

REVIEWED

Richard Kohles Candidate for Idaho State House of Representatives District II B

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Age: 76

Occupation: Real Estate agent and Associate Broker Coldwell Banker Schneidmiller Realty 31 years

Married to Jean Kohles: We celebrated 50 wonderful years together on December 18th 2015. We moved to North Idaho in June of 1973, and Idaho has been our home ever since.

I am currently the "Neighborhood Watch" coordinator for Loch haven Hills Homeowners Association. What I am learning from that experience is that the safest neighborhoods are those where the people know each other and come together occasionally to share some time with community clean-up, garage sales, or a quiet party.

In the past I served for 6 years on the Post Falls School Board, for 8 years on the Hospice of North Idaho Board of Directors, one year on the North Idaho College Board of Trustees, 8 years on the Board of Transitional Employment Services for the Handicapped (TESH), 6 years on the Women's Center Board of Directors, one year as President of the Coeur d'Alene Association of Realtors, one year as President of the Multiple Listing Service, and one year on the local Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity.

I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Patrick's College in Menlo Park, California with 36 semester credit hours from St. Patrick's in Theology. In addition I have 95 graduate quarter hours from California State University in Hayward, California toward a Master's Degree in Counseling. In addition, I have taken numerous Real Estate Classes over the past 31 years.

My priorities are unity, non-violence, how we treat each other and the earth as well as what I perceive as the solution for future generations: education.

1. Unity: A major problem for our country is the division that exists in our country, politically, religiously, and economically. The deep chasms that have developed over the past 20 years in those institutions have divided us and made us weak as a state and a nation. Division prevents us from coming together to accomplish our critical goals. Like the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel, we no longer speak the language of cooperation. We seem unable to bridge the gap of ideas and convictions, sometimes seeing those who disagree as the enemy. So one of my criteria for legislation will be how it unites us as a community and as a state. Together we can accomplish great things.

2. Non-violence: During my life our country has fought many wars with each war setting the stage for the next one. We continue as a country and a state to believe that violence solves problems. History demonstrates that such a view is simply not accurate. Whether it's on the road, at our job, in our family,

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dealing with crime, violence has to be an absolute last resort. Just look at our growing prison population to see some of our failure on this level.

3. How we treat each other and how that leads to how we treat the earth: We live in a culture that believes that "Time is money". So we speed up, always pushed to move faster. Consequently, we make mistakes; we eat too fast and too much: we have limited time for sharing with our neighbor, and we mistake accomplishment for happiness. Sadly also, we live like money is our primary value, and that belief leads many of us to become insensitive to the impact our actions have on others as well as the earth. As a country and a state, we have been careless with our water, our air and our land. Life will be unsustainable unless we change our attitude and behavior. Like every drug for sale in our economy, every action we take in life has "side effects". We have to wisely weigh the impact of what we are doing against those side effects. If we start with the attitude that life is a gift, we have a chance of changing our priorities. If we recognize that service creates happiness, we can begin to lose our anger and smile again.

4. Education: I hear a lot of talk about what we are leaving our children economically. We certainly want them to have some of the chances we have had throughout their lives. However, ignorance is the greatest longterm problem we face. Our children deserve a truly world class education. They have to be smarter, wiser, and more knowledgeable than we have been. The problems brewing in Idaho and our country for the foreseeable future are far greater than the ones we have faced. Our children need to be prepared with knowledge as well as reasoning skills to deal with those problems effectively.

I will weigh any proposed legislation against these priorities and encourage my fellow legislators to do the same.

In addition I recommend that any voter should read the Idaho democratic platform at idahodemocrats.org. It is relatively brief statement that is clear, relatively brief and well thought out. I agree with it completely.