

Watchmen Voter Guide for Kootenai County Fire & Rescue - Sub District 4

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

	Paul R. Wagner	Keith "Hutch" Hutcheson
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	I am Paul R. Wagner, and I am running for re-election as fire commissioner of sub-district 4, for Kootenai County Fire & Rescue.	Declined to Respond
2. How could your fire district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	Currently our district is dealing with an unusually large increase in response calls, due in part to covid and the population increase. The biggest improvement needed is more personnel and vehicles. These needs will be filled due to the recent passage of our bond levy last May. We will be moving 2 stations and building a 5 th station and will add 9 firefighters, necessary equipment, and a new truck.	Declined to Respond
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?	While I wish it were not happening, I understand why. My wife and I moved here 41 years ago for what north Idaho had to offer us.	Declined to Respond
4. Do you feel that the Fire District has a responsibility to protect the public's best interests to insure scalable growth?	The fire district has responsibility in many areas, but we are limited by what is currently in effect in Idaho Statutes. These statutes were enacted by elected representatives. No fire district can slow or stop developments if it meets all necessary requirements.	Declined to Respond
5. Instead of taxing current residents to pay for growth, what are your suggestions to increase revenue for your fire district?	Any taxing agency must be careful how it increases revenue. KCFR has a well-staffed and equipped repair facility at our training center. We can take in and repair vehicles from other agencies on occasion for increased revenue. Another way is already in the works and should begin sometime in the next 2 months. Currently we are not able to handle all Critical Care Transport (CCT) due to lack of personnel and equipment. These will usually go to private organizations. Working with Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services a plan will soon be put into effect to handle all CCT's in the county. This is expected to bring in significant income.	Declined to Respond
6. What role should the Fire District have in the design and authorization of new developments?	Our role must simply be to see that all requirements are met in the planning and approval stages and then be prepared for the increase in responses. This means looking to the future to ensure we have the necessary stations, personnel and equipment when needed.	Declined to Respond
7. Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities and why?	It is a nice idea and if city water has the ability to supply rural communities, I see no problem with it. However, I believe the rural communities must pay for the additional infrastructure, i.e.: pay for the growth, and not burden the existing water users with additional costs.	Declined to Respond

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8. In your opinion, what areas can be improved with forest management in your fire district?	I spent about 40 years working in forest management as a forester for a private company. A well-managed forest is resistant to fire and when one does occur is less destructive and usually easier to contain. Encouraging landowners to work with Idaho Department of Lands or private consultants will go a long way to reducing destructive fires. KCFR has budgeted and is in the process of building 3 brush trucks which will be used as initial attack on forest fires.	Declined to Respond
9. What should be the role of the fire district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	Our role with any governing authority should be cooperating with them by informing and advising them of state statutes relevant to the situation.	Declined to Respond
10. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I am married for 41 years, father of 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren. A retired forester who worked mostly in timber harvesting operations with logging contractors. Member of the Post Falls Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, and Vice-president of the Idaho State Fire Commissioners Association. I have been a commissioner with KCFR for 10 years and have learned a great deal. When I arrived as a new commissioner the district was in very good financial shape, and I have been part of the team that has seen it grow and improve. The recent passage of the bond levy is part of our plan to keep up with the growth north Idaho is experiencing and believe I can be an integral part of the team who sees the completion of the plan.	Declined to Respond