

## Watchmen Voter Guide for County Commissioner District 2

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

Question	Greg Delavan	<a href="#">Chris Fillios</a>	<a href="#">Elizabeth Jacobsen</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>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kootenai County is already among the fastest growing counties in the nation. I support raising fees for those activities that are optional such as: boating fees, permits, and solid waste (though we recently lowered these).</li> <li>2. This is not a county commissioner function. Assessments are determined by the assessor. The methodology is prescribed by the State of Idaho and bypasses commissioners and mayors, based on sales data and other statistical analyses.</li> <li>3. We have already cut spending from last fiscal year: specifically, we reduced the County operating budget by 3%; we reduced the tax rate by 12%, from \$ 279 per \$100K assessed value, to \$240 per assessed value. The County portion of the property taxes is only 25%. The remaining 75% are the other taxing districts/entities - over 40 – over which county commissioners have no control.</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Fillios' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At this point in time, I am not in favor of raising any fees. The only fee I would consider raising is a tourist tax. I am not in favor of raising any fees for county residents.</li> <li>2. I am not certain how to keep assessments low. That seems to be dictated by supply and demand. I am in favor of keeping assessments low so people will not be taxed out of their homes. Tax relief for the aging population may be something KC needs to implement in stronger terms.</li> <li>3. I would very carefully look at past and present agenda spending items. I would eliminate or trim back those items that are not mandated by the State or Federal Government. I recently became aware of an agenda item, approved by all three current commissioners as recently as January of this year. Approval for weekly yoga lessons for county employees was given at the cost of \$150/week</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">(The remainder of Mrs. Jacobsen's answer can be seen in her questionnaire)</a></p>
<p><b>3.</b> What is your opinion of eminent domain? What is your opinion of when it should be used?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>Eminent domain is an integral part of a jurisdiction's police power and is legal when used for public benefit. I do NOT support its use for private development and in accordance with Idaho Code 7-701A (2): "Eminent domain shall not be used to acquire private property."</p>	<p>I am not a fan of eminent domain. Like other options (I.e. Urban Renewal Districts), this can be abused. What is your opinion of when it should be used? If widening a road is necessary, then I would not be opposed. Eminent domain should only be used as a LAST resort. People's property rights come first.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>I do not support forced annexation as it acts against a property owner's right to control his/her property, in addition to increasing the property owner's taxes. It also adds to the infrastructure burden of the potentially annexing municipality.</p>	<p>Again, I oppose anything "forced." Why or why not? I suppose there would be cases where annexation is prudent or even necessary, but each case should be carefully scrutinized.</p>

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<p><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?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>The County has very little control over infrastructure as we do not have jurisdiction over roads, schools, water, etc. In Kootenai County, we have over 40 taxing districts, each with its own commissioners or directors. The County does participate in the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (KMPO), where we provide input to the transportation planning for the County. Most of the infrastructure planning is done by municipalities. Where we do interact with other entities such as highway districts for example, we coordinate our ordinances with theirs, where possible.</p> <p>At the present time, we are trying to mitigate highway district concerns with developers' property rights where certain sub-divisions are required to build roads to highway district standards. The County is presently preparing an ordinance to try to balance property rights with the need to have key roads build to highway standards.</p>	<p>I am sure infrastructure is in need of improvement. I have driven on roads that are obviously in disrepair. I also am aware of Federal grants that can help with this. I am in favor of tapping into these grants providing there are not too many onerous strings attached.</p>
<p><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?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>Again, the County is not in the education business. Schools are under the purview of municipalities, and as such are governed by their own school boards and administrative staff. However, this is an issue for our legislators to create additional opportunities within the statutes for alternative educational creation.</p>	<p>I think the Covid-19 situation has given us some opportunities for innovation in this area. "Necessity is the mother of invention." We can extend the utilization of current facilities by implementing more online classes. On campus classes could be staggered with online classes so that student interaction could be maintained. That way we would not necessarily need more physical properties. We need to start thinking outside the box in education.</p>
<p><b>7.</b> Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>URD's have their place and can be used beneficially for our community; we have examples: Cd'A Library, the Kroc Center, McEuen Park, and others. However, the appointment of directors by city councils the election of which, whereas County residents we have no say, needs to be changed. Additionally, the lengthy expiration periods of URD's need to be shortened. I do support them, though not as currently implemented. This again is a legislative issue, and requires changes to State statutes.</p>	<p>I absolutely do NOT support URDs here in Kootenai County! I have looked at how the URDs have been implemented in KC and those who have done this to our taxpayers should be ashamed of themselves. URDs are intended to renovate "blighted" areas, not create new areas. KC is one of the most desirable areas in which to reside which is why developers and residents alike come here. KC is prime real estate!</p> <p><a href="#">(The remainder of Mrs. Jacobsen's answer can be seen in her questionnaire)</a></p>

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<p><b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose the proposed work release center in Kootenai County? Why or why not?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>I supported the placing of the question of a prison release center on the ballot. Additionally, we have been presented with a petition signed by hundreds of residents indicating their opposition to a release center. As a current County Commissioner however, and because this petition might come before us a BOCC, I cannot comment as it would force me to recuse myself from rendering a vote. One of our roles as County Commissioners is to act in a quasi-judicial capacity, and I therefore need to remain neutral ahead of an actual public hearing and subsequent deliberations. Commissioner candidates should refrain from responding to this question, as they might need to recuse themselves and potentially force the decision to another entity, or the Governor.</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to the work release center in KC. I spoke with Idaho Department of Corrections about the recidivism rate of these facilities. In the first year, it is 7%. So in a 130 bed facility, that is 9 criminals a year who will re-offend. The recidivism number increases dramatically after the first year! We have a large population of senior citizens here. I am one of them. I do not want to expose our senior population or any other segment of our population to criminals. This facility would most likely increase the need for more law enforcement....another taxpayer expense. I do not think the benefits outweigh the risks or the expense to our taxpayers.</p>
<p><b>9.</b> Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>I do not support this as it would serve to increase the cost of our already overpriced housing market. Cities need to do a better job of managing their budgets.</p>	<p>I do think developers should be required to pay for the impact their projects have on community infrastructure and school impact as well. It is my current understanding that they do. I am not certain about what percentage they pay or if that amount needs to be revisited. I would work closely with Planning and Zoning and developers to find the best solution to this situation. Again, I am devoted to finding the best possible outcome for the taxpayers of KC. Developers and construction people are taxpayers also, so I would think they would work with KC. I am interested in the best outcome for all involved. No one gets preferential treatment.</p>

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<p><b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>I prefer five County Commissioners at a reduced rate of pay. This way, the residents of the County are better represented. (In 2012 residents defeated the idea of a county manager by a 2-1 vote.)</p>	<p>I do not support the idea of a county manager. Each department of KC has a “manager.” Some are elected. Under those managers are more managers. How many managers do we need! We have enough managers. The County Commissioners are the ultimate managers and should be doing their jobs. That is what we pay them to do. We do not need to create another taxpayer funded position. Before the corona-virus hit our area, I spoke at several gatherings. One of the commissioners who is up for re-election was at every meeting. Some in the morning, some at midday. Why wasn’t he doing his job instead of running to all of these meetings? He was not speaking at these particular meetings!</p>
<p><b>11.</b> With the rapid growth of Kootenai County, do you think we need more commissioners?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>Yes, if we structure as I indicated above in Item 10.</p>	<p>I do not think we need more commissioners at this time. The two commissioners who are up for re-election at this time, have other jobs. I can’t help but think that is a distraction from their job as commissioner. I am a retired Physician Assistant. I have no other job but to serve the county residents. I have no personal agenda or outside distractions.</p>
<p><b>12.</b> What persons or groups have endorsed your candidacy?</p>	<p><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>Thus far, I have been endorsed by Cd’A Mayor, Steve Widmyer. I also received the endorsement of the North Idaho Builders and Contractors Association (NIBCA). I expect additional endorsements over the next few weeks.</p>	<p>I was actually recruited by several of the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee precinct committeemen to run for this position. Some of the more conservative committeemen are not happy with the spending habits of the current county commissioners. I have been endorsed by RHINO PAC.</p>

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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><b>Declined to respond</b></p>	<p>My career began in the early 1970's working with large corporations. While employed in high tech, I helped win major business, and wrote market plans for a \$160M business segment. In 1976, I spearheaded efforts to win the largest private telecom network in the U.S. valued at over \$13M, and managed a sales organization with an annual revenue target of \$30M.</p> <p>Over the years of managing people, projects and budgets, I have had the privilege of working for individuals with extensive corporate experience. They challenged to me to apply and defend key critical thinking in defending my business proposals.</p> <p>As a County Commissioner, I co-manage 15 departments, comprised of about 270 individuals, and coordinate with six other elected officials, as we create and deploy the resources of our \$101.6M budget and over 800 employees. I am functioning as a COO (as in "Operating") with over 400 meeting per year, requiring fast and accurate processing, the thick skin to accept the realities of the decisions we make – pleasing some and displeasing others – and the even temperament to accept the criticism that inevitably results.</p> <p><a href="#">(The remainder of Mr. Fillios' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</a></p>	<p>I am a third generation Kootenai County resident, married to a bronze-star Army veteran, who is also a third generation KC resident. We are both Christian conservatives. We live within our means and believe government should do the same. I was a Physician Assistant for 20 years until retiring in 2019. I care about people. I am thorough and detail-oriented which is why I was never a target of a malpractice lawsuit during those years. I believe those are valuable traits which should be applied in managing taxpayer monies. While I was raising my children, I had a successful home-based business because I believed strongly in staying home to parent my children. For 18 years I was accounts payable, accounts receivable, public relations...all of it. I know what is involved in business management. I have no personal agenda or ties to outside entities. I do not have another job which would interfere with serving the county residents. I don't want anyone to be taxed out of their homes. I realize that Kootenai County expenditures account for only 25% of property taxes, but I want to make sure that 25% is spent in a prudent, conservative, frugal manner. Thank you for your support. My FB page is Jacobsen4Commissioner.</p>