

## Candidate Statement

Name: Laurene Sorensen

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF IDAHO

**REVIEWED**

I moved to Latah County 13 years ago to be with my husband, a longtime small business owner and community philanthropist. Now I plan to use my 30 years of experience as a lawyer, mediator, community volunteer, and businesswoman to benefit the people of Latah and Benewah Counties.

In May 2014, I was honored as queen of Moscow's Renaissance Fair. That event occurred days after the death of my husband, John Crock. The amount of support and love I felt at a time when everything should have been bleak crystallized my dedication to our community. Every time someone congratulated me, all I could answer was, "I serve you." This call to service motivated me to reach beyond my personal commitment to volunteerism and pro bono legal work to serve my community in Boise.

I'm pro-education and pro-business, because in my district those values are inseparable. Statewide, we need an educated, job-ready workforce in order to compete. In the 5<sup>th</sup> district, this interplay is even stronger. Higher education drives our economy, keeping small businesses vibrant, employing moms and dads, promoting entrepreneurship, and partnering with farmers to develop and promote the best practices.

My professional experience includes state and municipal finance, mediation, negotiation, law, organizational development, and project management. My familiarity with the various ways we can pay for schools, roads, and other basic needs will help me make smart, practical choices that are good for my constituents.

I am also an outdoorswoman, committed to promoting access to our public lands for current and future recreation. Learning, working, and playing are all critical to our quality of life.

Community service has been part of my life since elementary school, when I knocked on doors in my neighborhood to raise funds for cystic fibrosis. I have been a board member for Heart of the Arts, Inc., which manages Moscow's 1912 Center and now serve on the board of directors of the Moscow Food Co-op, downtown Moscow's largest retail business.

My education includes a bachelor's degree in English and History from Oberlin College, a master's degree in English from Columbia University and a law degree from Georgetown University.