

Video Debate (@ Coeur d'Alene Press Online): Ron Mendive v Michelle Lippert

By Joker

Brian Walker moderates. Nice t-shirt!

Ok this debate is a total letdown after the Eberlein classic. Both candidates were nice, professional and respectful.

Lippert seemed to win on points. Mendive fumbled when pressed to go beyond the talking points. Lippert did well by pressing him to give specifics and examples.

Lippert talked a lot about new ideas and difference perspective, but she didn't offer much in terms of specifics either. She came across smarter and better prepared. Mendive was a total gentleman and never lost his cool.

Now the play by play.

Walker asks what changes need to be made at the state level?

Long pause from Lippert, who goes first. "That's a big topic." alls for a diversity of opinion. Diversity of jobs. Livable wages. Diversity in thought.

Walker is some calm and soothing. I miss Jeff Selle already.

Ron talks about competition in education. This is code for home schooling and a voucher system aka Educational savings account. Nice to see the Republicans have rebranded this idea to sound more friendly.

Mendive wants to cash poor schools across the state to have even less money. Nice work Ron. Now he's talking about a Down's Syndrome child in Sunday school. The translations:

Boot the special needs back to the parents with a little bit of cash from the state and let them figure it out.

Lippert reminds Mendive about the constitutional mandate.

Takes apart the idea and says it would destroy public education. Then goes about talking about how education

funding has been reduced. Those pesky facts.

Mendive looks at Lippert like she's a strange creature from another world called planet Earth.

Lippert predicts a real disaster in public education.

Walker switches gears to job creation. Say more livable wages are needed.

Ron – trying to get gain control of public lands from the federal government. Wants to take advantage of the resources. Wants to mine federal land. Don't we all? Wealth in this state that we can't use. Our hands are tied. If Idaho could manage those lands, we could turn this state around.

Mendive doesn't support raising the minimum wage. Wants people to do it themselves. Which works great because everybody is doing that.

Lippert. Wants to talk about federal lands, points out the constitution and Idaho would violate it if they seized it back, and how it would cost \$400 million a year. She also says that the only way to make money on the land is selling it to private people and that's not a good idea.

On to education, Lippert points out that the market wants and educated workforce – yet the costs are prohibitive for young people attending college.

More facts about the average age of a minimum wage worker is 35. Challenges Mendive.

Mendive goes back to the federal land thing. UGH. Good gravy. Now he's talking about Shoshone county.

Walker switches gears – He's so calm. He's not angry. This sucks. Topic health care.

Lippert wants to give more free health care and Mendive pulls out a little piece of yellow paper. Crib notes! She keeps talking about people bleeding to death on the steps. I have no idea of what she is talking about.

Mendive responds. He contends there is no such thing as federal dollars. Points out that half of Idaho's budget is from the federal government. He talked to a doctor at the Dirne Clinic. They turn away 300 patients a week because they don't have the half. Most doctors are refusing Medicaid patients. Lot of things wrong with Medicaid expansion.

He discloses that he had something growing in his nose – ewwwww. His state insurance made him wait 3 months.

Walker pits Lippert versus Mendive with one question.

She wants to know where the resources will come from? Mendive struggles to answer. Wants the state to pay for health care with a high deductible. Take ownership? HUH? I am

confused. This makes no sense. Now he's talking about giving away money so that people have ownership. He wants individuals to pay for their own medical expenses. Screw insurance.

Lippert is puzzled (me too).

Wonders what the source of the money is? (Me too). Mendive says we're already paying for it. Again, This guy is speaking gibberish.

Mendive waxes about being compassionate.

Mendive's question: Doesn't have one. Just says we have two different world views and calls it a beautiful system.

Big finish

Lippert -- Impressive educator's resume. Points out young people are leaving the state. Says the Republican government has done nothing for 20 years. Time for new ideas.

Mendive -- As done a lot of things, contractor, bulldozer. Has a mantra that he's a statesman.