

# Stephen Adams Candidate Profile

Age: 38



**Occupation and Work History:** I am currently a Staff Attorney with Ada County. Prior to that, I was an Adjunct Professor at Utah Valley University, where I taught night classes in the Legal Studies Program while my wife attended law school. Before that, I was an associate attorney at a firm here in Boise, where I focused on education law and governmental defense.

I have represented school districts and school boards throughout Idaho. Cases on which I've worked include *Potlatch Education Association v. Potlatch School District*, *Peterson v. Bonneville Joint School District*, *Mareci v. Coeur d'Alene School District*, *Sanders v. Board of Trustees of the Mountain Home School District No. 193*, and *Block v. City of Lewiston*. I have also presented at the Annual Education Law Institutes in Boise, and have authored and edited chapters of the Law of Education in Idaho.

**Education:** I received my BA in Music at Brigham Young University, and completed my JD at Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Theory of Candidacy:** I often see people run for an elected position purely on the idea that things need to change in some unquantifiable way. I don't always see that as a good thing. As a candidate, I am not running for office to get things changed and upset the status quo. I believe it is best to have good people in office to address situations as they arise in a logical and reasonable manner, and to plan for the future. Based on my background and skills, I would be a good fit for this position.

When change is necessary, it should be done in a thoughtful and economic way. Throwing money at a problem is rarely the best answer to a situation, and I would strive to avoid that. The best practice, where possible, is to prepare for the future; in other words, take steps now to be able to have the best options when the need for action arises. This includes attracting and hiring the best personnel, maintaining and upgrading facilities as needed, and expecting the highest academic standards from the students.

As I have two daughters attending elementary school, I hope that the coming six years are filled with useful discussion and planning, and that the students and other patrons of the district are benefitted from my service on the Board.