

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Kootenai Hospital District

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

	<a href="#">Thomas R. deTar</a>	<a href="#">Paul F. Mahlow</a>	<a href="#">Chris Nordstrom</a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Thomas R deTar – Kootenai Hospital district trustee.	Paul Mahlow, Trustee, Kootenai Hospital District, There have been many changes at the hospital and the voters of the district have had virtually no opportunity to comment.	Chris Nordstrom, Hospital District Trustee. I want to give back to the community by serving in a public capacity. The Kootenai Hospital District is such an opportunity.
<b>2.</b> How could the hospital be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	It could be improved by increasing the number of beds available for care, as well as increasing the number of staff working there, so patients do not have to wait for care.	Change COVID policies: no mask requirement no “vaccine” requirement for employees slow change to non-profit for public comment and advice.	The purpose of the board of trustee’s is to oversee the hospital administration, not approve everything the CEO asks. Kootenai County deserves a hospital that serves the needs of the residents and patients, not just the needs of the administration to be a “premiere medical destination”.
<b>3.</b> What would your overall strategy be for the hospital and how do you plan to implement it?	Long term strategy – improve access to care (both outpatient and inpatient). This will require cost-cutting, recruitment, and strategic partnerships.	Establish requirements of transparency – allow easier public access and comment on elements that do not restrict medical health care of people.	Number one is to stop the hospitals current practice of eliminating competition by purchasing private doctor practices, especially heart specialists. I would also object to purchasing hospitals and medical practices that are hundreds of miles away from Kootenai County. As a private non-profit, it would be appropriate to expand service to adjacent counties in North Idaho, but not at the expense of forcing out independent medical practices that already provide adequate resources.
<b>4.</b> What policies would you recommend to ensure patients receive the treatments they need without creating an excess financial burden by running unnecessary tests?	Price transparency for all medical care can be improved, so patients can make informed decisions with their physicians on which diagnostic tests and treatments to undergo.	Develop a means to insure people understand healthcare they receive – an ombudsman like office or agent. Every effort is necessary to reduce bureaucracy that only increases cost.	The most important focus is the patients- they must be allowed to have their own designated patient advocate not just the so-called patient advocates that work for the hospital. This will ensure that the patient and advocate along with family, will participate in medical decisions, including testing.
<b>5.</b> What qualities would you look for in a Hospital CEO and why?	1. Proven leadership capability in running a hospital, in the current environment of extreme labor shortages and lack of supplies.	A CEO who places care of the patient and family as the primary objective of the hospital.	I want a CEO who is an accomplished administrator and one who puts the needs of patients first and foremost, not the needs of the executive administration.

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<b>6.</b> If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing fees? What would be your reasons for this decision?	My first choice would be to cut expenses, without cutting out necessary services. Cutting services would mean eliminating care to patients who need it, and we want to avoid that. Fees should be at market level, in order to pay for labor costs in a reasonable and competitive fashion. We need to have outstanding staff.	Spending needs to be cut. The primary objective of the hospital should be the health care of the people in the community. The problem w/ medical costs are a result of OBAMA care and Idaho's expansion of those "so-called benefits."	I would advocate cuts in spending first – a hospital should have to live within its means to balance the budget just like most Idaho residents must do. Then I would advocate negotiating with payers like insurance companies, then, and only as a last resort to raise fees.
<b>7.</b> With the transition to a 501.c3, how would you encourage transparency to the residents of Kootenai County?	The hospital should remain a community non-profit entity, and should inform the public of all decisions which will directly impact its mission.	Yes	Members of the board will be tasked with writing and approving policies and corporate bylaws. I would push for disclosure of policies and decisions, to include pricing where possible.
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I oppose its legalization, because it is a mind-altering drug which impairs rationality, increases the probability & development of other mental diseases, and can serve as a "gateway" drug to other drug use.	Oppose – recreational use of marijuana does not benefit society.	I believe there is evidence that marijuana can be beneficial for certain chronic diseases under medical supervision. I would not support the legalization of recreational use of marijuana.
<b>9.</b> What does the term "equitable outcome" mean to you?	It means we should provide basic care to all individuals because of the inherent dignity of the human person, who is made in the image of God.	It is an abstract term that implements socialism and eliminates individual responsibility.	This is a made up term by leftists who want to create confusion and chaos in our culture. It means the outcome has to be the same no matter how hard you worked. It starts with handing out trophies to everyone including the losers, not just the winners. It means some entity, usually the government, or lately some woke corporations, want all outcomes to be equal regardless of effort, imagination, inspiration. It means tipping the scales in favor of certain groups, disfavoring others and has no place in America where we want to reward winners, successful people who work hard to get ahead.
<b>10.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I am a practicing surgeon who has lived in Kootenai County for 27 years. I have been married for 40 years, raised our 9 children here and understand the medical needs of our citizenry.	Experience in working in industry, managing programs and people over 30 years plus raising a family of nine children may not be enough. I believe my integrity is the essential element of my qualifications. Veteran: Active Duty 1/69 – 9/73 Nat'l Guard 10/73 – 7/77 Education: BachArts – Econ, 68, Bach Sci – SftyAdmin, 5/74, JurDr, 12/18.	I have worked for several large financial institutions over 35 years as a project engineer in information technology. I have managed many large large implementation projects, some with budgets over ten million dollars. I have successfully managed these implementations with multiple teams and sites in 22 cities around the world.