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SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF IDAHO

Name: Catherine Talkington

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1. Biography – Qualifications

I was raised in a local farming and independent business family. My husband and I returned to Twin Falls so our children could grow up around family. They have told us that was a good decision. I have a BS - Education, University of Idaho; Masters - Education, U of I; Masters -Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Boise State University. I'm having an ongoing 40+ year teaching career with high school reading and English, including years at Magic Valley Alternative High School.

I'm invested in Twin Falls and helping make my community thrive. In addition to teaching, I worked as Business Manager of the local YMCA. My husband and I owned a 7-11 franchise gas-convenience store. We invested in the start-up finance of Magic Valley Bank, an independent financial institution. I was a part-time educational consultant to alternative-school seniors encouraging job training certification at the College of Southern Idaho. I've taught English to adults of other languages and I tutor children in an after-school program. Chris and I have three daughters, son-in-law and a delightful granddaughter. I enjoy outside activities, am active in my community.

2. Why Vote for me? My top priorities.

I'm running for Idaho's Legislature because it's time for Idahoans to see more balance of ideas and voices in their representation. Competition is crucial for voters, leading to discussions of competing ideas to enact creative ways of solving Idaho's issues by the most economical means.

Quality education has to be # 1 priority. We must give our children, their families and businesses the opportunities and skills to succeed. Technical and formal education is the surest way to increase job skills. Yet currently, underfunded public schools cut teaching days and use outdated materials. My school district is having difficulty filling classroom positions with highly qualified teachers, and our college/university teacher ed programs have vacancies. It's essential we listen: our kids, families and businesses throughout the state tell us education must have our full commitment.

I know how important it is to listen and to consider challenges from different perspectives. My professional teaching career, working with thousands of people, have taught me that our future is bright if we spend our tax dollars smartly on programs that work.

In the thousands of doors I've knocked on, access to our public lands is also a high value with Idahoans. Tourism is one of our top industries and is growing exponentially because of our unique land and water legacies. Continued fishing, hunting, camping, biking and skiing all depend on multiple-use of our lands, not corrupted by land sellouts to corporate raiders and proliferation of "No Trespassing" signs.