

Watchmen Voter Guide for City of Coeur d'Alene: City Council Seat 4
** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

[→ KC Reese has withdrawn from the race ←](#)

	JD Claridge	Grayson L. Cross	Woody McEvers
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is JD Claridge and I'm running for Coeur d' Alene City Council, seat #4. I am running on a platform of freedom and responsible growth.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<p>a. I would like to stand with small businesses. They are what carry and flavor our community at the end of the day. This includes protection from authoritarian mandates and being told who is "essential" should that kind of thing happen again.</p> <p>b. Get able-bodied people working again! It's a blessing. Limit government hand-outs.</p> <p>c. Re-evaluate current Urban Renewal District structure. This could include making the URD director and board elected. Limit the time frame of a URD to 2-3 years instead of over 20. Better oversight and accountability are needed. There is a lot of taxpayer money being spent here and all the URD districts are concentrated downtown. Is this truly a good spread of benefits to the whole community?</p> <p>d. Manage growth in a way that is sustainable. Provide high density housing only in proportion to the need of lower (but still valued) income earners in the community. More than that is a recipe for congestion, frustration and increased crime.</p>	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the city council manage growth?	The growth right now seems wild and haphazard. Many people moving here are understandably social refugees and are desperately seeking housing. Demand has increased astronomically. I would favor a master plan of sorts that works with bordering cities on how to responsibly manage and improve the roads and services of our town. And adhere to a plan that works with builders and developers to properly carry the appropriate costs of growth instead of burdening the existing taxpayers. The city council for its part could make zone changes more transparent with a longer view on how these changes affect the quality of life for neighbors and everyday citizens.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	Most certainly elected officials. Watching the county commissioners explore alternative forms of government has produced a strong sentiment from the community that appointed positions get abused and lead to a lack of transparency and loss of freedom. Panhandle Health's actions in 2020 were an example of appointed officials having "authority" but no public accountability. When the community was unhappy with the health board's decisions, the only option was to put heat on the county commissioner that appointed them. This sets up a dangerous precedent that insulates the people making the decisions from the community they supposedly represent.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

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5. What role should the city council have in the design and authorization of new developments?	I lean towards a free market approach where the basics of supply and demand work themselves out. But, there needs to be a basic structure by the city council that guides that process.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	One idea is to privatize the arts commission. Police and Fire should remain protected but all other services could use a good review.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	If it does not cost the taxpayers extra to do this and is an agreed upon plan that is a win for the city and rural residents both.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund but not raising taxes?	Reserve funds should only be used for critical expenditures such as essential services. If money is used from the reserve, the fund should be built back to healthy levels through cuts in other areas or through new revenue channels.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	Affordable housing levels should reflect the demand in the workforce for people at that income level, not beyond that. New developments should be planned with a balance of affordable housing, mid, and higher-level single family homes. A reasonable, wise, and firm plan for growth should be followed!	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
10. How should the public's input be taken into consideration and implemented in the decision-making process?	The community has given its voice on many topics in the last two years and sadly their voice is often put down and the "experts" are exalted instead. In my view, the community has varying views but there is often a common sentiment that emerges. That is valuable and should be esteemed. Many "expert" voices have power and money influencing them and are tyrannical in their desire to control people. I will listen to the voices of this community and reflect that as an elected official to the best of my ability.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

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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?	The only potential conflict of interest would be if my business were to do business with the city. My business does not have any current business with the city and I would not engage in any while in office.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
12. Should the concept of “equitable outcome” be implemented as a part of the city council’s decision-making process? Why or why not?	No, that sounds like a slippery slope. While it may sound good on the surface, it promotes racist thinking. All human life is valuable and made in the image of God.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
13. What role should the health board play in the city council’s decision-making process?	I believe they play a valuable role in the community, however, their recommendations should be considered as one data point in the equation of health and safety.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I am a family man and businessman. Not a career politician. I’m an engineer and problem solver. I grew up in this area and want to see it remain a beautiful place to live and raise a family. I love the Lord and want to stand in faith for our community in this difficult time for our nation. Please visit my website at jdforcda.com . Thank you for your support!	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond