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Republican candidate, superintendent of public instruction
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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?

I would work closely with other Land Board members in making sure that a steady source of income for our schools is in place for the future. If earnings are higher than anticipated then my preference would be to spread those earnings over a multiyear period. A steady source is better than a rapid increase one year with a decrease in the following years.

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?

The moratorium should stay intact until current studies are complete and a plan is in place on how the endowment portfolio should be diversified. As state superintendent I do have the responsibility to the students of our state to manage the endowment funds in a manner that will secure the maximum long-term financial return for our schools.

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?

I don't believe the federal government is going to turn over the control of all federal lands to our state. I would be in favor of a significant pilot project where a portion of land (1 percent to 5 percent) would be shifted from federal control to the state's control. The state has a history of managing lands better than the federal government, and a pilot project may provide further evidence of a net gain or loss.

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 will wait until the next auction of cabin sites is completed this fall before making this determination. I will be in favor of basing a decision on what will provide the maximum long-term financial return for Idaho's schools and what is best for Idaho and its residents.