

REVIEWED

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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If you have seen my HOME MADE SIGNS around Boise, please do three things:

1. Pray for our country and our police. I am a volunteer chaplain and I believe in prayer.
2. Register to vote. Everyone should vote. It's our country.
3. Support me with your vote. (Want a sign in your yard?)

Joel's Biography & Qualifications

I am a full-time software QA engineer for a small company in Boise. I have an MBA and MS in Computer Science. My wife Brenda and I came to Boise in 1995 from Florida. We've been married 41 years, with two children and six grandchildren. At age 63 I enjoy snowboarding, motorcycles, camping, and volunteering for charities, including serving as a Protestant chaplain. I am conversational in Spanish and 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

Pro Life; Prison Reform, Pay Day Loan Reform, and Medical Marijuana, especially for Veterans.

1. **Represent the voice of the pre-born child.** I am pro-life. I will do whatever 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 also must continue educating women about all options and supporting pregnant women and families.

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2. **Prison & Police 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.

My son was a cop. I am a graduate of the Boise Civilian Police Academy. I support and pray for our police. But I believe the legislature also needs to carefully regulate law enforcement to clarify when they may use deadly force. We’ve seen sickening videos of police shooting people for offenses like running away, making a movement, or 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 abuses. Thousands are trapped in a vicious cycle of loans. Other states restrict payday loan interest rates and fees, Idaho should too.
4. **Legalize compassionate medical marijuana use.** Legalization is inevitable. We should allow compassionate uses like veterans with PTSD, cancer patients, children with epilepsy. Most Idahoans already favor medical marijuana. Idaho can regulate and tax this like distilled spirits. Police/prison/jail/court expenses will drop too. Who do you want making your medical decisions, cops or doctors?

The hardest part will be convincing other legislators to give it a vote. 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. Three dozen states have shown it can be done. Do we really want to jail our vets, our kids, our grandkids? 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 miss-directed. 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 and need help.

PS. (Want a sign in your yard?)

I am self-funding this campaign. I would appreciate your help.

If you would like to sponsor a sign call me.

