

Tom_Hearn May 24, 2016, 2:13 p.m.

RE: Whither goeth Tom Hearn?

To respond to Dave's question, I'm quite confident that I would have beat Kathy Sims in the fall and I am equally confident that if people pay attention to the qualifications, backgrounds and ideas of the candidates that I will also do very well against Mr. Amador. I don't intend to run my campaign on the blogs, but I think Mr. Crawford's comment about Paul Amador likely being more "effective" in the legislature because he is a Republican deserves a response.

I personally like Mr. Amador and he is a very nice young man. He has many good qualities and either one of us will be better than Kathy Sims next winter in the legislature. But if Paul is elected he will join a group of legislators who control things in Boise who have not served us well. So what have the people in control in the legislature in Boise done for us? They know there is a problem with education funding but were not able to increase it this past session beyond the 2009 funding levels. Their own studies say that millions of dollars would be saved and many people helped with lifesaving medical care but they were unable to expand Medicaid to help these people. The controlling party knows that our roads are in serious need of repair but instead they can't figure out how to fund the repairs and in the 2015 session were unable to pass legislation that adequately funds repair of our highways. It is the leadership in the legislature that allowed educational science standards that were created by teachers to be killed because, God forbid, they contain information about global climate change and evolution. Under the pressure of corporate lobbyists who wanted to reduce corporate property taxes, they raised our homeowner's property taxes this year for anyone with a house worth more than \$200,000 by freezing the home owner exemption at \$100,000. Just wait till people receive their tax bills next December (after the election) and you will have a lot of people upset and you will see who the legislative leadership is most concerned about.

There are many other issues I could and will talk about, but the point is that it is the Democrats in the legislature who have been the ones fighting for our schools, for adequate medical care for the working poor, for fair taxation, for public lands and for many other issues that concern the average person. This is the year people want to see change (Trump or Bernie) and sending another young Republican to join the dysfunctional group in control in Boise is not going to bring about real change. I have been fighting for our children and the schools on the school board and with the Idaho School Board's Association. I have fought for years to protect children from abuse in my clinical work. I have a proven record of fighting for what I think is right. I look forward to the debate about who has the best ideas and qualifications, who can fight for real change, and who would best serve the citizens of Coeur d'Alene in the legislature.