

### Watchmen Voter Guide for Hayden City Council Seat #3

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

	Roger D. Saterfiel	<a href="#">Tom Shafer</a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?		Thomas Shafer Hayden City Council, Seat #3 Slow the pace of high-density growth, bring back transparency and accountability to Hayden City government, and minimize the reach of Hayden's urban renewal district (HURA) which puts the burden of taxes on citizens not in HURA.
<b>2.</b> How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.		a. Redirect the emphasis of growth away from high-density apartments. b. Preserve single-family residential neighborhoods. c. Emphasize policies and budgeting that put the health, safety and welfare (e.g. Law Enforcement) over Public Works (e.g. yoga classes and pickleball courts).
<b>3.</b> What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?		We cannot avoid growth. But we can determine what is the nature of growth, and how to preserve Hayden's small-town character. Home ownership is the bedrock of a stable community. It encourages volunteerism in one's community. Apartments do not. I have seen for myself how rezoning communities to encourage cheek-to-jowl apartments and townhomes have reshaped these communities into lawless nightmares. I spoke with Sheriff Norris, and we both agree that single family home ownership is far better for the community. Do we want to look like Portland, Seattle, or even Spokane in another generation? I don't. I am passionate about keeping our small town character and working to keep it that way for generations to come.
<b>4.</b> In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?		Elected officials only
<b>5.</b> What improvements should be made to the city councils' role in the design and authorization of new developments?		The city council should have a much larger voice than it currently does. Right now, the city staff is in control and that needs to change. City staff should be following the direction of the city council, not the other way around. As elected officials, city council members are accountable to the people. They need to be hearing from and prioritizing the voice of the people in all their decisions. This includes the design and authorization of new developments. Builders should not have "by right" development decision making authority, which effectively silences both the voices of city council and the people.
<b>6.</b> In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?		Hayden's public works budget seems out of proportion for the city's population. This section of the budget needs closer scrutiny.
<b>7.</b> Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?		No. Build-out of city sewer and water infrastructure is a means to justify greater growth. For rural areas of the city, if zoning is kept to agriculture, there isn't a reason to build-out sewer, since septic fields are spread out far enough.

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<b>8.</b> How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increase taxes?		Once in office, I plan to make a line-item budget analysis to determine areas that can be altered for the betterment of our taxpayers, including a reserve fund.
<b>9.</b> What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?		The lack of affordable housing is a problem created by our federal government and Federal Reserve. It's a nationwide problem. It is a fallacious argument to say that we can locally make housing more affordable without also losing the small-town feel, and quality of life here in Hayden. We will have to vastly increasing apartments and low-quality townhomes, and accept government subsidized housing, all of which quickly become decrepit, and do nothing to keep residents invested in our community.
<b>10.</b> 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?		Specifically, for the Hayden City Council meetings, I will argue for getting rid of the consent calendar, asking that informational packages be published at least two weeks before city council meetings (as opposed to the four days they have now), and allow public comment on subjects being voted on in council meetings. Every topic should be fair game, and it is our First Amendment right and our responsibility to keep our elected officials accountable. I know first-hand what it feels like to stand before city council addressing them with my concerns, like the destruction of the wetland in my area, and have those concerns fall on deaf ears. This is not acceptable. We The People is exactly what it says. We the People are the government and elected officials work for us. That is my mindset and how I will function in office.
<b>11.</b> What is your opinion of "Smart Cities" and how they apply to North Idaho?		I'm against them in all shape, manner and size. The things happening now to rezone Hayden and surrounding communities to fast-track high-density neighborhoods, build-out of sewer and water infrastructure into rural areas, are all laying the ground work for future smart/15-minute cities. Taking federal subsidies to encourage these things and balance budgets always come with strings attached, and smart cities is high on their priority list, whether they admit it or not. North Idaho is one of the very few last bastions of freedom, liberty and independence from government. I intend to fight to keep it that way.
<b>12.</b> Should the concept of "equitable outcome" be implemented as a part of the city council's decision-making process? Why or why not?		Equitable outcome is a Marxist ideology. To guarantee a specific outcome for one group of people requires taking from another group of people. I oppose it.
<b>13.</b> 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.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?		I came from Western Washington three years ago, literally fleeing the authoritarianism and ideologically-captured policies of Leftism and cultural Marxism. These political ideologies took hold in Western Washington because the groundwork had been done in the 90s to change communities with rezoning, and taking of private property through unaccountable regulatory bodies. It was all focused on pushing people into dense city neighborhoods, and preventing rural living. It's like I'm seeing the same bad movie being replayed here, only we're still in the opening scenes. I want to stop this.  I am a former Captain in the USAF. I have worked 35 years in the telecom and avionics industries as a designer and project leader. I know how to mentor people, and I know when I need the help of others. I have worked on complex projects from concept to development, and I'm able to navigate the minutia while keeping a focus on the big picture. I believe these skills will help me be a positive addition to the Hayden City Council.