

REVIEWED

Candidate Statement

Name: Tom Hearn

16 APR 22 AM 7:49
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF IDAHO

Office Title: Legislative District 4B Coeur d'Alene

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1. Biography

Hearn was born in San Francisco, California, on April 25, 1949. He was raised in Lafayette, California, a suburb in the San Francisco East Bay, and attended public schools. His father was a corporate executive in a clothing company in San Francisco and his mother was a housewife. He was raised in traditional Irish Catholic fashion and, entered a seminary as a young man, and briefly considered the priesthood. Hearn enrolled in California State University at Chico in 1967, majoring in psychology and sociology. He graduated with a two Bachelor's degree. Hearn moved to Spokane, Washington, following graduation and worked for two years at a residential treatment center for delinquent youth. Hearn moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, in early 1976, and has remained an Idaho resident since then. Hearn was hired by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in January 1977 as a Child Protective Services social worker in Sandpoint and assigned to investigate allegation of child abuse, neglect and abandonment in Bonner County, Idaho. He has been married to Kathy (Johnson) Hearn since 1980. The Hearn family temporarily moved to Seattle, to allow Hearn to attend the University of Washington. Hearn returned to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Coeur d'Alene office in 1981, completed his academic work and was awarded a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work.

The Hearn family has two children, Molly and Patrick, who were born and raised in Coeur d'Alene. Kathy is now a retired teacher, having spent most of her career in the Post Falls School District working in special education with severely disabled children. Hearn began a part-time private practice in 1983 and, in 1986, resigned from governmental service to pursue a private practice full-time. Initially a part owner of Interfaith Family Counseling Services, Hearn became the sole owner of North Idaho Treatment Associates in 1995 until his retirement in September 2013. Hearn's mental health clinic specialized in the assessment and treatment of physical and sexual abuse victims and perpetrators. The Hearn family has four young grandchildren. Three reside with their parents, Molly and Trevor Smith, and attend Coeur d'Alene public schools. The fourth

resides with her parents and attends school in Pahoia, Hawaii.

Tom Hearn was elected to the Coeur d'Alene School Board in May 2013. He was elected in Zone 5, encompassing the central area of Coeur d'Alene, by nearly 70% of the vote. This was Hearn's first venture into holding elected public office. Hearn has written many issue-oriented letters that have been printed in the Coeur d'Alene Press over the years, and has openly supported numerous Democratic candidates in local, state, and national campaigns. Based on his established knowledge, integrity and good standing within his profession, Hearn was appointed by three governors--Cecil Andrus, Dirk Kempthorne and Butch Otter--to state boards as well as by two Attorneys General--Jim Jones and Alan Lance--to state task forces. He has testified before the legislature a number of times as a member of these state boards and task forces.

Qualifications

Hearn's public duties and appointments include: Coeur d'Alene School District Board of Trustees, elected in May 2013; Region 1 Chair, Idaho School Board Association, elected November 2014; CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer, 2014-2015; Sex Offender Classification Board, appointed by Governor Dirk Kempthorne in September 2000 and reappointed by Governor Otter in 2008; Idaho State Board of Social Work Examiners, appointed by Governor Cecil Andrus in 1990; Co-founder of Kootenai County Child Abuse Task Force, 1990-1999; Member Idaho Attorney General's "Children's Task Force," appointed by Attorney General Jim Jones in 1988; Member Idaho Attorney General's Sex Offender Community Notification Task Force, appointed by Attorney General Al Lance in 1997; President and founding member of Idaho Association for the Treatment of Sex Abusers, 1993-1995; Founding member and President of the Idaho Network for Children (a state chapter of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse), 1984-1986.; Part time Instructor, Lewis and Clark State College and University of Idaho, 1987-1988 and 1990; Sunrise Coeur d'Alene Rotary, 1999-2001; Children's Village Board of Directors, 1988-1989; Board of Directors, Friends of Head Start 1995-2007; North Idaho College Presidential Search Committee, 1997; President, Far North Branch, Idaho Chapter of National Association of Social Workers, 1989-1991;

2. Why vote for Tom Hearn?

Hearn presents as amiable, affable, even-tempered and courteous. He is intelligent, articulate, and an attentive and perceptive listener. Even though somewhat soft-spoken, Hearn's passion for the protection of children, for medical and mental health care for those in need, and his knowledge of public education issues become quickly evident after even a short conversation with him. He is a quick thinker and a good debater. In short, Hearn is qualified to be a legislator, likeable and approachable. He is moderate in his political views and is open to listening to and representing the concerns of the citizens of Coeur d'Alene

My Top Priorities

SHARED IDAHO VALUES Idahoans value responsibility, freedom, hard work, fairness, our families, our churches, our communities and our independence. Those values are my values. We deserve to have a local and state government that supports these values and works for all of us, a government that is as lean, effective, efficient and hard working as Idaho workers.

REAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION Strong support for public education is very important to me. When I am elected I will spend my time in the legislature fighting for Idaho's children and families. I have done this both on the Coeur d'Alene School Board and as Region 1 Chair of the Idaho School Boards Association. During my time on the Coeur d'Alene School Board I have worked with other board members to create a board that is more open and transparent and to improve the quality of education for our children. I have listened to the citizens of Coeur d'Alene about what they want to see in their public schools. I have helped put an end to the divisiveness that created problems for the school board in the past. I have also seen the people of Coeur d'Alene step up over and over again to support their schools, and it is time we had representatives in Boise who do the same.

REFORM TAXES Tax reform is a major concern of mine and for all of us. If we want to have true tax reform and tax cuts which help the average citizens in Coeur d'Alene, then we should start by increasing our state funding of schools so that school districts would not be forced to turn to the local property taxpayers to pay for schools that the legislature should be funding. In the 35 years I have lived in Coeur d'Alene these levies have significantly increased because of inadequate state funding. Supplemental levies are now nearly 1/4 of the Coeur d'Alene School district's budget. As any business owner knows, we need to invest money into our communities if we are to make Idaho a better place to live and raise our families. Supporting great public schools, adequate public services, infrastructure improvement for our highways and broadband infrastructure is investing in our communities. Half of our Idaho college graduates move away from Idaho within 4 years. We need to make Idaho, and Coeur d'Alene, a place where young parents can get a job that pays enough to support their families.

I am excited to continue to listen to and learn from the people of this community. I will represent Coeur d'Alene in a manner we can all be proud of. When I am elected, I pledge to be: **“The Change We Deserve, the Voice We Need.”**