

2026 Idaho LD 2 Issues: Reproductive Freedom

This is a compilation of the responses to the 2026 Idaho LD2 Issue Survey sent to the District Incumbents and their Opposition Candidates. The survey question is presented along with each candidate's response.

Assuming that the Reproductive Freedom Initiative passes in November, will you publicly support its enactment as the voters intend? If not, why not?	
Phil Hart (R) - Incumbent State Senator Sen Hart did not respond to this survey His 2026 website says “[he] is a consistent Pro-Life advocate with a consistent voting record on Pro-Life issues when he served in the House from 2004-2012. Phil believes life begins at conception and the unborn child has God-given rights to life protected by the United States Constitution. The American people should not be forced through taxation to pay for abortions.”	Valerie Wade (D) - Challenger “I will always support the will of my constituents. I will publicly support its enactment as the voters intended.”
Heather Scott (R) - State Rep 2A Rep Scott did not respond to this survey Her 2026 website does not address this issue specifically but says “I will vote against any law or proposed funding that takes the life of an unborn child or promotes euthanasia due to age, disease, injury, or medical condition. “	Birgid Niedenzu (D) - Challenger “Yes”
Dale Hawkins (R) - State Rep 2B Rep Hawkins did not respond to this survey His 2026 website says “I'm pro-life without apology. I believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. “	Sabine Krier (D) - Challenger “I signed the Reproductive Freedom Initiative and strongly support protecting women's reproductive rights. History shows that restricting those rights has never worked - anywhere. I trust women to make their own reproductive decisions in consultation with their families, trained medical professionals, and their own spiritual values. If voters pass this initiative, I will support its enactment exactly as intended.”

2026 Idaho LD 2 Issues: Wildland Firefighting Funding

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How do you plan to restore or enhance Wildland Firefighting funding at both the State and Federal level?	
Phil Hart (R) - Incumbent State Senator Sen Hart did not respond to this survey His 2026 website does not address this issue.	Valerie Wade (D) - Challenger "I will support the restoration of funding and staffing of our Forest Service and supporting agencies. I will support the continued work to study wildfire prevention and resilience."
Heather Scott (R) - State Rep 2A Rep Scott did not respond to this survey Her 2026 website does not address this issue.	Birgid Niedenzu (D) - Challenger "Legislate for fair taxation, reinstate prior capacity and funding "
Dale Hawkins (R) - State Rep 2B Rep Hawkins did not respond to this survey His 2026 website did not address this issue.	Sabine Krier (D) - Challenger "As an active Fire Program and Interagency Wildfire Management support professional, I see firsthand how the growing wildfire threat is impacting our communities, landscapes, and health. Extreme climate conditions, like drought, wind events, and hotter, longer fire seasons, demand that we fully support the dedicated labor of our wildland firefighters with the best resources at both the State and Federal level. I support continued efforts to streamline management across agencies, and I've seen real improvements in recent years. Instead of limiting funding and letting valuable personnel go, we should build on that progress by carefully and professionally evaluating funding needs and ensuring that resources, staffing, and incentives are sufficient to meet today's wildfire challenges. Reliable, fully funded wildfire programs are essential, life-saving investments that give firefighters the tools they need to reduce damage and protect our communities. "

2026 Idaho LD 2 Issues: Support for Rural Hospitals

This is a compilation of the responses to the 2026 Idaho LD2 Issue Survey sent to the District Incumbents and their Opposition Candidates. The survey question is presented along with each candidate's response.

What are your plans to support rural hospitals and clinics given the reductions in Medicare and Medicaid funding?	
Phil Hart (R) - Incumbent State Senator Sen Hart did not respond to this survey	Valerie Wade (D) - Challenger "I will look for ways to find funding. I will also support reversing the reductions. Rural healthcare is a top priority for me. When we lose medicare and medicaid, we reduce the patient numbers for clinics all over the state and it affects everyone not only those losing their healthcare. "
Heather Scott (R) - State Rep 2A Rep Scott did not respond to this survey Her 2026 website says "[She] Support[s] efforts to repeal the State Health Care Exchange and prevent Medicaid Expansion in Idaho."	Birgid Niedenzu (D) - Challenger "Investigate and pursue opportunities to "grow your own" practitioners, reaffirm equal and fair Medicare and Medicaid funding "
Dale Hawkins (R) - State Rep 2B Rep Hawkins did not respond to this survey His 2026 website does not address this issue.	Sabine Krier (D) - Challenger "Our healthcare system is in serious trouble, not just in Idaho, but nationwide. Recent cuts make it harder, often impossible, for Idahoans, especially working families in my district's rural communities, to get the care they require. In my view, eliminating Medicaid expansion would be a mistake, particularly after Idaho voters chose to adopt it. Rolling it back would further strain rural hospitals and clinics that are already struggling. Instead of passing laws that threaten healthcare professionals with legal consequences for practicing evidence-based medicine, we should focus on strengthening the workforce, supporting prenatal, maternity, and OB services, and reducing healthcare and prescription drug costs by ensuring affordable coverage. Accessible, affordable healthcare is and should always be a basic right. "

2026 Idaho LD 2 Issues: Sale of Public Lands

This is a compilation of the responses to the 2026 Idaho LD2 Issue Survey sent to the District Incumbents and their Opposition Candidates. The survey question is presented along with each candidate's response.

Do you believe that some public land (State and/or Federal) should be sold? If so, under what conditions?	
Phil Hart (R) - Incumbent State Senator Sen Hart did not respond to this survey His 2026 website says “[He] supports the return of Federal Lands in Idaho to the State and the protection of State’s rights over Federal encroachment. He wrote the Wolf Emergency Bill, HB343 that was passed into law in 2011, and transferred management of the wolves from the Federal Government to the State of Idaho. “	Valerie Wade (D) - Challenger “No, I will never support public land being sold.”
Heather Scott (R) - State Rep 2A Rep Scott did not respond to this survey Her 2026 website says she “Support[s] legislation to transfer federal lands back to the State of Idaho.”	Birgid Niedenzu (D) - Challenger “No”
Dale Hawkins (R) - State Rep 2B Rep Hawkins did not respond to this survey His 2026 website does not address this issue.	Sabine Krier (D) - Challenger “Our public lands, both State and Federal, are essential to who we are in North Idaho. They support hunting, fishing, timber, recreation, and the rural way of life we want to pass on to our kids and grandkids. Once they’re sold, they’re gone forever, and Idahoans lose access we will never get back. These lands should remain in public hands, protected from corporate interests and short-term pressures. For any proposed public-land transfer or exchange, I will insist on a thorough, transparent review that includes early public participation, meaningful community input, protection of public access, safeguards against privatization, independent environmental analysis, and other criteria necessary to ensure the decision serves the public interest. Responsible management, active stewardship, and keeping access open for the public are far better solutions than selling off the places that define our heritage.”

2026 Idaho LD 2 Issues: Public Education Funding

This is a compilation of the responses to the 2026 Idaho LD2 Issue Survey sent to the District Incumbents and their Opposition Candidates. The survey question is presented along with each candidate's response.

Our State Constitution requires the funding of an equitable public education system, yet increasingly the burden falls on communities to pass funding levies to maintain their school systems. What are your plans to remedy that situation?	
Phil Hart (R) - Incumbent State Senator Sen Hart did not respond to this survey His 2026 website says “[He] emphatically supports creating opportunity for educational choice. Parents who choose schooling for their children outside of the public school system should not have to pay twice for their children’s education.”	Valerie Wade (D) - Challenger “I will support an overhaul of our current antiquated public school funding model to better fit the needs of our rural communities and also meet the requirements of our Idaho Constitution. The quality of education in Idaho and the facilities we house it in should not be dependent on a family's economic standing. This includes early child learning, K-12, trade schools and higher education. ”
Heather Scott (R) - State Rep 2A Rep Scott did not respond to this survey Her 2026 website says “[She] Promote[s] local control for education in our schools and ensure public education funds go to students, teachers, and the learning process—not to extravagant administrative salaries and perks.”	Birgid Niedenzu (D) - Challenger “Remedy the need for levies every other year by restoring public education funds that are at least comparable to other states in the region. Levies should only be considered for emergencies, to temporarily stop a gap, they are not a permanent or sustainable solution. ”
Dale Hawkins (R) - State Rep 2B Rep Hawkins did not respond to this survey His 2026 website says “Fighting for Your Freedom ... I've fought for homeschooling rights, ...”	Sabine Krier (D) - Challenger “These are concerns repeatedly mentioned to me. Rural communities are increasingly forced to pass levies just to maintain basic services. That’s not sustainable, and it shifts a constitutional responsibility onto taxpayers who can least afford it. My plan is to move the burden back to the state. • I will support restoring stable, long-term state funding, so districts aren’t trapped in constant levy cycles. • I will oppose efforts to divert public dollars into unregulated private programs, which drain resources from the schools that serve the vast majority of Idaho children. • I want to strengthen teacher recruitment and retention by improving pay, reducing political intimidation, and ensuring educators have the tools they need to succeed. In this very rural district, our children deserve safe, modern schools and access to the full range of educational resources that prepare them for the future. Rural communities should not be forced to shoulder this burden alone. As your representative, I will work to ensure the state meets its constitutional obligation. ”

2026 Idaho LD 2 Issues: Rural Opportunity Improvements

This is a compilation of the responses to the 2026 Idaho LD2 Issue Survey sent to the District Incumbents and their Opposition Candidates. The survey question is presented along with each candidate's response.

Our youth should not be required to leave their communities to have a viable future. What are your ideas for improving employment opportunities for younger residents?	
Phil Hart (R) - Incumbent State Senator Sen Hart did not respond to this survey . His 2026 website does not address this issue.	Valerie Wade (D) - Challenger "I support introducing opportunities for learning about many different trades in our public schools. To me, funding education means supporting programs that expose our young learners to skills and hands-on experience. Program funding for our local Universities, Trade Schools and Industry to work with our public schools is important. We also need to invest more in specialized training here in Idaho. Right now, our youth are leaving the state for training and better pay. We need to take action to prevent this. I am prepared to work hard to address these issues and fight for our workforce. "
Heather Scott (R) - State Rep 2A Rep Scott did not respond to this survey Her 2026 website says: "By reducing or simplifying tax regulations, we can promote a business environment more favorable for growth. When Idaho businesses are allowed to grow, the tax base increases, which ultimately leads to lower tax rates. This would directly benefit Idaho families through more job opportunities, better-paying jobs and a higher standard of living."	Birgid Niedenzu (D) - Challenger "Encourage and facilitate local industry mentorship and on the job training/ internships in agriculture, health services, fisheries, forestry, engineering, small business ownership. "
Dale Hawkins (R) - State Rep 2B Rep Hawkins did not respond to this survey His 2026 website does not address this issue although he indicates that he stands for "Reducing Property Taxes".	Sabine Krier (D) - Challenger "Rural Idaho's retiree population is rising, and the cost of living has outpaced what traditional local careers can support. Young people who want to build their lives here are facing rising costs and limited career options, making it harder every year to stay. I believe our communities thrive when the next generation can stay, work, and raise families in the place they call home. That means: - Expanding local training in the trades, healthcare, and natural resource careers - Improving rural broadband so remote work is truly possible - Supporting small businesses and apprenticeships that keep talent local - Increasing affordable starter homes and reliable childcare so young families aren't pushed out by retiree driven housing demand Strong communities depend on opportunity, and I want to make sure rural Idaho remains a place where young people can build a future. "