

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

	<u>Leslie Duncan</u>	Ruben R. Miranda
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Leslie Duncan County Commissioner. I am running for reelection because an overwhelming number of people (including both citizens and county employees) have pleaded with me to run again and continue the good work being done at the county. There's more work I can do in the next term to protect the rights of citizens and plan for the future of county operations.	Declined to Respond
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?	I believe life begins at conception. I consider all human life precious and make decisions based on protecting the rights of individuals first and foremost no matter what class or group to which the individual belongs.	Declined to Respond
3. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	I do not believe in eminent domain except in the rarest of circumstances such as public roadways, but the property owner must always be compensated fair market value for their property.	Declined to Respond
4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I am against forced annexation because of private property rights. It must be the desire of the property owner to be annexed. Typically, the property taxes will increase when a property is annexed into a city.	Declined to Respond
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 county government's infrastructure needs are most apparent in facilities. I am contemplating impact fees, however, they are not as simple as they seem. The county does not have jurisdiction over roads, schools, and other taxing districts' needs.	Declined to Respond
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?	This is not under the authority of county commissioners.	Declined to Respond
7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	I do not support URD's. They are taxation without representation. The abuse or misuse of them has been apparent in Kootenai County. If done right (several examples in Post Falls) they can benefit citizens, however, the opportunity for misuse is high.	Declined to Respond
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support developers to pay for or provide infrastructure commensurate with the impact of their development.	Declined to Respond
9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	I am accountable to the taxpayers and voters, and the citizens in Kootenai County. Government should only exist to provide that which individuals cannot provide for themselves. Over the past 5 decades, citizens have become accustomed to government services many of which I do not believe are appropriate to be funded using tax dollars.	Declined to Respond

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10. Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	County manager is a broad term. I do not believe a manager is necessary if three commissioners work full time. With current BOCC staff, I personally do not have issues with handling the workload thus I have not needed a county manager. A commission manager, as was proposed by the Study Commission for Alternate Forms of Government, would be a disaster. This person would have the authority to hire and fire hundreds of employees under the BOCC's 17 departments and 10 advisory boards. That alone is too much power/control for one individual. There are many more reasons such as lack of transparency and lack of checks and balances.	Declined to Respond
11. With the rapid growth of the county, do you think we need more commissioners?	Absolutely not. We can just look to Ada, Canyon and Spokane counties. Each county has significantly more population than Kootenai County and they all have three commissioners. With a 5 member board, over and over again, we see examples of unengaged electeds that follow the lead of the "expert" i.e. School Superintendent, City Manager, etc. They have lost sight of their purpose to protect the rights of citizens and manage taxpayer dollars prudently. The probability of serial meetings and the public's business conducted in secret is also magnified with a 5 or more member board.	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 and decriminalization of illicit drugs. These are harmful to the individual and society. Many more people would become addicted if use were made legal. Many people who get arrested are able to find help and become productive members of society again because of the justice system. With more drug and mental health treatment options, Kootenai County could see even further reduction in abuse.	Declined to Respond

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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 believe ARPA funds come with requirements that conflict with Idaho values. There are 6 legal opinions from the cities, county, state, and a private lawyer (who practices in the federal court system) that agree the concerns over future executive orders is not founded. By Kootenai County using the funds for beneficial purposes, it will prevent another entity from using the funds to further the warped agenda of socialist progressives which absolutely conflicts with Idaho values. I will advocate the funds be used to alleviate property tax burden by providing critically needed infrastructure in the justice system. A 58,000 square foot addition to the Justice Center can alleviate many critical issues being faced today. We have more judges than courtrooms and a 2 year back log of court cases currently. Our Prosecuting Attorney's Office has employees in 5 different locations throughout the county. The bailiffs and court clerks are completely out of room. There is one courtroom that is a converted closet...literally. The strings are the same as the county already abides by in the FTA (Citylink) and FAA (CdA Airport).	Declined to Respond
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?	Referring to the six elected as "row officers" infers they are inferior to county commissioners. I assure you, they are not! They are equally elected and accountable to the public. The only difference is the commissioners have budget authorization in statute. We need to continue to elect the six positions to keep checks and balances in county government. Again, protection of individual rights is key.	Declined to Respond
15. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I spent 10 years in law enforcement and 14 years running a small business. I have volunteered thousands of hours in my lifetime for different entities and non-profits. I have, as commissioner, advocated relentlessly for conservative values. My voting record in the past 3.5 years has proven my ability to serve the citizens of Kootenai County and I will continue to do so with the same unremitting passion.	Declined to Respond