

Watchmen Voter Guide for City of Kootenai – Seat 1

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

	Robert Rutan	David Sundquist
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	ROBERT RUTAN, RUNNING FOR SEAT #1 OF THE KOOTENAI CITY COUNCIL. I WANT TO HELP MAKE DECISIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND PRESERVE OUR FREEDOMS AS AMERICANS.	David Sunquist City Council I am an incumbant & I have things I would like to see completed
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	(1) HAVE MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS WHERE WE CAN INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER (2) BECOME MORE “NEIGHBORLY” AS A COMMUNITY (3) TAKE MORE PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND HOW IT LOOKS TO OTHERS WHO DRIVE DOWN OUR ROADWAYS.	Improve Parks & connectivity Increase compliance with city ordinances
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the city council manage growth?	IT IS A CONCERN, DEFINITELY. CITY COUNCIL MUST BE VOCAL IN DECISIONS WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT OUR INFRASTRUCTURE CAN HANDLE THE GROWTH!	Idaho has land, & water, but not infrastructure, & housing needs to have many more options. Some soft of long term economic engine
4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	ELECTED OFFICIALS. THIS IS DEMOCRACY.	Both are needed. For many positions, professional experience is vital so appointing the best qualified is critical. Elected officials level the playing field
5. What role should the city council have in the design and authorization of new developments?	MAKING SURE THAT THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS WILL NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE FREEDOM AND SAFETY OF OTHERS, OR PUT A BURDEN ON THE EXISTING SYSTEMS SUCH AS POWER, WATER, SEWER, AND TRAFFIC ON CURRENT ROADWAYS.	The council allocates fund, public, so it should have a great say in public expenditures. Privite projects need to fit into the overall plans, so, oversite is important

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6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	SINCE THIS TYPE OF DECISION WOULD IMPACT EACH RESIDENT OF THE CITY, IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMUNITY FOR A VOTE.	Kootenai is not in any position to cut any services we offer so few.
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	THAT IS A TWO-EDGED SWORD. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD REACH MORE PEOPLE AND POSSIBLY PROVIDE MORE REASONABLY-PRICED SERVICES, IT ALSO MAY MAKE MORE PEOPLE DEPENDENT UPON THE CITY.	City water & sewer are paid in large part, by city residents. Only when expanded W&S are not paid for by city residents should it be expanded outside the city.
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund but not raising taxes?	BY CONTROLLING ALL UNNECESSARY SPENDING AND MAKING WISE, CONSERVATIVE FINANCIAL DECISIONS.	I would raise taxes, but also set an objective & responsible budget & then stay within it.
9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	IF BY THIS YOU MEAN GOV'T SUBSIDIZED HOUSING, I HAVE MIXED VIEWS. YES, THERE IS A NEED FOR LOWER-COST HOUSING. HOWEVER, THERE ALSO IS A POINT WHERE A CITY'S TAX-BASE REVENUE WILL DWINDLE, IF MORE RESIDENTS ARE RENTERS WHO DO NOT PAY PROPERTY TAX. THERE MUST BE A BALANCE.	Every house that is already owned is affordable to those owners. To increase density, without infrastructure is irresponsible, there is land in N. Idaho, build more housing, but expand the living space
10. How should the public's input be taken into consideration and implemented in the decision-making process?	THERE SHOULD BE MORE DISCUSSION ALLOWED AND ENCOURAGED FROM THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY, DURING A CITY COUNCIL MEETING, ESPECIALLY WITH ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE COMMUNITY.	Open meetings, more communication via print & electronic is part. Volume is never the overlying input. Everybody's voice is of equal importance

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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?	NO. SINCE I AM NOT RETIRED, I DO TRAVEL FOR BUSINESS OCCASIONALLY. HOWEVER, I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND MONTHLY MEETINGS.	Not so far
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 ABSOLUTELY NOT. THIS IS A SOCIALISTIC MINDSET - NOT FREEDOM!	I am not familiar with that term Outcomes should be Determined by merit & their compatibilty/compliance
13. What role should the health board play in the city council’s decision-making process?	THE HEALTH BOARD SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LEGISLATE THE HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS THROUGH POLICIES MADE BY CITY COUNCIL. THIS IS NOT FREEDOM.	Professional decisions should be given the lion’s share of consideration. Professional Health providers should make health care decisions, city council should help implement them
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I AM A “PEOPLE-PERSON” WHO LOVES TO MEET AND TALK WITH EVERYONE! I HAVE SERVED THE PUBLIC IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS DURING MY LIFETIME: A CARPENTER, AN ASSISTANT PASTOR/YOUTH PASTOR, AN INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT ADVISOR, AN INVENTOR AND BUSINESS OWNER.	I have served 18 yrs & still learn something at every council meeting