

Ed Says:

"Idaho is known for its high taxes and low salaries. Isn't that backwards?"

"My plan is to abolish the state income tax and put thousands of dollars into the pockets of Idahoans."

The Problem

Because Idaho is assumed to be a conservative Republican state, taxpayers may be surprised to discover how our taxes compare nationally. For the average Idahoan earning \$50,000 a year, Idaho's state income tax is higher than 39 other states. Our sales tax is higher than 33 other states. There are 32 states which exempt groceries from sales tax--Idaho is not one of them. Our fuel taxes are higher than 31 other states. Idaho taxpayers now fund 20 agencies and 181 departments. This is inconceivable for a Republican state that is ranked 40th out of the 50 states in population.

The Solution

Ed's expertise in finance gives him an edge in developing a solid plan to reign in both taxes and spending.

1. Permanently reducing income taxes would constrict revenues and put a ceiling on the size of government. Utilizing state budget surpluses and cash and investments (PERSI pension funds **not** included), Ed will permanently phase out state income tax with no disruption to essential services. On average, Idaho taxpayers would have \$3,000 more per year in their pockets. Eliminating income taxes will create an upward economic spiral for our state and increase wages.
2. Ed will fully investigate waste and fraud in the state budget. Currently, millions of Idaho tax dollars are funding universities and non-profit organizations that promote "Critical Race Theory and other anti-

American activities." Not one cent of taxpayer money should be spent to fund this illegal, racist ideology which is fueling the socialist takeover of our country.

3. Ed will use a line-item veto to cut the pork out of the budget.
4. Idaho's budget is bloated with wasted spending that is protected by cronyism and outright fraud. Many layers of our state government hire lobbyists to influence the legislature on their own budgets and their own oversight. On Day 1, Ed will ban all agencies of the Idaho State Government from hiring contract lobbyists or retaining full-time lobbyists as staff.
5. Taxpayers will be able to shield themselves from future tax hikes through the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). TABOR forces the government to get state tax increases approved on the ballot in elections with an appropriate amount of voter turnout.

Bottom Line: Ed is a true small government, fiscal conservative who will fight to protect your money from waste and fraud.

I've never understood why it is greed to keep what you've earned but not greed to take what someone else has earned.

-Thomas Sowell, Economist