

Watchmen Voter Guide for City of Post Falls: City Council - Seat 2
** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

→ [Louis Reuter has withdrawn from the race](#) ←

	Alan Wolfe	Josh Walker
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<p>My name is Alan Wolfe and I'm running for seat 2 on the Post Falls City Council. I am running for re-election to this seat to continue the good work we have done on the council over the past eight years. Now, more than ever, we face some major challenges and I want to stay involved in this role to make the best use of the knowledge and experience I have gained over the 15 years I have served the city.</p> <p>I currently represent our council on the Regional Housing and Growth Issues Partnership which is working on the many issues that have come with the rapid growth over the past few years. The work I have put into this organization is invaluable and I would hate to see the city and the partnership need to start over.</p>	Declined to Respond
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<p>One thing that has become a very big concern over the past few years is the tremendous amount of misinformation brought forth by individuals and groups. Social media has allowed many of these untruths to flourish and cause anxiety among our constituents. I have tried to provide the truth, and clarify misunderstandings both online and in person. I will be organizing "town hall" meetings where people can come and safely ask their questions and get the answers they need.</p> <p>I would also like to continue our work on an inventory of available land for development and the timelines associated with each lot. Some people are very concerned that every available lot will be developed in the next year or so. Not only is that not the plan, but it is also not feasible with the existing workforce.</p> <p>I would also like to see the further development of our transportation master plan. Under normal circumstances the city will always lag a little bit behind growth regarding roads and traffic. The recent surge has put us even further behind and we need to do what we can to catch up.</p>	Declined to Respond
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the city council manage growth?	<p>The rapid growth in the past few years has created a number of challenges at a time when we are already dealing with issues caused by the COVID pandemic. Growth can be looked at a few different ways. First, the growth of new citizens. Some are concerned with the beliefs and attitudes others will bring to our area. In my experience, I have met many wonderful newcomers who are doing their best to settle into the culture of North Idaho. While I am not out encouraging people to move here, I do welcome the newcomers with open arms and a willingness to share what we have with them.</p> <p>Second, we are challenged with finding a place for everyone to live. It is not the city's job to create a home for them, but it is a challenge we need to deal with. Whenever the demand for housing is higher than the supply, we will see increasing prices for houses and higher rents. This can cause some people to be pushed out of their current living situation. The city council has done a good job managing the amount of available land for future development. Most of the new building we see right now was approved years ago and will begin to taper off as projects get completed.</p>	Declined to Respond
4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	<p>I think it is extremely important to have both since they each have their strengths and weaknesses. If the majority of the public would take the time to learn about candidates running for office and vote accordingly, this would be the best scenario. Unfortunately, the majority of voters choose to be apathetic about the process which allows a small group of active people to often decide the elected officials for the rest.</p> <p>Appointed officials can often serve the public better than elected because they should be chosen based on their knowledge and experience. The drawback comes in who is doing the choosing. Unfortunately, personal beliefs and politics can come into play and override the persons' ability to do the job.</p>	Declined to Respond

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5. What role should the city council have in the design and authorization of new developments?	The city council works with the city staff and the public to create ordinances that guide the use of the land within the city. Once the ordinances are approved the city council ensures they are followed whenever a land use issue comes before the body. This allows landowners and developers to have a clear set of rules that must be followed within the city.	Declined to Respond
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	This question has come up a few times over the years and we are always looking for the best way to provide the best service to our citizens. I am always open to new considerations as things continue to change but I have no personal agenda to make changes of this nature at this time.	Declined to Respond
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	I do not believe the city of Post Falls has anything to gain by increasing access to our sewer and water at this time.	Declined to Respond
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund but not raising taxes?	The city has two forms of reserves. One is a relatively small amount of cash for unexpected but manageable expenditures. We keep a sharp eye on these funds because they do not earn the city much in the way of revenue. The other reserve is the balance available in foregone taxes. These are taxes that we could access if something more drastic were to happen to the city. I don't see a good reason to levy additional taxes on our constituents just to keep it in a low earning account. We look at these reserves at least once a year to ensure we are prepared for small or large emergencies.	Declined to Respond
9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	The cost of housing has increased dramatically for many of our local workforce who rent their homes. It has also become more difficult for people to buy a home as costs have escalated. The "push" really comes from many sources who want to find ways to help our local workers deal with higher housing costs.	Declined to Respond
10. How should the public's input be taken into consideration and implemented in the decision-making process?	The public's input is extremely important in the decision-making process. The key is when that input is the most valuable. We call on the public for input when we are creating our various plans that guide us in the decisions we make. We go to great lengths to hear from as many people as possible and we would always appreciate more. Once these plans are in place, it's difficult to then get feedback from a few people who either didn't come to the planning sessions or want to change the plans after they are adopted. When this happens, we still take their thoughts seriously as we look to improve the plans.	Declined to Respond

	Alan Wolfe	Josh Walker
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 at all	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?	Complete “equitable outcome” is nearly impossible when serving thousands of citizens. There will always be some people who are very happy and some who are disappointed. I always look for ways to make Post Falls better. Bringing as much balance to the decisions is as close as we can come to serving all of our constituents.	Declined to Respond
13. What role should the health board play in the city council’s decision-making process?	We listen to all the other governing bodies that impact the lives of people living in Post Falls. Whether it is the school board, the highway commission, the fire commission, or Panhandle Health we work together to find the best possible solution for issues that affect us.	Declined to Respond
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I have served on the Post Falls City Council for the past eight years. Prior to that I served on the Post Falls Planning Commission for seven years. In addition to my service to the city, I have served on several boards in Kootenai County and still volunteer on a regular basis. My work on the Regional Housing and Growth Issues Partnership brings me more information and possible solutions to these major issues affecting the people of Kootenai County Before I retired, I worked 40 years in the financial management field. During my career, I was actively involved in strategic planning, budget management, human resources, and operations. This experience invaluable in helping make Post Falls better.	Declined to Respond