

Ed Says:

"Government intervention, like rent control, is a shell game which always shifts costs around and is not a real long-term solution."

The Problem

The high demand for housing from people moving into the state has increased housing prices. The skyrocketing cost of building materials and a shortage of skilled labor has also impacted the problem. Current prices make it difficult for lower- and middle-income people to afford housing.

Higher property taxes also stifle the ability of many families to buy a home. Most people believe that higher property taxes are due to higher assessed property values. However, **taxation follows spending**. Property taxes are not just tied to the assessed value of your home; the spending of your local taxing district also affects your rate of taxation.

The Solution

Politicians like to appease constituents with quick fixes like rent control or a homeowner's exemption. Ed's solution is based upon solid economic principles of supply and demand. The solution needs to address root causes of the problem, such as, a shortage of skilled labor and the skyrocketing cost of building materials. Addressing these barriers, **without burdensome regulations**, will help the housing economy to flourish and meet the needs of renters and home buyers.

- **Labor shortage:** Ed would fast-track technical education that provides A+ training for the trades. High school grads could immediately enter the job market with high-paying job skills after graduation. This is a better solution than having students take on massive school loans for degrees that are not marketable.

- **Lumber shortage:** It's Idaho! To decrease the price of lumber, increase the supply. It's time to wisely manage our forests instead of letting them burn up each year. Leftist activities have severely mistreated the logging industry.
- **Property Taxes:** Ed believes a Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) will reign in the growing cost and size of government and return power to the people. A "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" establishes a formula to limit how much tax revenue the government can keep. More importantly, it requires voters to approve tax increases on the ballot. It also establishes when those questions can be put to the ballot so supplemental levies can't be snuck past the voter anymore.

Bottom Line: Ed will avoid quick fixes and offer solid, long-term, solutions to ease Idaho's housing price crisis.

The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.

-Ronald Reagan