

Watchmen Voter Guide for Timberlake Fire Protection District - Sub District 5

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

	Todd Amende	Sam Rick Conner
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Declined to Respond	I am running for re-election to continue my public service and support of our local fire district. I believe it to be an important obligation. I believe my role as fire commissioner since 2016, makes me the best person for the job.
2. How could your fire district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	Declined to Respond	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create better public support and understanding of the importance of the fire district in each area. 2. We need more support from the public for our district's volunteer program which is outstanding and Timberlake's is highly recognized state-wide. 3. Increase public awareness that the growth in our area affects infrastructure at all levels, including fire districts.
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?	Declined to Respond	Growth needs to be better managed. It is out of control and there is not adequate infrastructure to support the growth – schools, fire, police, jail, roads. Impact fees are a must.
4. Do you feel that the Fire District has a responsibility to protect the public's best interests to insure scalable growth?	Declined to Respond	We, as fire commissioners, do not have the authority to stop or slow growth. We need to bring awareness of the short falls and needs of the fire districts and encourage public support, much as school districts have been able to do for their needs.
5. Instead of taxing current residents to pay for growth, what are your suggestions to increase revenue for your fire district?	Declined to Respond	We need to implement impact fees, instead of encouraging more growth to out of state developers. With the county, we are in the process of developing and implementing impact fees and hope to have them in place by November of 2021.
6. What role should the Fire District have in the design and authorization of new developments?	Declined to Respond	We have no legal control over design or authorization of future developments other than the expectation for them to follow our codes already in place.
7. Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities and why?	Declined to Respond	We, as fire commissioners, have no legal authority over water districts and their agendas. Water districts have their own regulations to follow.
8. In your opinion, what areas can be improved with forest management in your fire district?	Declined to Respond	Programs such as "Fire Wise" which encourages residents to clean up undergrowth on their own properties are very helpful. It is important for every rural resident to create a fire boundary around their home. Our forests are not being properly managed due to too much government interference – encourage logging; farmer access. Lack of management and use results in more wild land fires. Awareness programs of fire danger are always useful.

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9. What should be the role of the fire district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	Declined to Respond	These are all separate entities with their own rules and regulations. Fire commissioners can only work within our own framework and district. We have no authority over local governance. Attendance of meetings for communication, input and awareness is encouraged.
10. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	Declined to Respond	I am the current fire commissioner for Timberlake Fire District, Zone 5. I was appointed in August of 2016, due to the need for a replacement. I was then elected in November of 2016, with my term ending this year. I have extensive knowledge of maintenance and care of equipment. I also have previous private business ownership experience that entailed important decisions. My past years as commissioner gives me a knowledge of our district that my opponent does not have. My many years as a resident gives me knowledge of the areas' needs, and allowances. As well, I have a loyalty to do what is best for the home I have known and loved for many years. I love my community, my involvement with our fire personnel, and I would very much appreciate another term working with them.