

Watchmen Voter Guide for Kootenai County Commissioner District 2

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

	Bruce Mattare
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Bruce Mattare, County Commissioner currently held by Chris Fillios. I'm running for Commissioner because I've learned of many troubling issues being ignored by my opponent. Additionally, I don't believe it is moral to present oneself as a Conservative Republican only to thank members of the opposing party for switching party affiliation to help one win the Republican Primary. It's time for honest leadership in the county.
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?	I believe it begins at conception. I believe that public funds should not be used to harm any life in any way.
3. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	I believe that eminent domain is necessary for a community and that it should ONLY be used for significant public projects, not for private "for-profit" projects.
4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I do not support forcing property owners to join a government jurisdiction outside of its current jurisdiction.
5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?	The biggest shortfalls are with personnel, which is what we need to fix first before looking at significant capital infrastructure projects. I would also look at making sure our software is current to ensure we don't need to maintain excessive staffing to perform jobs the software can do. I'd also want to explore leasing space, compared to the county spending millions becoming a real estate holding firm. One of the problems with rapid growth is you do not know when it will end. Whatever real estate needs you think you have today could be insufficient in three to five years from now. To me there is nothing worse than spending tens of millions on a building that ends up being too small for county needs when completed or shortly thereafter.
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?	The schools are their own taxing districts, so the BOCC has limited authority (if any) over this district and how it grows. However, I would encourage meaningful impact studies and fees to construct schools, so the growth pays for itself. I would also look at designing and constructing them in a way that makes it cost effective to convert the structures into other uses as demographics change. I've lived in areas where schools were converted due to demographics, only to later be converted back to schools as student populations grew again.
7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	The intent of them is to allow municipalities to have some authority over deteriorated areas. The Idaho Code 50-2002 reads pretty clearly that it is meant to reverse situations that are a menace to an area. The problem is how that is determined. I think some political leaders have used it as a mechanism outside of its original intent. If there is a situation where an area has become so bad that it becomes crime ridden, drug infested and a true menace to the surrounding community, then I can see where having a mechanism like this can be productive for a community. However, if this is a way to displace people in functioning communities so others can profit off of it, then I do not support it.

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8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support developers collecting and paying taxing districts impact fees to help pay for growth and infrastructure. Growth should pay for itself.
9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	The voters. They elected me.
10. Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I oppose a statutory county manager as defined by Idaho statute. The county manager would take over the budget officer function, which is currently held by the Clerk's Office. Two Utah counties did this and it created significant problems of accountability. I also don't like the idea of having a statutory position of county manager because these positions are often temporarily filled by career people from other communities who may not have the same value system as this community. They may only concern themselves with padding their resumes for that next better paying opportunity and leave us with the consequences of their decisions/actions. Conversely, the BOCC can hire a manager right now to administer the departments under the BOCC. This is no different than a Chief Deputy or Undersheriff position. I prefer this option.
11. With the rapid growth of the county, do you think we need more commissioners?	No. More commissioners can hurt our community. If you don't like the direction of county government, citizens can change it in two years or one election cycle. With more commissioners it can take two to three election cycles to manifest change. This hurts the citizens.
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 it because the concentration of THC is multiples higher than several decades ago. It is harming our young people (our future) and almost always leads to more crime in communities that sell it legally. The last thing any community needs is a company marketing a product to young people can harm them.
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?	I do not. I've spoken at length with other elected officials and am confident that such monies do not come with strings attached that will conflict with what is best for this community. I also think it's worth understanding what the consequences are for not following such requirements. As it has been explained to me, if monies needed to be re-paid it would be at 0% interest. This leads to the next important point: The funds should only be used for capital projects that we would do anyway with existing taxpayer money. Never for "pet" or nice-to-have projects. I see this as our money that we've already paid through federal taxation and are due back for this community. I believe it is immoral to allow longtime residents to be taxed out of this community because we're not willing to accept such funds for projects we must build anyhow.

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<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>These positions should continue to be elected and accountable to the voters.</p>
<p>15. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I have a lot of organizational and managerial experience. My business was built from scratch, with me taking the very first order to several years later taking 5,000 orders a month and managing just under 200 employees and full-time equivalent staff. It was a 24/7 operation. Even the software for my company was built from scratch with me designing the initial data tables. My experience is broad and deep.</p> <p>The county is growing like a weed and there is no vision among county leadership for the end result. We're also in a public safety staffing crises that has occurred under the watch of my opponent. That's unacceptable. It's time for competent people to step in and fix these issues while it's still cheap. The continued neglect of public safety, among other issues, could come back to haunt us with multi-milliondollar lawsuits or consent decrees if not corrected soon. This has been proven time and again in other communities.</p> <p>My desire to seek office occurred organically. I've never had ambition for it. I only wanted to help get a good person elected as Sheriff. This is how I became Sheriff Bob Norris' Campaign Manager.</p> <p>It was through our discussions of county problems, and my exposure to the issues discussed in the Optional Forms of Government Study Commission, did I realize how poorly managed our county government is. If we are going to have the high quality of life we want, then good people must get involved. This service is no different than my service in the military.</p>