

## Watchmen Voter Guide for County Commissioner District 2

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

Question	<a href="#"><u>Chris Fillios</u></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. 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="#"><u>(The remainder of Mr. Fillios' answer can be seen in his questionnaire)</u></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>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><b>4.</b> Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?</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><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>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><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>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><b>7.</b> Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?</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><b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose the proposed work release center in Kootenai County? Why or why not?</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.</p> <p>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><b>9.</b> Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?</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><b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?</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>

Question	<a href="#">Chris Fillios</a>
<b>11.</b> With the rapid growth of Kootenai County, do you think we need more commissioners?	Yes, if we structure as I indicated above in Item 10.
<b>12.</b> What persons or groups have endorsed your candidacy?	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.
<b>13.</b> Please detail anything else you believe would assist us in your qualifications as a County Commissioner?	<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>