

Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guide for East Bonner County Library District

[* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire *](#)

Question	Jeanine Asche	Amy Flint	Jalon Peters	Kathy Rose
<p>2. How could the libraries be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>No institution is perfect, but having worked in multiple libraries, I know our Library is extremely well run. Our director was named Library Director of the Year in Idaho and the staff are dedicated to library service. The board of trustees are all very qualified and we all get along very well because of our common goals. We are all committed to the library's vision, mission, the First Amendment, freedom of information and maintaining excellent library services.</p> <p>I feel our library can improve in three areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to evaluate our space and make room for more after school youth. 2. We need a new bookmobile. The existing bookmobile is falling apart. 3. We always need to do more outreach in our community: seniors, homeschoolers, businesses, etc. 	<p>I can't speak for all libraries, but I believe the East Bonner County Library services could be improved by purchasing a new bookmobile, creating a designated maker space/ and expanding both our physical and digital collection.</p>	<p>To have the programs, webinars, classes, etc be ones that support Biblical morality and a love for our country and not those that have agendas that would seek to bring division and corruption to the community, i.e. critical race theory, global warming indoctrination, abortion, BLM, LGBTQ.</p> <p>To improve on the meeting room availability to the community. There are great meeting rooms at the library and they should be made of use to the community by all means possible. Maybe even offer special availability to homeschoolers during the day for their schooling time.</p> <p>Improve on the employee and volunteer pool and make sure those that are working at the library are not only "qualified" but are also compassionate and caring.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>3. What is your philosophy of selecting new books for the library and how do you plan to implement that philosophy?</p>	<p>Trustees are in charge of policies and budget. Library operations, including material selection is the responsibility of staff. The East Bonner County Library follows a Collection Development Policy based on the needs of the community that is approved by the board of trustees: http://ebonnerlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Collection-Development-Policy.pdf. I agree with this policy.</p>	<p>The board of trustees does not select new books; that responsibility falls to library staff.</p>	<p>My philosophy in selecting books would take four steps of observation. 1 - Is this book moral? 2- Does this book honor or undermine our country? 3 - Does this book have an agenda that seeks to state theories as fact, or seeks to corrupt young minds that believe almost everything they read? 4 - What are some (if any) other works by this author?</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>4. Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?</p>	<p>As a retired librarian and current trustee, I support the Library Bill of Rights and the First Amendment to the Constitution that ensures access to all sides of an issue or subject. This applies to Critical Race Theory or any other topic.</p>	<p>This question has absolutely nothing to do with the library trustee position.</p>	<p>I do not! I do not believe that certain races are racist just because they are that race. Critical race theory undermines the values of America and is attempting to cripple our education system by "simplifying" tests to achieve more "equality." It undermines the rule of law and the justice system because it says those things are inherently racist as a part of the American system. It says that all people are not created equal and that there are some races that are inherently racist and other need to gain "freedom" from that oppressive system...I could go on, but I won't. I do not support it at all.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>

Question	Jeanine Asche	Amy Flint	Jalon Peters	Kathy Rose
<p>5. When thinking about book selection, what does diversity mean to you and why?</p>	<p>It means a diversity of materials, a diversity of ideas and a diversity of opinions that are available for all to access for their personal, intellectual or educational pursuits.</p>	<p>Again, book selection is not determined by the board of trustees, so this question is also irrelevant.</p>	<p>Well, looking back to question number 3, I would use those views in making sure that the "diversity" of a book falls within those parameters. It is a good thing that books are supplied for all ages, male or female, life stage, jobs etc. It is not a good thing to allow books into the library that undermine morality just for the sake of "diversity."</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>6. What does the phrase "free access to ideas" mean to you and why?</p>	<p>I have a set of beliefs and values that I have developed from having free access to ideas on many sides of any issue. I believe that by acquiring information on something you don't believe in are you truly able to understand what you do believe and why. Everyone is deserving of this opportunity.</p>	<p>"Free access to ideas" means that anyone who is interested has the ability to seek out and critically evaluate information related to any topic.</p>	<p>Basically it is like capitalism for ideas. Where different ideas are presented and there is discussion engaged in and then people make their decision based on the more proven or logical idea, and the inferior idea is then rejected.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>7. How would you select those who provide reading time, materials, speakers, and activities for children? Do you believe the community should be involved in these decisions?</p>	<p>It is not a trustee's role to hire staff. This falls under the responsibilities of the library director. From a policy view as a trustee, I will ensure that all staff provide materials and services based on our mission.* It is solely a parent's responsibility to determine what is and what is not is appropriate for their own children to read, watch, listen or learn from the library.</p> <p>As to the community being involved in hiring decisions, I have done this when I worked in library management in the past.</p> <p>* East Bonner County Free Library District Mission Statement: The mission of the Library District is to provide access to opportunities for discovery, connection, and lifelong learning. It is our vision to engage community, excite curiosity, and enhance personal growth.</p>	<p>These decisions fall to the library director in conjunction with the children's librarian. Community input is always welcome.</p>	<p>I would base my decisions similarly on the answers for question number 3. I would like to make sure the presenter/speaker/materials have a moral baseline and present that to the children. They do not have to necessarily be a Christian as I am, but they should follow the Biblical morality that our county was founded on.</p> <p>I believe the community should be allowed to voice their concerns and desires, but if they are leaning toward a person or material that is outside the parameters I have stated I think I would not follow their request.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>

Question	Jeanine Asche	Amy Flint	Jalon Peters	Kathy Rose
<p>8. How do you feel about removing historical books and classical literature from libraries?</p>	<p>Having worked in libraries both big and very small, it is use and community interest that determine what materials should be removed. In the small libraries where I worked, children's books that were not checked out in a year had to be weeded to make physical space for new material. In the larger libraries, the criteria was much more lax. Our library can't have every book that is available, but it can always request books it doesn't have through interlibrary loan. Our librarians make the best removal of material decisions they can based on space, use and interest. Our library will <u>not</u> remove historical books or classical literature (including Dr. Seuss or Huckleberry Finn) for any other reason.</p>	<p>Historical books and documents as well as classical literature should not be removed from libraries since the goal of libraries is free access to ideas and information. We are not in the business of censorship.</p>	<p>I do not think that should happen. There are agendas out there that desire to rewrite history. We cannot allow that to happen. If we don't let the truth of history be front and center then we will fall prey to the same pitfalls of the people in history. Classical literature is similar. I believe that those books have much to offer in the world of morality, courage, true historical events, quality writing, etc. It would be wise to keep them in the libraries.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>9. Do you support or oppose bathroom usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?</p>	<p>The library's bathrooms have signs for each gender. I would not expect staff to make a determination as to who is male or female.</p>	<p>The library has not had any need to address this issue; should it arise, the director and trustees will discuss it to determine appropriate action.</p>	<p>No I do not. I believe the Bible that there are only two genders.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>10. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>In addition to loving our library, I have extensive qualifications that make me best suited for retaining my seat as a library trustee:</p> <p>EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Library Science <p>EXPERIENCE & SKILLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incumbent Library Trustee since 2013, past chairperson and volunteer (current) • 40 years of library experience (Page, Clerk, Children's Librarian, Reference Librarian, Branch Manager, Youth Library Services Manager, Library Outreach and Literacy Services Manager for a 13-branch library system). • Fiscally conservative - while chairperson, the library paid off its library bond early, we did not have to go to the voters to fund the expansion and our current board lowered our budget from last year • Library expansion fundraising chair – \$302K Raised • Children's and Young Adult Services Association past president 	<p>I have served on the East Bonner County Board of Trustees for six years and as board chair for almost two years. I have a clear understanding of how the library functions, the laws governing the library, and the trustees' role. We currently have a very highly functioning board.</p> <p>I have loved libraries since I began reading; I worked in the library at my university, and I have been a patron of the East Bonner County library for almost 30 years - ever since I moved to Bonner County. I taught English at NIC at Sandpoint for 18 years before retiring and took my English 102 students to the library each semester for a presentation on how to access and critically evaluate scholarly information from databases. I have served on several boards in Bonner County as well as being president of the Angels Over Sandpoint. Community service is an important element of my life, and now that I have retired, I have ample time to devote to supporting my community. I'm very confident in my ability to</p>	<p>I have spent over 10 years in pastoral ministry where I oversaw many things that I believe can contribute to the library board. I oversaw budgets, board meetings, community outreaches, building trips and medical outreaches to communities both local and abroad. I spent many years in youth ministry so I know how to treat teens and children. I have spent almost 15 years in the construction industry and have project managed for residential construction. I own my own business. So I know how to handle budgets and administrate people and projects both long and short term.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive grant writing, program development, budget and personnel management experience • Community non-profit board president, treasurer, secretary experience • Avid supporter of the First Amendment and the right to information <p>AWARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Association's Service Award • Outstanding Public Service Award • Outstanding Librarian in Support of Literacy • Women in County Government's Woman of the Year • Women's Hall of Fame <p>PERSONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idaho native. • Married 41 years, 2 grown children (one is a Navy Lt. Commander), an amazing granddaughter and 2 rambunctious dogs • My husband is a retired fire chief and volunteered on Search and Rescue, Rotary and the Animal Shelter board • Amateur painter, beginning gardener, book lover and hiker. 	<p>continue effectively serving on the Board of Trustees.</p>		
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