

Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guide for East Side Highway District (Sub District 2)

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

Question	John F. Austin	Angela Sieverding	Tim Day
<p>2. How could the Highway District be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>1 – Impact fees on new homes 2 – Franchise fees on utilities in our rights-of-way 3 – Better state funding for roads</p>	<p>The East Side Highway District maintains 242 miles of road, in 47% of those roads remain to be gravel. Most of roads remain at a 10 roads surface life. The following are my recommendations: A. The ESHD needs to seek alternative funding sources through State and Federal Funding to assist bringing the graveled roads up to Highway District Standards. B. Let new development pay for itself without putting the burden on taxpayers. C. The Idaho Codes under budgeting need to be rewritten to support new growth.</p>	<p>Two areas that I think are important: The growth in the area and the impact it is having on the Highway District a strategic plan for responsible development will need to be in place. It is critical that road maintenance stays at the top of the Highway Districts priorities. It costs a lot less money to maintain a road than to repair a road.</p>
<p>3. What is your philosophy regarding how growth should be managed?</p>	<p>- Charging growth for their impact: impact fees & mitigation fees - Working with CDA on growth in the city</p>	<p>I believe the Kootenai County needs to have an Impact Study to see how our new growth should be managed. I don't have the experience to state what my philosophy is on this subject.</p>	<p>Growth needs to be managed by fully understanding how it impacts the area and infrastructure. All proposals should be considered carefully and any negative impact concerns should be addressed before the proposal is approved.</p>
<p>4. Do you believe the highway district should be prioritizing constructing new roads or improving existing roads? Please explain your reasoning.</p>	<p>- Improving existing roads. Developers must provide new roads</p>	<p>It depends what the traffic counts area. If you have an area of high traffic, I believe you should provide a paved safe road for the traveling public. Limited funds should be spent on low traffic roads.</p>	<p>The Highway District in the past has not constructed new roads. The roads are typically built and then adopted by the Highway District. The Highway District needs to focus their resources on maintaining and/or improving the existing roads. If expansion is needed the developers need to incur the cost for the initial construction.</p>
<p>5. What is your opinion on how growth should be paid for?</p>	<p>- As noted above, impact fees on new construction</p>	<p>New Growth needs to pay for itself.</p>	<p>I think impact fees need to be assessed to pay for the growth.</p>
<p>6. What are your plans to increase public involvement in the highway district?</p>	<p>- Better website and all meetings via Zoom to allow participation from home or office</p>	<p>In my 30 years of working as the Board Secretary and District Clerk, I have seen how open houses involving the residents in the District's Construction Projects has been a very positive out reach.</p>	<p>I am always available and happy to answer any questions tax payers may have. I am in favor of public forums and any other forms of communication that would increase public involvement.</p>

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7. Do you believe the highway district should be acquiring land to expand the existing road system? What areas do you believe need to be expanded?	- We preserved Boothe Park for public access but it is not our job to acquire land. Developers must provide infrastructure.	As is stand today, the East Side Highway District has limited funds needed for road and bridge improvements. I cannot foresee the District acquiring land to expand their existing infrastructure. It is the associated Highway District Standards that they will not accept any additional roads in to their jurisdiction, unless the roads are built up to Highway District Standards.	I do not believe the Highway District should acquire land to expand the existing road system. I do think there are some areas that need improvement, but road maintenance has a continuous cycle and not all areas can be addressed every year.
8. Under what conditions do you believe the Highway District should recommend the utilization of eminent domain and why?	- Almost never. Only if a road project that benefits thousands of motorists, and only as a last resort.	I believe you should consider eminent domain with public approval, in areas of unsafe and high traffic areas. I believe this is where you should consider eminent domain at a fair market value.	I do not believe in eminent domain. It would have to be an extreme public safety and even then, I would hope other solutions could be found.
9. What should be the role of the highway district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	- Very important role. I am on the board of the KMPO and work with all other agencies to provide better roads.	The Highway Districts are a quasi-municipal government that should work corporately together with the City and County in the developing communities with safe roads and bridges for the traveling public.	The role of the Highway District is to represent the local tax payer's road system. It should work with the other entities on providing safe, well maintained roads. The Highway District needs to have a voice in proposed developments and work closely with other agencies to make sure the growth is sustainable, and does not have a negative impact on the current infrastructure.
10. What changes do you believe need to be made to the current design standards and why?	- We need to build roads right from the start - require right of way and district standards on all new roads	Kootenai County has seen a lot of growth in the past ten years. I believe our current design standards should accommodate future growth.	The current funding design puts the majority of the burden on property taxes. Ideally, if a new or different funding source could be found that would lessen the impact on property taxes and increase revenue to the Highway District I would be in favor of that change.
11. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	- Former city Treasurer / Finance Director for Coeur d'Alene. - Funded \$11 million in street bonds for Ramsey Rd / Govt. Way	I'm recently retired as the East Side Highway District Board Secretary and District Clerk. My 30 years of experience has provided me the opportunity to learn and understand highway district law, procedures, road abandonments and validations, public meeting procedures, traffic counts, CIP, and road development agreements, sign and pavement management, and public relations.	I have over 25 years of road construction experience. I feel I can contribute to my neighbors by representing them as tax payers and making sure the road system is effectively and efficiently maintained.