

Watchmen Voter Guide for City of Coeur d'Alene: City Council Seat 2
** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

	Amy Evans	Morgan Dixon	Roger Garlock
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Declined to Respond	<p>My name is Morgan Dixon and I am running for the Coeur d' Alene, ID City Council Seat #2.</p> <p>Reasons I am running for this position:</p> <p>#1 The innovators and entrepreneurs of this town have no representation. I regularly meet with some of the most brilliant minds in Coeur d'Alene and hear their incredible ideas on how to change the city, but none of our leaders have had anything to do with them in the last year.</p> <p>#2 Young individuals and families seem to have little to no representation in our current leadership for Coeur d'Alene.</p> <p>#3 Simplifying the system. This is a philosophy that I believe in, in which we remove all unnecessary laws that create inefficiencies and hide corruption. IE: Building requirements or permits that annoy communities members more than it benefits our city.</p> <p>#4 Initiate legislation that prohibits conflict of interest in our community. An example of this would be the design review commission that reviews building and development in Coeur d'Alene . The commission is a "volunteer" position that is run by the people who would benefit the most from all that they approve.</p>	<p>Roger Garlock. I am running for Coeur d'Alene City Council Seat #2. I am running for this position because after years of civic involvement this is where I can do the most good for my town and my community. We are at a pivotal point of change in our area and we need to stand up now to make a difference.</p>
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	Declined to Respond	<p>I believe the city could be improved by implementing a few of these ideas:</p> <p>#1 Term limits for elected officials. Keep the ideas fresh and moving forward.</p> <p>#2 Removing people who are on commissions and changing them to elected officials. IE: Design Review Committee, which is run by people who make money off their own decisions.</p> <p>#3 Generate new city revenue by implementing a 1% tourism tax determined by the location of residence associated with one's credit/debit card. IE If your credit card is connected to a home address in California you will be taxed, because you are likely a tourist.</p>	<p>We have a stunning City to live in and cherish. The improvements are more of a preservation of what we have been blessed with. As our current leadership has adopted a cash in policy to our towns influx of growth. I want to maintain the aesthetics of our area and the family environment for the local populations. This means stop with the high-density zone changes and create a comprehensive plan that doesn't include infill housing as it effects all other aspects of our community.</p>

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3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the city council manage growth?	Declined to Respond	<p>High density housing is an unfortunate evil that our town needs. However the way that our local construction companies are going about designing these facilities does not add value to this town. This is in part due to building restrictions in the county, and in part due to our council approving them. Since less than 2.8% of Coeur d’Alene exists unbuilt on, the damage has already been done in our city limits.</p> <p>Growth is good when done correctly, but Coeur d’Alene and other neighboring cities have failed to properly plan for the massive influx we have seen in the last year. This isn’t a surprise as Idaho has been one of the fastest growing states for years now. It has been poorly executed which is why it has become the biggest topic of the election cycle. If growth was executed successfully this question would not be asked as your day to day life would not be impacted significantly. Re-electing those who made us ask this question in the first place is beyond me.</p>	As previous stated the growth is having the biggest impact on our community. We are seeing it in our economy, housing costs, public safety, school capacities, traffic, taxes. The City council needs to not react to the current trend of growth and try to cram 30,000 more people into our city limits. Growth didn’t happen over night it has been on the wall for over a decade. We need to slow down, stop with the cronyism with developers and zone for single family dwellings.
4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	Declined to Respond	Elected. We live in a democratic republic, by definition this means elected officials.	Elected Officials
5. What role should the city council have in the design and authorization of new developments?	Declined to Respond	The city council should do three things related to large scale developments in our town. #1 Inform the people about the benefits of said developments. #2 Inform the people of the drawbacks and losses caused by the development. #3 Ask important questions to the contractors related to impacts of said developments. Six people and the mayor do not represent the whole of the people, nor will they likely feel the direct impact of development. Large scale developments should be voted on by the general public.	Without stepping over the boundaries of big government to impose on the rights of property owners. They should have no say in the design of ne developments. This is up to the consumer and the seller. As far as the authorization of new developments that is in the current system.

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6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	Declined to Respond	Current services in Coeur d'Alene are fine in their current status. There are innovations that could be made in all of the services provided by the city, but I have not had the time to inspect for inefficiencies due to old technology.	Yes, right off the top of my head the art commission and we should no longer give free rent to the HREI. It could be better used for a police substation.
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	Declined to Respond	Managed water and sewer should be specific to each city. If someone is in the city limits and wants to be part of the city infrastructure then they should be. If someone chooses to live out of city limits it should not be the neighboring cities problem. It is a choice of the individual to not live where there is pre-existing water and sewage or where there can be access to it. The individual should weigh the benefits and drawbacks of living in a rural community.	For CDA I don't see that as an issue. However, I believe that citizens should be provided with opt in options.
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund but not raising taxes?	Declined to Respond	If I win city council I will become Idaho's youngest elected official. I can use the attention I gain to reclaim the funds taken by the state for the Idaho tourism fund. In addition to the state's 6% sales tax, Idaho charges a travel and convention tax of 2% to occupants of hotel and motel rooms, as well as private campgrounds and vacation home rentals. After winning I will use the attention I will inevitably get/create to get this tax money back to the city where it came from. Assuming 1.5 million tourists stay overnight in Coeur d'Alene for one night each year with a minimum hotel rate of \$71 a month, this fund would be another \$2,130,000. This is far more than the \$715K that is currently awarded. Instead of giving the state all that money we could increase CDA's personal tourism fund to \$1,000,000 and still have another \$1,130,000 available for other uses.	To maintain a healthy reserve fund. We need to cut some of the fluff spending. Like the arts as I have listed. During covid the council took federal money and put it toward spending that wasn't part of the regular budget. Now the taxpayers are stuck with the bill to continue this fluff spending. We need to update impact fees as they have not been updated since 2004 leaving the taxpayer carrying the burden of paying for the increase of public safety costs due to the rapid growth policies of the current council.

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9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	Declined to Respond	Current legislation and ordinance are failing the city/ county’s citizens since it does not allow for innovation in housing, which would allow for more affordable housing options that don’t affect home prices. Another issue to this is teaching people how to save to buy a house. With the FHA Loan all you need as a downpayment is \$17,500 for a \$500,000 house. The mortgage would be \$1700-\$2100 a month which is far lower than the typical rental cost in CDA which is around \$2,500 a month and easily goes over \$3,000 a month. We need to stop creating rental complexes that don’t build one’s Net Worth, and instead make innovative cheap houses that add value to the community.	The lies being told about housing is the cost is based on low inventory and that high-density housing equals affordable housing. The reality is that inventory has been low for years and renting is just as expensive as housing. The reality is that the current influx of wealth is what is raising the cost of housing. “Affordable” or low-income housing comes with the burdens on taxing districts and public safety. The low-income affordable housing is a short fix that benefits no one but the developer as the tax payers cover the difference and the developer makes the profit. It also creates a long-term damage to the stability to our community by promoting a transitional population leaving our city in the dumps 20 years from now.
10. How should the public’s input be taken into consideration and implemented in the decision-making process?	Declined to Respond	Public opinion should absolutely be taken into consideration whether that is online polls, in person voting, or public forms. In my opinion the people will always choose correctly, and most politicians know that which is why they want to reduce your ability to choose leaders and restrict voting rights.	I believe in the concept of Citizen Servants and a bottom up form of governance. We are here to represent the public. I think that Council members should remain involved with the public at all times not just during campaign season. Meetings should be moved from time to time to accommodate a higher turnout of public input. Council member should not sit on hidden quasi-government boards like CDA 2030, Which my opponent currently does.
11. Is there anything in your personal or business life that would be a conflict of interest in your ability to serve the people of this city?	Declined to Respond	Direct conflicts none. The biggest conflict I would have is presenting big ideas. I have been an innovator and boundary pusher my whole life. I may have ideas that certain groups would not appreciate and this may cause pressure by some groups who oppose my ideas creating conflict.	No
12. Should the concept of “equitable outcome” be implemented as a part of the city council’s decision-making process? Why or why not?	Declined to Respond	No, not by strict definition. The government should create opportunities that anyone may take advantage of indeterminate wealth or material possession. If an individual works smarter and harder than another person they should not be penalized for that.	No, there is no such thing as an equitable outcome and that exceeds the role of government.

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13. What role should the health board play in the city council's decision-making process?	Declined to Respond	Panhandle health, doctors, and any other people of science should have one job. Present facts and not opinions. Decisions should be made on these facts, but should not affect someone's personal belief or their rights. The council should have one job, present the information to the people. Government should never control choices related to personal health, religion, or spiritual belief. Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness is open for interpretation, and the government shouldn't tell you if you can live or die.	I will admit I had no idea about the health board until they wanted to impose mask mandates. They should be an informative agency. I would not have voted for a mask mandate. I think forcing masks on our kids is wrong and I would stand up against any for of vaccine economy including vaccine passports.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	Declined to Respond	I serve people. I have served people with dyslexia and autism by making an app that allows them to get information from books they never had before. I serve the low income families in our area by giving them technology they need through my non-profit Imagination Initiative that I made with Gonzaga and the Lakeland School District. I serve people as the Community Lead at Innovation Collective Coeur d'Alene, helping entrepreneurs and business owners grow and start their business. I have accomplished all of this before I am twenty years old. I have the energy and ideas to get things done. We need leaders with energy and drive.	I have been in service to our community since the moment I moved here. I have worked with at-risk populations at a variety of jobs that supported individuals with mental health disabilities and those populations who have been adjudicated. I have worked for and promoted pro-life organizations. I have been actively in politics for several years. However, what qualifies the most is that I am a clear example of that citizen servant. I have coached youth sports, I live in an overvalued house, I spend 20-25 minutes driving 3 miles to my house after work. I have been paying attention and believe in accountability and transparency.