

Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guide for Consolidated Free Library Trustee

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

Question	Robert Fish	Rachelle Ottosen	Michele Veale	Vanessa Robinson
<p>2. How could the libraries be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>1. I would like to see us respond to our public better by supplying a greater number of books by conservative thinkers and activists. I have had some success in this endeavor but would like to continue the effort.</p> <p>2. I would like to see us respond to the population increases in the communities we service with additional facilities.</p>	<p>The library system could be improved by being more responsible with taxpayer money (lowering the budget and thus taxes), protecting innocent impressionable children from 'bent' media (i.e. media that influences for evil), and resurrecting a focus on service to the people of our community rather than political or sexual agendas,</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>The first idea is to have a safe and secure place for kids to learn, and to make it fun! I am disappointed that our Kootenai County public school students have poor math and reading proficiency ratings of 51% and 61%, respectively. This needs to change and the library can play a significant role in helping to make learning fun again. Our library system should promote material that encourages a love of learning in the areas our students need the most improvement.</p> <p>Second, ensure that our public libraries are not used to promote social causes or advocate for any particular groups or activities. These are supposed to be neutral learning resources and they should remain that way.</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>My philosophy is that reading materials in the library should reflect the demographics of the population we serve. Our population is conservative, religious, families and individuals, including a large number of retirees. Since I personally am an avid reader of politically and culturally conservative material, i make recommendations to staff concerning their acquisition. I think the library does a good job in the hardback section but needs improvement in the ebook and eAudio section; these areas are significantly more expensive than hardback books. Every week I review the list of new ebook purchases to the libraries. I personally review the Claremont Review of Books (quarterly publication), the Wall Street Journal book reviews (daily publication), the Heritage Foundation blog (daily), the Hoover Institute blog (daily), and the City Journal (quarterly publication) and blog (daily) looking for the latest publications by conservative writers. Books recommended by the above names conservative organizations are represented and available in our libraries. The library staff is very good at responding to my comments and I know they are very interested in hearing from our eBook and eAudio clients.</p>	<p>My philosophy of selecting new books is that there should be a focus on improving the lives of and opportunities for our community members.</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>That the books should promote education, inspiration, imagination and critical thinking skills. I would work with the Board to help make that the standard for book selection.</p>

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<p>4. Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?</p>	<p>I absolutely do not support critical race theory. I do not support any Marxist theories or ideas, whether old or new. I do not support any of the "euphemisms" used by the Marxist supporters of critical race theory, including "equity," "social justice," "diversity and inclusion," and "culturally responsive teaching." These euphemisms are a guise for establishing a revolutionary government based on Marxist theory which would mean the end of private property, individual rights, equality under the law, federalism, and our First and Second Amendment rights. The Marxists want a government that would be based on race-based rights, active discrimination, and omnipotent bureaucratic authority such as exists in Communist China today. The Marxists would overturn the principles of the Declaration of Independence and destroy the remaining structure of the Constitution of the United States. I believe in the standard of excellence that challenges people of all backgrounds to achieve their God-given potential.</p>	<p>NO! I do not support Critical Race Theory because any person or agenda (i.e. CRT) that prejudices people by skin color is racist. Also, it is said to be a Marxist tool to destroy liberty and America.</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>I do not support it because I believe that all people should be treated fairly, irrespective of skin color. Any idea that focuses on skin color is racist by default.</p>
<p>5. When thinking about book selection, what does diversity mean to you and why?</p>	<p>"Diversity" means to me providing a wide variety of thoughts and writings in a variety of mediums. While we serve a primarily conservative community of readers, as public libraries, we should strive to serve the entire community of readers, including those whose taste and leanings we find contrary to our own. A free society is based on freedom of thought.</p>	<p>There is a wide variety of skills, knowledge and enlightened enjoyment needed in our community. To me, diversity in media selection means serving those needs and interests so long as they are an appropriate use of taxpayer money.</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>It means diversity of subject.</p>

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<p>6. What does the phrase “free access to ideas” mean to you and why?</p>	<p>"Free access to ideas" means to me a broad range of reading material without any restrictions to access. I believe in the family and that parents are fully capable of choosing the appropriate reading material for their children.</p>	<p>"Free access to ideas" means that adults should have access to both good and bad ideas, because we need comparison, the ability to analyze and think through things or else our ability to think becomes weak. The majority of media in the library should be good, so that our community tends towards goodness. I have recently read Marx's Communist Manifesto, which is a bent book...but we need to know our enemy and analyze where they go wrong if we are to defeat them. So classic books like this should also be included.</p> <p>However, some things are simply not an appropriate expenditure of taxpayer money. Adults must protect innocent children because children do not have the ability to filter and reason like adults. However, I've studied way too much history to believe in government censorship. There needs to be a balance, and one idea is to move bent books out of the children's section into the adult section so kids don't accidentally stumble upon them.</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>It means that the library is a public institution where you can be exposed to a broad range of subjects and not be charged a fee to access them.</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>The trustees of the library district set the policy for any and all activities and materials for children. Trustees receive a monthly report on the child programming in our libraries. To date, our staff has done an excellent job in meeting the needs of the children as shown in professional survey research conducted in the district. I personally have received excellent feedback from our libraries' clientele, including parents of children who frequently utilize our libraries' children's activities and materials. I believe in democracy and that all levels of government should be responsive to the public who pays for the services, including library services.</p>	<p>Those who work with children in the libraries should provide a wholesome atmosphere and of good character. I hate to say they should have a background check, as that seems invasive, and doesn't guarantee anything. I'm hoping for input on better ideas.</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>I believe that the library system should not promote any particular social cause or advocate on behalf of any groups. When it comes to our children, we should focus on getting qualified speakers that promote family values and emphasize a fun learning or reading environment.</p>
<p>8. How do you feel about removing historical books and classical literature from libraries?</p>	<p>Not on my watch! There have been no historical books or classical literature removed from any of the seven libraries that are in the district since my election four years ago. Nor, will there be any removed if I am reelected to the position of Trustee.</p>	<p>As a leadership homeschool mom, I am horrified at the idea of removing historical books and classical literature. They frequently are the books society needs the most to function the best!</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>I am against it.</p>

Question	<u>Robert Fish</u>	<u>Rachelle Ottosen</u>	Michele Veale	<u>Vanessa Robinson</u>
<p>9. Do you support or oppose bathroom usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I am opposed to bathroom usage based on preferred gender identification. In our libraries, we have "Mens" rooms and "Women's" rooms and we have not had any issues with them. If there is a move to change the usage of the bathrooms or add additional bathrooms in order to accomodate preferred gender identification, I would support putting the issue on the ballot for the voters to decide.</p>	<p>I support bathroom usage by biological sex, not "gender identification". It does not help people to encourage mental illness. Also, we should not put women or children in harms way by giving predators easy access or make them feel more vulnerable while they are not fully clothed.</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>I believe the bathrooms should be used based upon one's biological sex. It's important that all patrons feel safe and are not made uncomfortable by any other patron.</p>
<p>10. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I am a retired Commercial Banker with over 40 years in the industry and have significant experience in budgeting and financial reporting analysis. I also have significant experience with the budgeting process from my activities in organizations such as Rotary, Chambers of Commerce, and other not-for-profit organizations. I am also an incumbent Trustee for the Community Library Network and have been instrumental in encouraging that Board to forgo tax increases for the first time in the history of the organization. This was accomplished through a complete revamp of their budgeting and financial reporting process that I created during my term of office.</p>	<p>I have loved books since I was a very small child. I relied extensively on libraries while homeschooling for the last 16 years. I feel education should be a lifelong pursuit for all, and libraries are a wonderful and needed opportunity for many to enrich their lives. I also know some evil has been brought into the libraries, and it is not acceptable to take tax money away from families to use to destroy people's lives and the amazing country we were gifted through a plethora of bent books/media.</p> <p>I helped co-found 2 commonwealth schools: was involved in their constitution writing process, volunteered as teacher, treasurer, and class planner. I have volunteered in my church wherever they needed me: scouts, nursery assistant and leader, girls activities, family activities, and women's organization secretary (twice).</p>	<p>Declined to respond</p>	<p>I've been responsible for overseeing projects to successful completion, whether it was saving money at my child's school or presiding over my HOA and maintaining its solvency. As a parent who brought my child regularly to the library, and who has spoken to many other parents, I understand what they want and what they are concerned about at their local libraries.</p>