

Watchmen Voter Guide for Dalton Gardens City Council (2 Seats)

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

	Justin Rupinski	Gary Sonnen	Susan Jean Supp
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	No Response Received	My name is Susan Jean Supp. I am running for Dalton Gardens City Council because I believe I can make a positive impact on the home town I love.
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	No Response Received	We must stop spending more money than we take in. I believe we can reduce operating expenses by 10%. Many of our residents feel as though their voices are not heard and their needs are not being met. I propose posting of all public documents online and instituting quarterly townhall meetings where residents can discuss issues that concern them.
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?	No Response Received	No Response Received	We live in North Idaho because we love it. People move here because they recognize that life here is special. We must preserve what we value. Our efforts to solve immediate problems like traffic and a shortage of affordable housing may ignore the long-term consequences for the community in general. New growth should conform with the goals of the comprehensive plans. Proposed projects must consider the impact they will have on our residents. After all, government is a two way street.
4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	No Response Received	No Response Received	Elected officials best serve the needs of the public. Elected officials are directly subject to the scrutiny of the voters. They can be removed by the voters if the elected officials do not act in the best interests of the community.
5. What improvements should be made to the city councils' role in the design and authorization of new developments?	No Response Received	No Response Received	Right now, the design and authorization of new development is done by city staff, not the city council, and without input from the existing residents This is the procedure is governed by state statutes in the Local Land Use Planning Act. By the time the development is announced to the public, the cake is already baked. Public notice is short and the opportunity for public comment can be limited. One improvement that should be made is to limit the ability of staff to waive requirements required by zoning code. Developers should pay impact fees to share the costs of developing the infrastructure such as roads, schools, sewers, and water needed to support the developments. New development must be compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	No Response Received	No Response Received	If the budget does not balance, operating costs must be cut. If a service can be provided for less money if it is privatized, then that must be considered. We cannot just cut services costs without knowing the impacts the cuts may have.
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	No Response Received	No Response Received	If the city managed water and sewer systems can support future growth and can reasonably expand into rural areas, then they should be allowed to. Expansion costs should be paid for by the rural areas. Urban and rural areas share the same aquifer so, it makes sense to work together to manage it.

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8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increase taxes?	No Response Received	No Response Received	Dalton Gardens have a substantial reserve fund, but it is used to cover shortages in the basic operating budget. This practice is unsustainable. The city must reduce costs and minimize taking money out of the reserve account. We can do this by closely monitoring expenditures, reviewing all contracts, scheduling required maintenance instead of ignoring it, and streamlining administrative procedures where possible.
9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	No Response Received	No Response Received	Affordable housing is very important. Protecting the quality of life in existing neighborhoods is also important. I support efforts such as Habitat for Humanity to provide housing rather than depending on building apartments alone.
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?	No Response Received	No Response Received	Local residents can no longer be complacent about community development. Growth has brought new organizations to our area that say they will "help" us manage growth. That help is often in the form of failed policies that have made other communities unlivable. Common sense tells us what we want and what we can actually do. We should revisit our Comprehensive Plans to make sure that the goals reflect the community needs and are being met. We can speak up at planning meetings. The public objections to KMPO's planned traffic center shows that their opinions can in fact be heard. We must not passively accept unfair decisions. We must take control of our future.
11. What is your opinion of "Smart Cities" and how they apply to North Idaho?	No Response Received	No Response Received	There is no need for "Smart Cities" in Northern Idaho. The concept is an example of governmental overreach and an invasion of personal privacy.
12. Should the concept of "equitable outcome" be implemented as a part of the city council's decision-making process? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No Response Received	The concept of "equitable outcome" should not be implemented as part of the city council's decision making. It is based on the misguided belief that variations in talent ability, aptitude, or life priorities do not exist in different individuals. Claims that every individual can achieve the same outcome in life is unrealistic. If all people are given the same opportunities, they will still choose different paths. Anyone who has raised children knows this.
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?	No Response Received	No Response Received	I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Dalton Water Association, which provides potable water to the City of Dalton Gardens. In the event that there is an issue involving both the City of Dalton Gardens and the Dalton Water Association, I can recuse myself from the vote.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	No Response Received	My family moved here 7 years ago. I have a degree in economic history, a strong accounting background, trained as an attorney, and worked as a prosecutor. In 2021 I spearheaded the development and adoption by Dalton Gardens of a comprehensive telecommunications ordinance that has been recognized as a national model ordinance. These skills, a record of practical leadership, and a history of taking an active interest in the affairs of the City of Dalton Gardens show that I can be of service to my community.