

Candidate Statement

16 APR 21 PM 3:36

Name: Luke Malek

Office Title: Representative, District 4 Seat A

Campaign Contacts: luke@lukemalek.com, www.lukemalek.com,www.facebook.com/LukeMalekforIdaho, www.twitter.com/LukeMalekSECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF IDAHO

1. Biography: I was first elected in 2012 to represent the 4th legislative district – the Coeur d’Alene area – in our Idaho Legislature. I have experience in private and public enterprises, having worked as the Director of Legal Affairs at Heritage Health, for the Office of the Governor as the Regional Director in Northern Idaho under former Governor Risch, as the Executive Director of the Post Falls Urban Renewal Agency, and as a Deputy Prosecutor for Kootenai County. I am currently partner in the law firm Smith + Malek in addition to your representative. I earned my B.A. at College of Idaho in Caldwell, hold a law degree from the University of Idaho, and am a member of the Idaho Bar.

In my free time, I enjoy fishing, hunting and skiing with my family.

2. Why vote for me, what are my top priorities? I chose to and continue to serve in the Idaho House of Representatives, because I believe North Idaho needs someone in Boise that truly strives to *represent* us. To me, being a Representative means seeking out opinions and ideas, listening to all constituents at every opportunity, and then bringing your voice to the Capitol. It means collaborating with you to create Idaho solutions to some very real problems.

I know we each have our own priorities and passions, but mine – aside from bringing your voice to Boise – are education, jobs and the economy, health care, and criminal justice. My number one priority as your Representative is ensuring our kids’ futures through education supported by strong, just policies to promote choice for families and adequate funding. This year, I supported fully funding the Career Ladder, led the charge to create a solution that allows schools in Idaho to secure their own broadband Internet access from private enterprises, and to bring the first ever 4-year degree program to Coeur d’Alene.

I believe we have the potential to attract diverse businesses and have exponential development in our economy, which is why I support adopting a favorable tax environment and understand the value of having a trained workforce. Education and the economy go hand-in-hand, and I am committed to both, as evidenced by my votes to bring a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science to Coeur d’Alene and to create widespread broadband access. As an added benefit, once the fiber connection is laid in the ground for schools to access, businesses and residences will be able to connect, thus further expounding upon Idaho’s limitless economic potential.

Idaho is facing a healthcare crisis: we have nearly 80,000 uninsured residents, which costs the state millions of taxpayer dollars every year. I am determined to finding a long-term solution through the increased presence of primary care. Recently, I helped increase suicide prevention practices in the Department of Health and Welfare, bring a crisis center to North Idaho, and secured funding for additional centers across Idaho. These behavioral health crisis centers help patients gain access to treatment for mental health diseases and addiction instead of incarcerating them, which places additional burden on our police officers. Also, I led the charge to expand firefighters' coverage for certain cancers under the Workmen's Compensation laws. We're on our way to a healthier Idaho!

While there is still much work to be done, I believe we made great strides for Idaho. I truly appreciate your input to ensure Idaho remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play, and look forward to hearing from you soon.