

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Boundary Library Trustee - Zone 5

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

	<a href="#"><u>Mary-Esther Wilson</u></a>	William "Lee" Colson
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Mary-Esther Wilson. I am running for Boundary County Free Library District Zone 5 (Naples) Trustee. During the summer of 2020 I gained a desire to get involved in some aspect of my community. When I analyzed where my strengths and interests were I gravitated to the library. In October 2021 I decided to start attending the library board meetings. I wanted to learn as much as I could so when the opening presented itself I could run for a position.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>2.</b> How could the libraries be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	Libraries are institutions for obtaining information, ideas, and literary enjoyment. Our rural library is the information hub of our area. The shutdown in 2020, concerns of books, and operating procedures all caused a rift in the functioning of our voted "Best Small Library in America" of 2017. I want to get back to what made our library great. 1 - Our library offers some successful activity-based learning programs. These activities are slowly starting back up. I want to encourage the growth of these activities. 2 - Our library has also done an excellent job at being a second home for Boundary county's large home-schooling community. Since I am also a homeschooling parent I have "rubbed shoulders" with other home schooling families in the area. A trust has been lost between some of them and the library. I am wanting to regain their trust because the library can be an invaluable tool for a homeschooling family. 3 - With the value of the dollar degrading and inflation continuing to rise, it is important now, more than ever to be very cautious on how finances are used. I want to be frugal in how the library uses the money it gets from the citizens of our community. I also know there are grants available that can help us supplement the money needed to run our library and programs.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>3.</b> What is your philosophy of selecting new books for the library and how do you plan to implement that philosophy?	We have a small library. That makes it even more important to be selective on what books are brought into and kept in our library. I think it is important to bring in books to the library that are important to our community. I recently sat on a committee in charge of updating our Library's Collections Policy. It gives the Library Director the guidelines to use in selecting new books. It also encourages the staff to communicate with patrons finding out what they would like to see. The policy is very specific that State and Federal laws will be followed. It also has a clear guideline that card holders can follow if they find a book they think comes under violation. I stand behind this policy.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>4.</b> In the past two years, parents have noted objectionable materials in the public libraries and have requested some of these materials be removed. What type of process would you support to review these requests to determine whether or not materials should be removed or relocated?	It was these very concerns that pushed our current board to set up a committee to rewrite their collections procedures. I was eager to help with this process. While I was on the committee, we were able to put together clear guidelines for the Library staff and card holders to follow if they think material needs to be removed. The policy is also written in a manner to keep these materials out of the library in the first place.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>5.</b> Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?	I do not support "Critical Race Theory". I do support reading and understanding historically how racism has shaped our country and the world. The Good, Bad, the Ugly, and how far we have come in improvements to how we accept those who are not from the same background.	<b>No Response Received</b>

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6. When thinking about book selection, what does diversity mean to you and why?	Diversity means a wide range of subjects and view points. I think it is important to have a wide range of information for our community.	<b>No Response Received</b>
7. What does the phrase "free access to ideas" mean to you and why?	Free access to ideas to me is linked to the First Amendment and our freedoms in this country. We should have free access to ideas yet I am also aware that we can not hold all the different ideas out there in our small library. That is why the library uses an inter library loan system and a system where card holders have access to free digital copies.	<b>No Response Received</b>
8. How would you select those who provide reading time, materials, speakers, and activities for children? Do you believe the community should be involved in these decisions?	I think the community should be involved in all aspects of the library. Our library is a publicly funded institution. The activities should be chosen based on the interest of the community with the same parameters as the material selection guidelines.	<b>No Response Received</b>
9. The values of rural Idaho are very different than big cities like Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. How can the library incorporate local community values in new book selection instead of the national values of the American Library Association?	Our library has already set up boundaries to incorporate our local community values. It is important for community members to vote people into the board trustee seats that match their values.	<b>No Response Received</b>
10. How do you feel about removing historical books and classical literature from libraries?	I think removing these books would be a big mistake. In a time when digital information can be changed with a click of a button it is important to hold on to hard copies of information and classic literature. Both can lead us closer to knowing truth when looking for it.	<b>No Response Received</b>
11. Do you support or oppose bathroom usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	I am opposed to bathroom usage based on "preferred gender" because "preferred" is fluid and changeable on a whim of feeling. Our library has combined gender bathrooms. It has been this way long before "preferred gender" was even a common combination of words.	<b>No Response Received</b>
12. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I come from a family that values lifelong education. I am a homeschooling mother of 5 and grandmother to 1. I have lived off grid in beautiful Northern Idaho since 2009. I have a Bachelors of Fine arts degree from Utah State University. I love history and think it is important to make available works that keep our history. "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people." <i>Unknown author yet attributed to Thomas Jefferson</i>	<b>No Response Received</b>