minimum, as a challenging year. We've always used the statement that hindsight is 20/20, but perhaps 2020 will be better in hindsight.

2. At the conclusion of the special session this summer, Idaho Republicans released a 10-point list of actions they intend to take during the next regular Legislative session – many of which propose to limit the power of the executive branch and expand the power of the legislative branch. Do you agree with this way forward? Why or why not?

I am agreeable to reviewing the many sections of Idaho Code which came into play this year. The pandemic tested some sections of the law which have not been scrutinized in years or decades. I understand the frustration and the weariness from the pandemic restrictions this year, but I

do not believe the law has been broken. We, the citizens of Idaho, put in place all the code that we are living under now. If we desire to change the law, we must use the law to do so. I also want to make clear that I believe the legislature is a policy setting body, versus the executive branch which acts upon policy set in Idaho Code. If proper policy is in place, there are very few situations that require convening the Legislature outside of the normal session.

3. Regarding the special session, where activists such as Ammon Bundy were arrested for their actions at the Statehouse, how do you propose to cultivate an atmosphere where civil discourse is promoted over extremist rhetoric?

Civil discourse comes through respecting other people and their viewpoints. It is both important and informative to hear all sides of a conversation, especially in the legislative process.

4. The Idaho Legislature has in the recent past spent much of its time on ideological debates and bills that frequently result in adverse legal judgments for the state. Do you see weighing in on these issues as the role of the Legislature? Why or why not?

I will maintain my focus on the business of state government. We have an agreement amongst ourselves to provide a public education system. We all concur in the need to have a road network throughout the state. A judicial system is a necessity. The list of what we have agreed to do

together is fairly long, but I am still a minimalist in terms of what I think we should accomplish through government. Let's do together what we cannot do alone but maintain our freedoms and independence by individually taking care of our own needs.

5. It has been another active wildfire season in North Idaho, although the biggest impact has been smoky skies from out-of-state fires. How do you propose to ensure North Idaho doesn't see the widespread wildfire damage that the West has experienced? What role do you believe climate change and forest management have on the severity of these fires?

Management of our local and regional forests is a feasible goal for state government. As our population grows, we continue to build homes further and further into forested areas previously unpopulated. The strategy of letting wildfires burn themselves out becomes less acceptable the closer they are to us. If the natural fire cycle is not acceptable, we must manage the forests to prevent fuel loading buildup. The Idaho Department of Lands participates in the Good Neighbor Authority program with the U.S. Forest Service such that IDL can manage not only state land, but also some federal ground. I support IDL participation in the program and look forward to a change in the administrative side of the program to return more of the timber proceeds back to local schools and county road and bridge departments.

Vera Gadman, Democrat

Publisher's note: Vera Gadman is on the ballot, but is not actively campaigning, according to the Bonner County Democrats.

Idaho Legislative District 1 Representative Seat A

Heather Scott, Republican (incumbent)



DID NOT PARTICIPATE

Publisher's note: Incumbent Heather Scott did not respond to questions sent by the Sandpoint Reader.

Gail Bolin, Democrat

Publisher's note: Gail Bolin is on the ballot, but is not actively campaigning, according to the Bonner County Democrats.