

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Northern Lakes Fire Protection District - Sub District 1

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

	<a href="#">Michael Pearce</a>	<a href="#">John Horn</a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Michael Pearce, Fire Commissioner District One, Northern Lakes Fire. I am running for office to continue to insure that our Fire Department is the best it can be personnel are highly trained and we have the equipment needed for the department to confront any situation that may arise and at the same time being fiscally responsible to all the citizens.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>2.</b> How could your fire district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	We need more manned and equipped stations throughout our 5 districts. We would then reduce our response times. I would like to see a station that is manned and equipped within 5 miles of every resident in our district. Homeowners' insurance would then be reduced. Continue working with the public in education and awareness about fire prevention and safety.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>3.</b> What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?	The growth in North Idaho has been overwhelming. On one hand, it is good for the economy but on the other, we have been caught off guard somewhat and our infrastructure, i.e. roads, facilities, medical, fire and police all need the same kind of growth to keep up with the influx of people.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>4.</b> Do you feel that the Fire District has a responsibility to protect the public's best interests to insure scalable growth?	Yes, but the Fire Districts' responsibility is to guarantee that all people, new residents and existing residents have the best trained and equipped fire department and that the response times are quick to insure safety of people and property. That is why with this growth we need more stations and personnel. The fire commissioner is to insure that the department is fiscally responsible.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>5.</b> Instead of taxing current residents to pay for growth, what are your suggestions to increase revenue for your fire district?	I don't believe we should be taxing current residents to pay for new growth in our districts. We need and should have impact fees so that new growth will pay for the infrastructure changes that will be needed for every one.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>6.</b> What role should the Fire District have in the design and authorization of new developments?	The district should be involved in the design of new developments so that the roads and access routes are passable with fire trucks and equipment. Also, assist in the design and placement of where fire hydrants should be placed, the size of water pipes feeding those hydrants and the water pressure needed. The fire department will then become familiar with routes in and out of developments for safe and quick access.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>7.</b> Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities and why?	Yes, I believe city managed water should be increased to rural areas. The biggest reason is for fire safety. If there can be hydrants everywhere, including rural areas, fighting any type of fire becomes much easier and quicker to save property and people. With that said, that cost should be paid for by the developers and not on the backs of existing residents. Most residents would never be able to have city water to their property because of the costs involved.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>

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<b>8.</b> In your opinion, what areas can be improved with forest management in your fire district?	Forest Management really begins with the homeowner and communities. Homeowners can and need to ask local and state fire departments to inspect their forested land and learn what can help in a wildfire and help them to protect their property and lives. Educating homeowners and encouraging them to learn as much as possible, will assist firefighters in saving their property in the event of a fire. Community could come together and apply for the Fire Wise program. It will help communities understand the dangers of wildfire and what can be done to help prevent a possible wildfire devastation.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>9.</b> What should be the role of the fire district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	The role of the fire district is to work closely with other governing agencies, primarily in the event of a major incident impacting a large portion of the community Everyone must have working knowledge of the other departments; insuring the critical incident guidelines are in place and exactly what is required to each department. Working closely with city planners, county commissioners in very important for establishing those critical guidelines as mentioned above and also, for the growth and safety of all new construction in our communities. Working together is important for the health and welfare of communities as they grow.	<b>Declined to Respond</b>
<b>10.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	<p>I feel I am qualified for this position because I have been in leadership roles most of my life. I have dealt with people from all walks of life.</p> <p>I was in the Army for 12+ years as Airborne Ranger, Drill Instructor, Many NCO leadership schools, Operations Sergeant for the Airborne School at Ft. Benning ,GA, and platoon sergeant. I achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class.</p> <p>After leaving the Army, I became a business owner for 25-years and traveled the country interacting with many different people and companies.</p> <p>I was a volunteer firefighter/EMT at Hayden Fire Dept. for nearly three years, and was in the department when it merged and became Northern Lakes Fire. I trained and worked as if I was a full-time firefighter. I learned first-hand what it means to fight a fire, respond to vehicle accidents and medical emergencies. I know what it means to have the best training possible and equipment.</p> <p>I also know that as commissioner, it is my job to be fiscally responsible to each and every citizen in our fire district.</p>	<b>Declined to Respond</b>