

Watchmen Voter Guide for Bonner County Treasurer

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

	Clorrisa A. Koster
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Clorrisa Koster, and I am running for Bonner County Treasurer. I am running for Bonner County Treasurer because I truly care for the citizens of Bonner County. Property taxes are a burden for many and making sure that every taxpayer is educated in the various exemptions they might be able to qualify for, payment plan options, and how property taxes are assessed and calculated is key. I want to make sure that the office continues to be run with the dedication, professionalism, accuracy, and accountability that the citizens deserve.
2. As the county treasurer who has the responsibility to invest idle funds, what should the investment strategy be for the public's money?	The county Treasurer has this responsibility. Investment of Idle funds are dictated by Idaho Code. Funds must be FDIC insured or collateralized. Funds must also be diversified and readily available.
3. What improvements can be made for greater transparency in the Treasurer's office to the public?	Transparency is not currently a problem in the Treasurer's Office; however, we can always do better with communication with the public. I will make sure that that information is posted on the Treasurer's Office website. Facebook is also a powerful tool to the public when used responsibly. I will create a face book page for the office that can be used to notify the public regarding due dates of taxes, exemptions and any other important information that we need the public to be aware of.
4. If elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	All elected officials are accountable to the citizens in the county because we are elected to serve them.
5. What should the proper balance of government revenue sources be when considering income taxes, property taxes and sales taxes?	The purpose of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that we cannot perform ourselves. Taxes should only be collected and spent to provide those critical functions and nothing more.
6. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	Under the current rules and laws for Urban Renewal agencies I oppose them. Urban Renewal takes away revenues from taxing districts that fall within their boundaries.
7. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support requirements for developers to pay impact fees.
8. Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I do not support or oppose this idea. I would first need to see an analysis on the benefits of incorporating this position in Bonner County vs the cost to fully decide for or against.
9. How would you utilize the budget that you manage while being fiscally responsible?	My budget will be based on salaries for my staff and the necessary supplies and services that are needed to perform the duties under Idaho Code that the Treasurer is responsible for.

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10. 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?	Yes. The documents that have been supplied by the Federal government indicate the enforcement of executive orders that we would be subject to, such as mask and vaccine mandates as well as future orders at any time that the Federal Government sees a need for. In addition to this, if Bonner County were to use any of these funds and did not follow the executive orders, we could be subject to returning the funds which depending on the amount that we used could bankrupt the county leaving the taxpayers to burden the costs. I will not advocate for the funds to be used. ARPA funds need to be sent back.
11. With the rapid growth of the county, do you think we need more commissioners?	At this point I do not see where Bonner County's growth justifies the need for more commissioners. This will be an added cost to the taxpayers, and I do not see where the benefits justify it. This is subject to change if growth continues.
12. 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?	I believe the above officers should be elected. The public should have the say in who represents them.
13. 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 would support the legalizing of it for at least medical purposes as it has been proven that it can have very good benefits and is a better alternative to harsh chemicals from drugs that are given for many things.
14. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I know the job and I have done the job. The Treasurer/s position is responsible for the billing, collection, and apportionment of over \$70 million in tax dollars as well as the safeguarding of those funds. I have 29 years of direct financial experience within Bonner county, 23 years directly working in the Treasurer's office and 14 of those years serving as the Chief Deputy Treasurer. As Chief Deputy Treasurer I have made decisions in the absence of the elected treasurer. I know the Idaho code that dictates the duties and responsibilities of the treasurer. The remaining 6 years has been with the Bonner county Auditor's office working as an accountant. In 2019 I was appointed to serve as the Chief Deputy Clerk, which acts as the elected clerk in his absence, and I have the responsibility of managing all operations of the Elections Department.