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I was born and raised in the Twin Falls area where I grew up with a strong work ethic and sense of community. It is also where I met the love of my life, my husband of eight years, Daniel. Like many young Idahoans, my husband and I left the state to pursue opportunities in employment and to continue our education. We spent nearly ten years living in Austin, Texas. During that time, I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology while establishing a career in administration, operations, and logistics. While studying people and cultures across time and space, I developed a passion for understanding societies, governments, resource and land use, cultural interactions and methodology. I was selected to represent my university abroad and was awarded a scholarship to participate in a field school program to study Mayan archaeology in Belize. I worked for several years in the operations and project management fields in Austin, Texas.

After the birth of our first son, my husband and I chose to move back to Idaho so our children could enjoy the same quality of life we grew up knowing. We were drawn back to this state with its abundant lands, strong communities, and independent spirit. My heart belongs to the mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, lakes, farms, and people of my home state and we knew there was no better place to raise our family. We now have two sons and I enjoy the wonderful responsibility of caring for them and managing our household. Nothing is more important to me than ensuring and protecting their health, safety, and well-being. Quality education is a priority for me and for all parents in our communities. Idaho ranks 47th in the nation for educational investment. West Ada School District ranks 101 out of 115 districts in Idaho for per pupil spending, amounting to \$6,700 per student in the 2014-2015 school year - well below the \$10,700 national average. I believe our children deserve better.

Clean water, clean air, and strong, safe communities are something we're lucky enough to take for granted in Idaho. Since moving back, however, I have watched legislation pass that restricts local control and sets a dangerous precedent benefiting industry over individuals. The right to local control has recently been diminished through legislative action including banning the disuse of plastic bags, outlawing local minimum wage increases, and stifling the ability of our local governments to determine whether or not oil and gas speculation is appropriate for our communities. These actions have detrimental effects on our property and home values, small, growing, and potential businesses, agriculture and wildlife, water and air quality, and many other aspects important to our neighborhoods. In addition, these actions are an affront to the voice of the people and the independent spirit that help define Idaho. We connect through the land, recreation, values, and work to create strong communities. Local governments are testbeds of innovation, and the freedom to be involved is important to people being effectively represented.

There is a growing rift in Idaho's political atmosphere where party politics and special interests supercede the needs of the people. Another legislative session came to a close this year leaving more than 78,000 Idahoans uninsured, while members of the LGBTQ community were left unprotected as the words "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" failed to make it to the Idaho Human Rights Act. I feel strongly that it's time for our communities to have a voice and seat at the decision-making table. I have spent countless hours volunteering and organizing for these issues and I have the desire and motivation to be a voice in the legislature for us. I will represent our lands by ensuring we protect our clean water, air, and public spaces that connect us all. I will represent our children by ensuring they are receiving the education they deserve and their schools are well-equipped. I will represent our people by ensuring we have a voice in our legislature - that our individuality, private property and local autonomy are protected. I am many things - I am a mother, a wife, an anthropologist, a community organizer, a volunteer, an activist, a knitter, a friend and neighbor. I am running for Idaho State Senate because I believe together we can bring our government back to the people.