

Watchmen Voter Guide for Bonner County Commissioner District 3
*** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire ***

	David C. Bowman	Richard A. Harter	Ron H. Korn Jr	Benjamin L. Omodt	Brian A. Riley
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Dave Bowman running for Bonner County Commissioner, District 3. Bonner County needs help and I have the experience and temperament to be one of the next commissioners.	Richard Harter Bonner County Commissioner District 3. I want to make sure that our government is held accountable to the people. Too often our government acts aloof and superior to the people. Our government is supposed to work for us and I want to make that a reality not just a slogan.	Ron Korn, I am a Statesman running for Bonner county Commissioner, District 3. I am running for this position to restore limited responsible government and representation to the people.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?	Life begins at conception. That fact does not enter into the responsibilities or duties of a county commissioner.	Life begins at conception. Regardless of current "law" I will always believe that abortion is murder and should be treated as such.	I believe life begins at inception, as it does. I will base my executive decision making on my Christian faith, and our Constitution.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
3. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	I do not like eminent domain because it tends to be misused. It should only be used as the very last resort.	ED can be necessary at certain times and places. However, it has been abused about 99% of the time. Corporate interests have infiltrated our governments at all levels and use the system to abuse the citizens. I would only use ED in times of emergency or great peril.	While I do not agree with Government taking private property (eminent domain), it is part of the 5 th Amendment " <i>nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation</i> ". I think this should only be done when expanding necessary infrastructure, but not to be abused.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I do not support forced annexation. People who live in rural areas do so because they desire that lifestyle. They should not be forced to have their land	We are all free by the grace of God. Even if elected I do not have the authority to force people to my will. God did not grant me that power	I oppose forced annexation. Government does not rule the people, just the opposite. It is up to the people to choose if they desire to be annexed.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

	and their lifestyle encroached upon by preventable urban sprawl.	and no number of "votes" can give me that power			
5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?	Impact fees should be charged to developers, so they, rather than the existing taxpayers bear the burden of financing the infrastructure improvements.	Bonner County is growing very rapidly. We need to protect our current residents from rapidly inflating property taxes and unnecessary bonds, these are causing an undue hardship on fixed/moderate income people and it can lead to them losing their homes and property. We need to educate people about tax exemptions/reductions that they may be available for the help lighten their burden. We need to eliminate the property tax and increase the sales tax to cover the gap. This will put a greater tax burden on higher income individuals and reduce the overall burden on others.	I believe we need to focus infrastructure improvements closer to the urban communities, roads, water, sewer, etc. These expenses should be the burden of any developers bringing growth. It may be necessary to also add "impact fees" to people building new homes and property owners subdividing and selling lots.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

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6. Due to the rapid growth in our communities, our schools are reaching maximum capacity. What are your plans to accommodate more schools to meet the growing needs of the increased population?	Taxpayers are already paying for existing schools. Developers should bear the burden of paying for new schools needed to accommodate increased population.	The school board is a separate branch of local government, our school board are also elected officials. The Commissioners office has no authority over any of the school districty.	I don't believe that the county commissioners can do anything about accommodating more schools as schools fall under the State. Again, it may be necessary to add impact fees to new building, as the financial burden should not be placed on the people that aren't causing the growth.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	I do not support urban renewal. I do not support public/private partnerships in general. I believe the decay in urban areas is a result of failed government policies and programs going back to Johnson's Great Society.	I do not support UR projects if they need public money to get the job done. If private industry wants to fund the entire project and stay within all codes and regulations then I think it would benefit our county, I am always for the free market coming up with solutions to our problems.	I support urban renewal districts if the purpose is to provide improving infrastructure to run down areas such as sewer, water, roads, etc. But I would audit the cities who are wanting to do this to check for funding deficiencies or abuse that led to the issue. It should not be the burden of the people to pay for private developers to rebuild private property.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support impact fees charged to developers.	If ,for example, you mean a new road that would be needed to tie in a new home to an existing public road then yes. I will never vote for county funds to be used for any type of private development.	I support requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure, after all it's the developers who are profiting.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

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9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	I am accountable to God and to the People I serve. No one else.	I will always be held accountable by God and the people. God created me and I love him, that brings an accountability all on its own. The people elected me, I work for them.	It's not my opinion, but my duty as the peoples representative, to be accountable to the people. It's written in the constitution.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
10. Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I oppose having a county manager. The commissioners are elected by the People and accountable to the People. A manager adds an unnecessary layer of government and puts a buffer between the commissioners and the People.	This question has too many implications for me to answer accurately. A "manager" can be given but should actually be done by elected officials. Please see my previous answers and I think you will know what my answer would be depending on what you mean by the question.	I'm opposed to the idea of a county manager. It grows government, an is not elected or accountable to the people.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
11. With the rapid growth of the county, do you think we need more commissioners?	I do not. 3 is an appropriate number.	No, just as I don't think we need more Supreme Court Justices. There is no need to "pack the commissioners" office. I think we need more informed voters to make better choices at polls to elect Christian Conservatives.	No, more commissioners just grow government and the budget.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
12. In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I oppose the legalization of marijuana. In places where it is legal, use by minors is a big problem because it's much easier for them to obtain it.	I am waiting to see what the long-term effects this has had in other states. God has given us the freedom to make choices for ourselves and we should honor that.	I've seen the great medical benefits of marijuana, and the possible lead into drugs. I'm really neutral to the legalization unless I had statistics showing the decline of civility in areas where it is legal now.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

<p>13. Do you believe the ARPA funds come with Federal requirements that might conflict with Idaho values? Why or why not? How will you advocate for the funds to be used locally?</p>	<p>ARPA funds come with conditions that are unacceptable – the proviso to obey and enforce future unknown mandates and executive orders. I do not believe ARPA funds should be spent locally. No federal or state money with strings attached.</p>	<p>I will not take any ARPA funds. I have started two business from the ground up and I am very familiar with contracts, which is what ARPA requires to take the money. While there are uncounted problems within ARPA I will list the one that stands out the most to me. I would NEVER sign a contract in which the other party had a clause to allow them to make any changes at their discretion and without input from me. It is akin to buying a house and the mortgage contract says the bank can add any stipulation it wants in the future and you are forced to accept it.</p>	<p>I am totally AGAINST accepting ARPA funds, period.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>14. Do you believe the six Row Officers (assessor, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, treasurer, coroner, and clerk) should be appointed or stay elected? Why or why not?</p>	<p>They all need to remain elected so they are accountable directly to the People.</p>	<p>These offices work for the people and the people should decide who works there.</p>	<p>Elected, they need to be accountable to the people.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>
<p>15. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I ran a successful business for 37 years, managing 6 and 7 figure projects under tight budget and time constraints in very challenging conditions. I negotiated intricate contracts with clients,</p>	<p>I have started two small business from the ground up. These businesses have been in operation for over twenty years, support ten families and are still running strong today. I have the knowledge and experience to take</p>	<p>I've studied our Constitution and our Government for decades. I understand how it's supposed to work, not how it's working now. I've been self-employed for decades, understanding how to balance budgets and</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>

	<p>vendors and for several types of insurance coverage. I promoted a culture of mutual respect that bred mutual loyalty between myself, my employees and clients. In all that time, in a very high-risk, high-liability environment I was sued only once, unsuccessfully. I understand budgets and contracts and I'm a proven leader. I have been very active in Bonner County issues, working to hold the current BOCC and Planning Dept. accountable for their decisions.</p> <p>As the Chairman of Keep Bonner County Rural I have been at the forefront of getting the Planning and Zoning Commission to look hard at how they interpret our zoning code rather than following the misguidance of our current Planning Director and BOCC Chairman in catering to developers. We have shown regular folks that when you're in the right, that you in fact can fight "city hall." There are many people doing that hard work, but without my leadership it is unlikely we would have had the</p>	<p>information from multiple expert sources and chart a course. That is what a commissioner does. Please visit my website for a full disclosure on my background and history of serving Bonner County. https://harterforbonnercounty.org/</p>	<p>make things work without raising taxes. There is always fat to cut. Allowing government to grow goes against our Constitution, and financially burdens the taxpayers. I've already been in public service as a volunteer and citizen, for over 23 years. My volunteer service includes being the Commander of Bonner County Sheriff Search and Rescue, leading over 150 volunteers. When the China virus came in 2020, our Independence Day celebrations were canceled. I drew my line there, and in 7 weeks I was able to save our Independence Day celebrations along with adding a festival of games and events free to the community. I've also served as a Scout leader and volunteer firefighter. I've founded multiple organizations in Bonner County such as: 7B Volleyball Club, Rapid Lightning/Upper Gold Creek Community network, 7 Bravo Christian Faith based Constitutional Militia, Save Independence Day, and FACLU Freedom and Civil Liberties Union. And now I would like to roll that community service into being</p>		
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	<p>successes we have. And it has all been to benefit the People of Bonner County. My work with KBCR has put me in touch with people from all over Bonner County across the spectrum of demographics. They are the ones who encouraged me to run for this office, and I have a good grip on their concerns with county government, not just on matters of land use. To my knowledge, I am the only person in the county (other than the author and signers), who identified the most egregious clauses in the ice-rink contract and brought them to light. That is because I read it with the knowledge of someone who's livelihood has depended on digging deep into the fine print of contracts. These are some of the qualifications I bring.</p>		<p>your elected representative, Bonner County Commissioner, District 3. I am a Statesman, not a politician. Action, not words.</p>		
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