

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Athol Mayor

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

	Stephen Cutaia	<a href="#">Steven Ruch</a>	<a href="#">Benjamin J Ruenger</a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Steven Ruch, Mayor for the city of Athol, ID, I want to serve my city, my community and my church.	Benjamin J. Ruenger, Mayor of Athol, it is job worth doing what more does one have to say.
<b>2.</b> How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<b>No Response Received</b>	I have not experienced glaring issues as of yet. if elected, my awareness of more details will be available to me. There will be a much better answer to this question in that case.	1. Recent events that has happen to the Town has made me want to look into the fire safety of the town & see if there anything more could be done 2.
<b>3.</b> What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the Mayor manage growth?	<b>No Response Received</b>	This transition can be positive. Growth is inevitable. Rapid growth requires rapid planning/vision to prepare for increases in traffic, population and services. There are city codes to tap the brakes on it.	I see the reason for the growth, I have heard from many that have moved up here to north Idaho & many of the stories all have something in common they are looking for better place to live or better place to raise a family we live in free country to live where we wish. Which rise few questions but they are best left for much bigger state than small-town mayor election to which I will leave it there as for managing the growth I lean to guide growth plan keep things from getting out of control but I'm not against no growth as that just a dead city.
<b>4.</b> In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Elected officials are the best representation of city residents, businesses and churches	Elected officials VS Appointed official both systems have their advantages but this time I see the Elected system as the one that has more safe guards in place yet each system has their own flaws.
<b>5.</b> What improvements should be made to the city councils' role in the design and authorization of new developments?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Athol city councils' roles and processes are currently being met very well.	At this time, I cannot say anything on improvements to city council on matters of design & authorization of new developments.
<b>6.</b> In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	<b>No Response Received</b>	No, with the exception of water service, roads and parks, all other services are private.	I do not have right amount of data to say which city service should be cut, eliminated or privatized as all those decisions are not to be taken lightly when it comes to the running of a city even small one.
<b>7.</b> Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	<b>No Response Received</b>	No, not at this time, funding for such an increase is not practical under the current circumstance. That could change with new data, grants, funding and especially support from our constituents.	No, putting more stress on cities manage services is rarely ever good for the city as well everyone.
<b>8.</b> How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increase taxes?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Establishing or maintaining "rainy day" funds, prioritizing projects and routine maintenance expenditures with budget forecasting. The current Mayor and city council are already doing this but it will continue.	Simple balanced budget

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9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Athol must limit this push. I need more information to address this clearly and carefully.	I see the house as one of the cornerstones of the Family, yes people need help at times in their life yet I have come to see apartments as just place to sleep not live
10. All too often local residents feel that their public comment is not taken into consideration when decisions are made that directly affect their daily lives and their property value. What would you suggest so that the public's best interests become a priority over builders and developers?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Athol citizens (local residents), businesses (operation location) and churches are the first priority group for comments and consideration. Builders and developers do not live here but due respect should be given.	You cannot make ever one happy it just one of the ways of the world, yet letting people have voice is better than not letting them have a voice this is one of the balance points of the system we are in now.
11. What is your opinion of "Smart Cities" and how they apply to North Idaho?	<b>No Response Received</b>	No, absolutely not. People that think that is the way we should go, should drive south to Boise and just keep driving until you get to either San Fransisco or fly to London or Singapore.	Technology can be a good thing yet so many losses track of the little things of life by letting some type of tech handle it where it could may be take 5 minutes to do.
12. Should the concept of "equitable outcome" be implemented as a part of the city council's decision-making process? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Absolutely not. Equitable outcome is a socialistic concept of failure. Equitable opportunity I can totally support.	We all live under the same rules so it the city council job to see those rules are applied the right way.
13. Is there anything in your personal, business, or career life that would be a conflict of interest in your ability to serve the people of this city?	<b>No Response Received</b>	No, I have a part time job serving at my church but there are no conflicts there.	I believe my lack of accomplishments in my life would be a conflict for some is seeing that I'm up for the job running a city.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Primarily my career was as an electrician, technician and later management. As a lead troubleshooter to supervisor to manager. Budgets and construction projects were at the center of the bulk of my experience.	I have lived in the city of Athol for 20+ years I have seen its many sides which there is not very many which I believe it gives me an understanding in what the city needs as well lived my whole life in north Idaho I have watch how it has grown as well the good & bad that comes from that growth. I have personally read few books that deal in leadership as well studied history to better understand how this country has become ever thing from the high points to it low points each thing it linked to another thing.