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SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF IDAHO

### ***Candidate Statement: Joel H. Robinson Idaho House 16A***

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Name: Joel H. Robinson  
Office Title: Idaho House 16A Republican

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**I don't sound or act like a regular Republican. Read on and see if you agree.  
If you have never voted for a Republican, skip to the bottom of this letter.**

### ***Joel's Biography & Qualifications***

I am a full-time software QA engineer for a small company in Boise. I have an MBA and Masters in Computer Science. My wife Brenda and I moved to Boise in 1995 from Florida. We have been married 41 years now. We have two children and six grandchildren. At age 63 I enjoy snowboarding, skiing, hiking, hunting, riding motorcycles, and camping. I volunteer for various charities, and serve as a Protestant chaplain when needed. I am conversational in Spanish and in American Sign Language.

- In 2014 I ran for the Idaho Senate in district 16. (lost)
- In 2015 I was appointed by the Ada County Commissioners as a volunteer on the Ada County Board of Guardians. We help the truly destitute of Ada County.

### ***Why vote for Joel Robinson? My Four Top Priorities***

1. **Represent the voice of the pre-born child.** I am pro-life. I will do whatever I can whenever I can to incrementally reduce abortions in Idaho. Idaho has been stuck at 6% of pregnancies being aborted for years. That is roughly 1,500 human babies plus an unknown number of abortions by infanticide pill or out-of-state providers. We can never eliminate all pre-born deaths, but we can continue educating and supporting pregnant women and families. I don't know the costs yet, because I don't know what we can do. However the legislature has wisely set up a constitutional defense fund to defend legislative actions. Every pro-life bill, no matter how small or reasonable, will be attacked by defenders of the abortion industry.
2. **Police & Prison Reform:** Idaho has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world. Our prison system has proven by the courts to be corrupt and wasteful, filling "for-profit" prisons with addicts and non-violent offenders. I will work to reduce or eliminate mandatory prison guidelines. We need to continue substituting infractions for prison,

switching to addiction centers, and reforming parole to get offenders back working and supporting their families. Reducing prison populations will save Idaho millions. Each prisoner costs \$55/day and our prisons & jails are FULL.

The legislature also needs to carefully regulate law enforcement to clarify when they may use deadly force. We see video after video of police shooting people for minor offenses like running away, making sudden movements, putting their hands in their pockets, or even just disobeying officers. The legislature needs to take charge and restore public trust in prisons and police.

3. **Stop Payday Loan abuses.** Idaho has some of the highest payday loan rates in the nation, up to 900% per year. Our average is over 500% a year. These 'stores' sell poverty and financial bondage. Twenty other states have stopped this abuse of the consumer. Idaho has taken only small, ineffective steps to combat this powerful lobbying industry. We need lower interest rates and provide consumer protection and education. Thousands are trapped in a vicious cycle of loans. When other states restrict payday loan interest rates and fees, most choose the federal limit of 36% per year that applies to military families. That should be the standard for all Idaho residents, not just military.
4. **Legalize compassionate medical marijuana use.** Idaho needs to prepare now for the inevitable legalization of medical marijuana. Remember Otter's veto of the experimental marijuana derivative treatment for children with epilepsy and seizures? Cutting off their hope was unkind! The legislature should start the paperwork now to provide safe help for veterans with PTSD, cancer patients, and other compassionate uses. The majority of Idahoans already favor medical marijuana. Who do you want making your medical decisions, cops or doctors?

The hardest part will be convincing committee chairmen to give it a vote. Paying for it will be easy by comparison. Idaho can regulate and tax this drug just as we do cigarettes and distilled spirits. Idaho will benefit from tax revenues and lower prison/jail/court costs.

Listen, for most of my life I was dead-set against all marijuana use. But I see now I was wrong! I am a volunteer chaplain. Many have confided in me that they are successfully handling difficult medical issues this way. Why jail them? What good will that do? Three dozen states have shown it can be done. Do we really want to jail our vets, our kids, our grandkids? Do you want your kids or grandkids with seizures to get 6 months in the joint for trying stay alive? The federal government will soon declassify marijuana from its current status. Idaho needs to wake up and admit our war on marijuana has been wasteful and wrong. Only the drug cartels and prison industry have profited. *For the record I am 63 years old, non-smoker, and have never even smelled marijuana, much less tried it. I've never had cancer either, but that doesn't mean I can't sympathize with those who suffer from it.*

**Still reading? Good. email me and tell me what you think. [ElectJoelRobinson@gmail.com](mailto:ElectJoelRobinson@gmail.com)**

PS. I admit I don't have any spare money to run this campaign. If you agree with even one of my four points I would appreciate some help. District 16 has a STRONG incumbent. My address is above. My web site takes PayPal.