

Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guide for North Kootenai Water District

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

Question	John A. Hern	Scott Shellman	Thomas Gwin
2. How could the water & sewer district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	Declined to Respond	<p>a. Continue our changeover from manual-read meters to wireless-read meters. This helps save labor hours and lessens potential injury to meter readers who ride on scooters while reading meters.</p> <p>b. Improve the Gozzer Ranch water and sewer system to increase the amount of water flow to homes in the event of fire. This was recently voted on by Gozzer customers and NKWSD customers (it will be paid for solely by the Gozzer customers).</p> <p>c. Continue to expand water service to areas not served by public water systems throughout the county in areas where density make sense to expand service. Users of expanded systems should pay for the expansion.</p> <p>d. Continue to find water delivery systems where water loss is above standards and repair/replace equipment to help mitigate water loss and reduce waste of energy by pumping excess water through aging/failed supply lines.</p> <p>e. Continue to educate customers on what they can do to save water.</p>	Declined to Respond
3. Do you believe that water & sewer districts have a role to play in area growth? Why do you believe this?	Declined to Respond	Our ability to limit growth via water service is limited. If a development is approved by the county, or city, in which it is located, NKWSD may be requested to supply the water service. NKWSD will not approve new homes if a system is not able to provide adequate water/fire service to the existing homes (i.e. Gozzer Ranch).	Declined to Respond
4. Should septic systems on individual properties be required to be brought up to current code levels if that system fails? Why or why not?	Declined to Respond	NKWSD doesn't deal with septic systems so it is beyond the scope of the Board of Directors. That said, there are many homes/cabins throughout the region that are on septic systems that wouldn't pass current Panhandle Health District and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality codes due to newer setback requirements, etc. We have a cabin on Hayden that's 51 years old that wouldn't be able to have a septic system if the property was being newly built upon. I think a property owner ought to be able to remedy a failed system if they currently have a system on an undersized lot. If the property is large enough to accommodate current codes, then the system should be improved to current standards.	Declined to Respond
5. What role should water & sewer districts have in the design and authorization of new developments?	Declined to Respond	I think it's advantageous to bring a water provider into the development process in the early stages, as NKWSD can help mitigate development costs by providing professional input and guidance to the developer.	Declined to Respond
6. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	Declined to Respond	If a city system can provide water/sewer service to additional customers, preferably without additional cost to existing customers, I support them providing water/sewer services. In both cases, there's less risk to the aquifer via drilling wells and septic systems. Professionally managed water/sewer systems are less likely to experience failure as private wells/septic systems. I don't think a person should be required to join a system if they have a private well or septic system though, as they have rights to manage utility services on their private property.	Declined to Respond
7. Water & sewer districts have the reputation of rubber-stamping new developments. What do you believe the proper process should be to include the existing residents (impact area) concerns?	Declined to Respond	Please show me examples of new developments that have been "rubber stamped" by NKWSD. I challenge you to find one!	Declined to Respond
8. What recommendations do you have to improve delivery of water in the water & sewer district?	Declined to Respond	We continue to monitor water loss throughout the system and make improvements to aging systems via leak detection equipment and/or replacement of stretches of aging/failed equipment. Technological improvements to equipment will help NKWSD improve the quality and quantity of affordable water.	Declined to Respond

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9. What should be the role of the water & sewer district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	Declined to Respond	I think the water district should partner with IDEQ, city and county officials, etc. to help lend expertise when it's appropriate. I think it's important to work in tandem to find solutions to problems that may affect water supply, quality of water, etc.	Declined to Respond
10. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	Declined to Respond	NKWSD board members much live within the district, so our decisions directly affect us. As such, I'm a customer. I'm a Realtor, so I lend the board support when questions regarding easements, development, NKWSD land purchases, customer land use, etc. arise. Having grown up in this area, I want to see growth managed and not just be an open-ended free-for-all, where people don't take our natural resources into consideration with regard to the development of their property.	Declined to Respond