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Republican candidate, secretary of state
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1. Outgoing state superintendent Tom Luna has pushed the state Land Board to maintain smaller balances in reserves, in order to boost payments to K-12. Do you support such an idea? Why or why not?

Not entirely, because of the cyclical nature of returns to the endowments. I do believe that we need to maintain a reserve sufficient to level out the payment. Given the data that we have collected over the years, it should be easy to determine the size of the balance that we need to maintain to accomplish that goal.

2. In February, the Land Board voted to suspend the purchase of commercial properties. Do you support this move, and keeping this moratorium intact? Are there any circumstances under which you support adding commercial properties to the state's endowment portfolio?

I do support the move to suspend the purchase of commercial properties and am in favor of removing this practice permanently from the Assess Management Plan. Under no circumstance should the state be competing with private business.

3. A recent Congressional Research Service report says federal agencies spent \$392 million managing federal lands in Idaho in 2011-12 — and the state would incur much of these costs if federal lands are transferred to the state. Could the transfer of federal lands prove to be a net loss to the state, and to the endowments supporting K-12 and other beneficiaries?

Since we cannot get a breakdown of what or how that federal money is spent, I don't know that you can say that the state would incur much of those costs. What I do know is that the state returns \$30 million to \$40 million annually to the endowments from managing the 2.4 million acres of endowment land. I cannot see that the return per acre would be much less on very similar land that is currently managed by the federal government if the state of Idaho were in control.

4. The state is beginning the process of auctioning off lakeside cabin parcels. How do you think the state should balance the interests of leaseholders against the short- and long-term interests of endowment beneficiaries?

I believe that the state is doing the right thing in divesting the endowments from the cabin site properties. Constitutionally we do that with the auction or exchange. It is nearly impossible for the state to balance all interests in the cabin site issue, therefore, I believe that it is better to divest and acquire other properties that we can manage.