

Watchmen Voter Guide for City of Dalton Gardens City Council - 2 Seats Candidates 1-4

** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

→ [Ray Craft](#) and [Carrie Chase](#) have withdrawn from the race ←

	Justin Rupinski	Tyler Drechsel
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	I'm Justin Rupinski and I'm running for Dalton Gardens City Council. Some of the reasons that I am running for this position is because I want to continue to keep Dalton Gardens uniquely rural, keep taxes low, prevent hunting in Dalton Gardens city limits (which I do have a deer management plan) and grant Dalton Elementary their electronic reader board.	My name is Tyler Drechsel and I am running for the position of City Council for the City of Dalton Gardens. Since the last election a group of individuals were elected based on a platform of Keep Dalton Rural, although the premise behind this sounds great it was really a platform for personal agendas and not those that align with most Dalton Gardens resident's views. They have spent frivolously, not listened to the tax payers, created a great amount of infighting and conducted business that bridges the gap of conduct unbecoming and violation of open meeting laws. My goal is to right the sinking ship and bring the conservative values back to government and as a steward of the tax payer money do what is fiscally responsible to the tax payers as a whole.
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	One way that I would improve the city is to ensure that we have a few dedicated police officers who will patrol Dalton regularly. This will prevent people from speeding down our streets and in front of our schools. Dalton is 25 miles per hour throughout our city. Kids and adults ride bikes, walk, etc. and having a strict speed enforcement will help keep our residents safe while walking and biking. I want to prevent hunting in Dalton Gardens city limits, but I do have a proposed deer management plan that doesn't involve hunting or relocating the deer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bring conservative values and morale government back to local city governing. b. Bring a fiscally conservative view into Dalton Gardens by being responsible with the tax payer's dollar. c. Address the issues that are truly affecting the city as a whole, a City Council representative is there to make decisions for the greater populous not for small groups of individuals.
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the city council manage growth?	I believe North Idaho is growing to fast. Too many people are moving to North Idaho and our infrastructure can't handle the traffic. The rapid growth of out of state people moving here is driving up the costs of houses, making it harder for native Idahoans to be able to purchase affordable homes for their family. Fortunately, we do not have this problem in Dalton, but I will continue to ensure high-density housing never happens in Dalton.	I am a 4 generation Idaho native and have seen what rapid growth has done to our critical infrastructure including roads, water, sewer, power and communications along with the effect on emergency services and schools. I am not against new growth as long as it's smart growth and the new growth is made to pay its way by paying for the improvements needed to the critical infrastructure with installation complete before the new construction occurs. In regards to emergency services the new growth should pay for the construction of new fire stations and LE agencies along with financial backing to hire individuals to fill the positions for the new stations based on the increased demand. The other issue with the rapid growth is that the cost of housing has increased at such a rapid rate that most of the younger generations are priced out of the housing market which has caused a push for more construction of apartment houses and affordable housing and taking away the ability for home ownership. The owners of these complexes make money while the individuals living there have nothing to show for the future. City Councils should manage growth by limiting construction until critical infrastructure needs are met and make sure the new growth doesn't become a burden on the existing populous of an area.

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4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	I'm a firm believer that elected officials best serve the public. The residents have their voices heard with elected officials and if they are not doing their job, the residents can vote them out.	I support elected officials in the decision making roles of all forms of government as these folks are in their position to represent the populous as a whole and not the decision makers own personal agenda, when you take the voice of the people away you allow government to control our lives.
5. What role should the city council have in the design and authorization of new developments?	In Dalton, we do not have the problem of new housing developments. I believe it is important that we leave Dalton uniquely rural and prevent multi-family and high-density housing.	As it currently sits development is reviewed and vetted by the City Planner and legal counsel to make sure it meets City Code and the comprehensive plan, it is then brought before the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and then pushed to Council for final approval. This process works well for Dalton Gardens as it limits the ability for only one set of eyes to make final decisions affecting many.
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	I do not think any service currently provided by the city should be cut, eliminated, or privatized.	Not for the City of Dalton Gardens, Dalton Gardens is a small city roughly covering 2.3 sq. mi. with a population of 2,800 people. Costs are kept low based on the current staffing model with a better product at the end.
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	From my discussions with Dalton residents, they do not want to be put on city managed water or sewer. I do not think the city of Coeur d'Alene could handle having Dalton on their water and sewer, so one of the only options would be for Dalton to have its own water treatment facility which I am opposed of because it takes away from the uniquely rural part of Dalton.	Dalton Gardens is served by Dalton Water Association on the potable side and Dalton Irrigation on the irrigation side; they are a board governed corporation, by keeping the system small it keeps the costs down for the end user and water quality high. Since Dalton Gardens is surrounded by two larger cities with their own water the current situation works well for Dalton Gardens as a whole.
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund but not raising taxes?	I do not believe this affects Dalton. The taxes are very minimal, and I will continue to make sure they remain low.	A healthy reserve fund should never be viewed as a rainy day fund but more of an emergency fund to operate the city for a couple of months if needed. A council should focus on keeping the budget balanced, maintaining what is needed in reserve for operations and if needed creating a line item visible to the public for future shovel ready projects or expenditures, i.e. purchasing a new snow plow. The City Council has fiduciary responsibility with what they have been given and should never view that as an open account for their own personal agendas.

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9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	As a native Idahoan, I'm in favor of the increased push for affordable housing. People moving here from out of state have driven up the costs of housing so high that people who were born in Idaho can't afford to purchase a house at a reasonable cost for their own family.	Currently there is a difference between affordable housing and keeping house affordable. In many cases affordable housing equates to apartments and not single family dwellings, which as stated above greatly affects critical infrastructure, schools and emergency service and a large growth increase that a community may not be ready for. Affordable housing has its place but should also be maintained closely as to have a good mix of multiple housing options and not equate to just large scale apartment complexes.
10. How should the public's input be taken into consideration and implemented in the decision-making process?	The public's input should be taken into consideration and implemented in the decision-making process. As an elected official, you are to serve the people. If there is something your residents want done, you should listen to the people and try to implement what they want.	As state above Council members have a fiduciary responsibility to the tax payers, the decisions made by the Council should represent the tax payers as a whole not personal agendas. Obviously it's up to the tax payers to bring their ideas forward to the Council and then the Council's responsibility to make informed decisions based to the betterment for all.
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?	No.	I have no history of tax liens or criminal record, not to brag but I have never even had a speeding ticket. I have no conflict of interest which would affect any future decision as a Council member.
12. Should the concept of "equitable outcome" be implemented as a part of the city council's decision-making process? Why or why not?	I think the only thing that should be implemented is doing what is best for the city of Dalton Gardens and its residence.	City Council is not responsible for the equitable outcome of individuals but is responsible to do what is right and just for the populous as a whole. The council needs to be responsible with the bottom line and should not be in the business of dealing with individuals or groups based on someone's idea of equitable outcome.

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13. What role should the health board play in the city council's decision-making process?	The health board should be there to give city council recommendations only. City council should give these recommendations to their residents but should not mandate or require the recommendations given by the health board.	The health board is appointed by the county commissioners in the 5 northern counties of Idaho to represent the 5 northern counties of Idaho and should not have a role in the local decision making of the city council, since these individuals are not elected by the populous they should stay out of local government.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I've spent most of my working life in professional sports. You always had to work as a team and through everyone's opinions, come up with what is the best route to take. I spent time coaching high school football where I had to be a leader for those young men. As an elected officer and bylaws chairman with the Hayden Lake Fraternal Order of Eagles, we listen to our members and make decisions based on what is best for our order. With that being said, I believe my leadership skills and willingness to be open minded about what others may think help me be qualified for this position. My bachelor's degree was mainly focused on political science.	I am the District Fire Marshal at Northern Lakes Fire District, I started in the fire service in 1996 as a volunteer firefighter, during my time as a volunteer I became interested in fire investigation and plan review and was hired as a full time fire inspector at Northern Lakes Fire in 2008. In 2013 I accepted a promotion to District Fire Marshal. In 2018 I became a certified Chaplain and now act as the District Chaplain. I have been a Watchman safety and security volunteer for 17 years at Real Life Ministries keeping the members of the congregation safe, not only providing security but also medical. I am currently a P&Z Commissioner for Dalton Gardens. I am a past President for the Idaho Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators and the North Idaho Code Enforcers. In the past I was the Cub Master for Cub Scout Pack 215 until my son moved on to Boy Scouts at which point I was one of the founders of Boy Scout Troop 911 in Hayden and acted as an Assistant Scout Master until my son received his Eagle Scout 7 years ago. As the District Fire Marshal I am responsible for many aspects of local government for the Cities of Hayden, Hayden Lake, Rathdrum and the unincorporated areas around Garwood and Twin Lakes, I have an extensive knowledge of codes and code enforcement, orders and rules of government and Idaho Open Meeting Law for transparent and ethical government. I did a short 8 month stint as a Council member for Dalton Gardens in 2019 after being appointed by the Governor after a recall election occurred in Dalton Gardens.