

## Watchmen Voter Guide for County Commissioner District 1

*\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \**

Question	<a href="#">Bill Brooks</a>	<a href="#">Nicholas Henderson</a>	<a href="#">David Stewart</a>
<p><b>2.</b> To help Kootenai County's economy grow, do you support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raising fees, (If so, which ones?)</li> <li>2. Keeping property assessments low</li> <li>3. Cutting spending (if so, what areas of the budget and by how much?)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, almost exclusively on out of state licenses and permits.</li> <li>2. Yes, especially property taxes. Property tax is an outdated and bad way to fund county government. It can only be changed by state legislators in Boise, County Commissioners cannot change state statutes.</li> <li>3. There are many expenses that have slowly crept up on the taxpayers of Kootenai County. The state keeps mandating more and more services that the county <u>must</u> provide. We need to begin a hard push back on our legislators to halt these practices.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fundamentally I oppose any raise in fees or taxes and would work with my fellow commissioners, department heads, and the public to find alternatives wherever possible.</li> <li>2. Yes, wherever the burden of Government can be eased it must be eased.</li> <li>3. Any one commissioner does not have the power to cut spending unilaterally, and must work as a team. I propose spending reductions wherever possible and will work with department heads and the BOCC to identify where those reductions can be made. Until we identify areas to reduce spending I propose a "Freeze" on the budget at its current levels.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I do not support raising fees.</li> <li>2. I support keeping property assessments low. I do not support tax increases.</li> <li>3. I believe government should only provide minimum mandated services. During my term as a Kootenai County Commissioner (2015 – 2016), I suggested to my other two partners that we start the budget with minimum mandated services and then work our way through personnel. My suggestion failed due to lack of a second vote. During my term the county's budget was \$81m and we had \$37m in the Unassigned Fund Balance Account (savings). Currently the FY- 2020 budget has increased to \$101m and the fund balance account has been reduced to \$7m. <a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Stewart's answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a></li> </ol>
<p><b>3.</b> What is your opinion of eminent domain? What is your opinion of when it should be used?</p>	<p>I am opposed to the use of eminent domain.</p>	<p>Eminent domain is an extreme measure and should only be used in extreme cases. Otherwise it is, in my opinion, a serious step of over-governance and infringes on our rights as property owners. It should never be used for the growth or benefit of private or non-profit entities.</p>	<p>In general I do not support the use of eminent domain. However, it is a necessary evil that should only be implemented for the greater good. For example... The correctly aligned roads and highways we use every day would not have been possible without the use of eminent domain. Eminent domain should never be used for private development.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Opposed. It is the illegal "taking" of private property.</p>	<p>In principle the act of forced annexation is one that I am not a fan of, especially if it is being forced on land owners against their will - thus, only in cases where all of the affected land owners of parcels of land are in agreement to the annexation, as Idaho statute 50-222(3)(a)(i) specifies, it would not be something I oppose. What is important is that the citizens rights are not violated and that every considerable measure is taken to ensure liberty is not trampled upon.</p>	<p>I do not support forced annexation. In most cases this is used as a tool by the municipality to increase taxes and provide more revenue for the municipality without providing more services.</p>

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<b>5.</b> Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?	I believe that responsible developers are more than willing to pass on reasonable impact fee to buyers of properties being developed. Those fees are passed along to the County.	We must responsibly protect our zoning to ensure that development doesn't exceed the capacity of land and water resources.	County commissioners generally do not make or have control over these decisions. For example... Decisions on highways and roads are made by the City, Highway Districts, and State. Panhandle Health and DEQ manages water and sewage, etc..., and schools are managed by School Districts.
<b>6.</b> Due to the rapid growth in our communities, our schools are reaching maximum capacity. What are your plans to accommodate more schools to meet the growing needs of the increased population?	This is not a problem that comes before the Kootenai County Board of Commissioners. I would support a more enlightened attitude in the State for private schools and home schooling.	If elected I will work with the other commissioners, the appropriate planning agencies, developers, and the public to responsibly plan for growth. The most important measure will be creating a dialogue between all of us to ensure our growth is done in a way that preserves those things about our county which we all love, while also meeting the needs of our population.	County commissioners generally do not make or have control over these decisions.
<b>7.</b> Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	Generally speaking, I do not support URDs. URDs as they exist represent taxation without representations. All monies returned to the County should be redistributed to the people who paid them originally. The County collected the money one check at a time - they should give it back one check at a time - not consider it a budget windfall and spend it.	Bringing decaying parts of our communities back is something that I do support, however burdening tax-payers county wide for improvements that only benefit or serve a small group, or select few is something that I do not support. In place of URD's I would support voter approved initiatives for funding and completing renewal projects.	I do not support the use of URD's. An URD will not only raise the property taxes of that district but will also raise the property taxes of everyone due to the loss of revenue to the county. For example... Currently there are approximately five URD's that are about to expire that have been pulling a few million dollars from the general fund annually. A 3% property tax increase generates \$1.5m in revenue. Imagine how much lower our property taxes would be if the many URD's that currently exist did not exist. The URD has no oversight by the taxpayers who funds it as well. In my humble opinion, URD's are akin to taxation without representation.
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose the proposed work release center in Kootenai County? Why or why not?	Strongly oppose. My first duty as a County Commissioner is to protect the health and safety of the residents of the County. With the recidivism rate of over 20% and perhaps as high as 80% this facility poses a real and direct threat to the people of the county. I authored the language and pushed for the advisory vote to be on the May 19th ballot.	Based on everything that I know at this point, I can say that I am not a supporter of the prisoner re-entry facility proposed for Kootenai County because of the risk to our communities this sort of facility, supposedly brings with it. To make the most informed decision I would need to see, and examine, a thorough and complete plan.	I do not support the proposed Idaho Corrections Re-Entry Center in Kootenai County. I'm not sure how any local resident could deduce that bringing inmates in from outside this area and then releasing them into our community is a good idea.
<b>9.</b> Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	Support. (See my answer to question #5).	I believe that the best course of action is one that comes from informed analyses of the needs of our communities on a case-by-case basis as they grow. Impact fees are just one "tool in the bag" for paying for the costs of development.	I believe real estate developers should pay for all infrastructure associated with their development.

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<b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I support a Countywide discussion on the merits of various forms of county government as provided by Idaho law.	I do not support the idea of an unelected individual assuming that much control over affairs that directly impact the daily lives of citizens. It is important for us to maintain representative government.	I do not support the hiring of a county manger. This person is not accountable to the voters and would be extremely difficult to remove once in place. I believe the residents of this county expect the three elected commissioners to do their job and to not simply move their responsibility to a county manager. All three commissioners must be fully informed before they vote on any given subject. This is how our government is supposed to work. In my opinion, we should expect nothing less.
<b>11.</b> With the rapid growth of Kootenai County, do you think we need more commissioners?	Yes. Keep the Commissioners close to the people.	As it stands, right now, I do not feel as though we need more commissioners and that the BOCC is more than capable at its current size. What we need are commissioners that show up, have the energy, and do their jobs every day.	I do not support the idea that five commissioners are better than three. In my opinion and from experience, this will only grow government, be more expensive, make things harder, and make government move slower.
<b>12.</b> What persons or groups have endorsed your candidacy?	No groups but many citizens (to numerous to list).	Not many organizations have put out their formal endorsements of Candidates yet. That being said, I can confidently say that I have large, and rapidly growing, support throughout the County and would like to add Candlelight Christian Fellowship to that list.	It is still early in the campaign and due to the Coronavirus we are not able to have forums or meet and greets. With that said, the following have currently endorsed and provided support of my campaign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pepper Smock – Windermere Coeur d'Alene Realty</li> <li>• John Beutler – Century 21 Beutler &amp; Associates</li> <li>• Tom Anderl – Real Estate Developer</li> <li>• Dennis Swartout – Real Estate developer</li> <li>• John Adams – Coeur d'Alene Tractor</li> <li>• Jim Thorpe – Thorco Electric</li> <li>• JD Resort, Inc.</li> <li>• Mike and Dan Reasor – Cannon Hill Industries, Inc.</li> <li>• John Magnuson – Attorney at Law</li> <li>• Janea Bruner – Realtor at Tomlinson Sotheby's International</li> <li>• Mike bruner – Odney</li> <li>• John Condon – North Idaho Maritime, LLC</li> </ul>

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<p><b>13.</b> Please detail anything else you believe would assist us in your qualifications as a County Commissioner?</p>	<p>Please go to my website: <a href="http://BillBrooks.us">BillBrooks.us</a> also if anyone has any questions please call me at (208) 699-0506 or (208) 699-Bill - anytime.</p>	<p>I have been called to serve for my entire life, from the Army, to Chaplain for the American Legion, to my current role as an EMS Helicopter Pilot - I believe I am being called to serve now as County Commissioner. We need fresh, moral, leadership in the County Commissioners office - and I am the person for the job.</p>	<p>Former Kootenai County Commissioner with a proven conservative voting record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business owner for more than 35 years here in Kootenai County.</li> <li>• Fiscally responsible. I have never filed for bankruptcy. I believe this is vitally important since this position will be responsible for the care of your tax dollars.</li> <li>• I have the life experience, discipline and skills necessary to hold this position. I believe this is vitally important.</li> </ul> <p>I am a Republican with a proven conservative voting record. I believe in less government and am fiscally responsible. I have been a business owner for more than 35 years and have managed large projects and budgets. I have a positive work history with other elected officials, chief deputies and county employees. Because of my experience, I believe I have the skills and am uniquely qualified and the best choice to be your next Kootenai County Commissioner – District 1.</p>