

Mary Souza's Newsletter

April 9, 2014

Questions for Candidates!

Dear Newsletter Readers,

There was a candidate forum at NIC last Monday night which was very well attended. The room was full of voters trying to get a sense of the 18 people running for state legislative offices in Districts 2, 3 and 4*.

I'd love to give you my take on the various candidates and their views, but I didn't get to hear any of them! My opponent and I were the last set of candidates to be questioned, so we had to stay in the "green room" until we were called at the very end of the event.

When it was finally our turn, we were asked 5 questions covering these topics: Our top priorities, State Health Exchange, Common Core, Urban Renewal and Guns on campus. It was quite enlightening. Here's a quick synopsis what I recall about our answers, and I think you'll quickly see some clear differences in our views. Please remember we only had ONE minute to give our thoughts on very complex issues.

1. Top Priorities:

Sen. John Goedde: Education and jobs

Mary Souza: Protecting the rights of individuals and businesses from the overreach of the Fed. Gov. through the Obamacare Exchange, Common Core in schools, and the 36% of our state's budget that currently comes from the Feds.

2. State Healthcare Exchange:

Sen. John Goedde: I voted for it and still fully support it.

Mary Souza: I was not in favor of the state exchange. We were the only state with a Republican Governor and a Republican Legislature that invited Obamacare in through a state exchange. 26 other states resisted, and a new study by George Washington University shows the states that resisted are making a difference in slowing the implementation of this invasive law. There's really no state exchange here anyway---anyone signing up is sent directly to the Federal exchange. There's little or no local control.

In my rebuttal time, I included this: What we should be doing is enacting fair market options to help offset Obamacare, such as enhanced Health Savings Accounts, competition across state lines for insurance companies, and clear and open pricing of medical procedures so folks can shop their decisions. These options would give individuals more control over their money and choices.

(There's SO much more to this subject...please see my note at the end of this newsletter)

3. Common Core:

Sen. John Goedde: We call it "Idaho Core" and I support it.

Mary Souza: I'm all for raising standards and improving education, but Common Core is UNTESTED. One of our kids was victimized by an untested language arts program called "Whole Language", that swept the nation about 25 years ago. It was a fiasco and was pulled after just a few years, but many kids still have problems because of its effects. Common Core is not a Federal program...yet, but we're creating a framework which can be turned into a nationalized education program in the future, and that makes Idaho highly vulnerable to Federal control. Idaho can do better. We can create our own standards and keep control right here in our own state. ("Idaho Core" is the same thing as Common Core, they just changed the name to make it sound better.)

4. Urban Renewal:

Sen. John Goedde: Urban Renewal is not just in CdA, it's all over the state.

Mary Souza: I agree that it's a statewide issue but urban renewal is used differently in CdA than in most parts of the state. Take for example, the Chobani Yogurt plant down in Twin Falls. They used urban renewal to provide infrastructure to the new plant, and Chobani brought in 1200 good jobs. If urban renewal is to continue to be used here in CdA, and I do mean "if", it should be focused on very detailed plans to bring specific job-creating businesses into our area...good jobs that pay career level wages.

5. Guns on Campus Bill:

Sen. John Goedde: I voted against the bill. (Then John went on to give an example of cars on a freeway and I couldn't follow his logic at all, so I can't relate the story to you, except to say it was very ambiguous.)

Mary Souza: I am in favor of the measure. I believe we are all safer when legal, responsible, educated and trained people are carrying guns.

So, dear Readers, that's how the Candidate Forum ended. The College Republicans did a great job of organizing 18 candidates and including questions from the audience for each of the different legislative districts.

Today, Wednesday, on my radio show from Noon – 1:00 on HeadsUpRadio.com, you can call-in and talk about any of these topics. I'd love to hear your thoughts. The phone # is [208-758-0546](tel:208-758-0546) And I've got a lot more information to share as well. Please call and we'll have a conversation!

As always, if you can't listen live, you can go to the web site and listen to the podcast or the You Tube version, whenever you have time.

There's a great opportunity to meet the candidates this Saturday, April 12, from Noon – 3pm at the American Legion building in Post Falls (1138 Poleline Ave.) Stop by and say hello to those asking for your vote. It's free and I'd love to see you there!

Have a great rest of the week and please consider sending a donation of any size to my campaign. I would sincerely appreciate any help you can offer. The address is below. Thanks! --Mary

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(*Dist 2 is east and north of CdA, Dist 3 is west and south, and Dist 4 is mainly CdA)

*Mary Souza is a 27 year resident of CdA, local small business owner and is running for State Senate, Dist. 4. Her opinions are her own. To sign up for the free weekly newsletter, or access a free archive of past columns, visit www.marysouzacda.com
Comments can be sent to marysouzacda@gmail.com. Please visit the local issues web site www.OpenCdA.com for more discussion.*