

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Name: Lynn M. Luker
Office: Representative, District 15 Seat A

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SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF IDAHO

Campaign Contacts:
Mailing Address: 514 S. El Blanco Drive
 Boise, ID 83709
Phone: (208) 375-8254
Email: voteluker@earthlink.net
Website: www.voteluker.com

Biography & Qualifications: I was born in 1953 at Idaho Falls, a 4th generation Idahoan. My mother's grandfather and father emigrated from the Volga German Colonies in Russia, settling in Power and then Bannock County where they farmed. Dave Jeffries, my maternal great grandfather, was the first sheriff of Power County. My father's parents farmed in Oneida and Bannock counties during the 20s and 30s, later settling in Pocatello. His mother emigrated from Germany in 1904. My parents both attended Pocatello High. Dad served as a B-24 ball turret gunner in Italy during WWII and with the Idaho National Guard 116th Engineering Battalion in Korea.

I grew up in Idaho Falls through the first grade, later living in Florida and California while my father worked for NASA. My 4-H projects were raising lambs and bees, and I earned the Eagle Scout award. After serving an LDS mission in Southern Germany, I graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a political science degree. In 1980, I received a law degree from the University of Idaho College of Law, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Idaho Law Review* (1979-80). I served for two years as a law clerk to the Hon. Chief Justice Robert E. Bakes of the Idaho Supreme Court. Since 1982 I have been in the private practice of law in Boise focusing primarily on workers' compensation and disability law. In addition to client counseling, case investigation, research, negotiation and trial work, I argued over 20 cases before the Idaho Supreme Court, and obtained over 100 hours of mediation training at the U of I.

Volunteer professional positions have included: Member, Idaho Appellate Rules Committee; Chair, Idaho State Bar Workers' Compensation Section; Member, Governor's Advisory Committee on Workers' Compensation; Chair, Workers' Compensation Specialist Certification Committee; Member, Idaho State Bar Fee Arbitration Panel; and Member, University of Idaho College of Law Advisory Council since 2012. In 2012 I was awarded the Walter H. Bithell Professionalism Award from the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association.

I met and married Helen Dahlquist while attending college in Berkeley. We have 8 children, 20 grandchildren and 2 on the way. Other volunteer service has been with the Boy Scouts, my church, as a youth soccer referee, and as president of our neighborhood water association. Favorite past times are backpacking, hiking, fishing, family history, gardening, playing harmonica, spending time with family.

Legislative Experience: First elected November, 2006, Idaho House of Representatives - District 15. Current service: Chair, Local Government Committee, Member, State Affairs, Judiciary and Rules, and House Ethics Committees. Prior service: Chair, House Ethics Committee (2013-2014); Vice-Chair, Judiciary and Rules Committee (2011-2014); Member, Health and Welfare Committee (2007-2010); Interim legislative committees: Urban Renewal (2008), Public Defense Reform (2013-2015); Health Care Task Force (2013-2015). I successfully sponsored a variety of bills dealing with safeguarding public funds, protecting homeowner rights, eliminating public funding of political parties, fostering free market choices in health care, improving daycare while preserving family choice, updating the public defense system, and reducing sentences from misdemeanors to infractions for minor offenses. My work has included sponsoring a number of bipartisan bills including safeguarding public funds, upgrading legal aid and public defense, improving administrative hearing processes, and forming an Inspector General office.

Priorities: My priority is to solve public problems with a light governmental touch, utilizing fiscal responsibility, preserving maximum personal liberty, while ensuring public safety, health, and strong educational opportunities. I would like to continue work on reclassifying sentencing to better fit the crime, repealing the grocery tax, improving health care access and system efficiency, completing funding of the education career ladder while developing Idaho based education standards, improving access to and efficiency of Idaho higher education, and fostering a business climate utilizing level playing fields, reasonable tax rates, and minimum necessary regulation. My legal and legislative experience allows me to effectively draft and refine legislation, mediate differences, identify and avoid unintended consequences, and work across political spectrums to find Idaho solutions to issues requiring governmental action.