

Watchmen Voter Guide for Hayden Mayor

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

	Alan Davis	Luke Sommer
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	My name is Luke Sommer. I am running for mayor Hayden to bring focus and efficiency to city government. One of my goals is to help bring policy and practice back into line with the people's desire for appropriate growth. Hayden's fast growth has happened largely because the Hayden City Council (HCC) lacks transparency in its decision making. The council has ignored the desire of the people to reduce the rate of growth and to lower density (fewer single-family homes per acre). They have neglected to post the results of many city council decisions in a timely manner so the people can be informed.
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	The Hayden city government needs to: (1) be transparent and efficient, (2) repair the damage and confusion caused by the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and (3) avoid entanglements with outside groups that have agendas aligned with hi-density, centralizing tendencies.
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the Mayor manage growth?	No Response Received	The city of Hayden needs to review and revise its Comprehensive Plan (CP), including its Future Land Use Map (FLUM) which encourages mixed use development (MU), much of which is along roads that cannot be widened and includes areas that are already developed. By readdressing the CP & FLUM we can help to slow future growth. As mayor, my goal is to implement the peoples' desire to lower the rate of growth and density, bring proper procedure to city council meetings, and to keep the people informed by timely postings of city council meeting minutes.
4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	No Response Received	Elected officials are more accountable to the public they serve, giving the people a voice and a part in the decision-making process. If incompetent, or unresponsive to the people, those elected can be fired at the next election. Bureaucrats are forever. Of the people, by the people, and for the people.
5. What improvements should be made to the city councils' role in the design and authorization of new developments?	No Response Received	Changes need to be made to city codes and the council needs to take a larger role in the decision-making process. Also needed is more input from supporting services such as fire and law enforcement, before giving approval for new developments.
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	No Response Received	Hayden's Urban Renewal District has been in operation since 2005 and spans 700 acres (about the area of Central Park in New York City) and most of the city's business district. At present HURA is receiving about a million dollars a year from Hayden taxpayers. If HURA were to end, then their taxes would go down. Everything should be reevaluated.
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	No Response Received	The city of Hayden does have areas nearby that can be annexed. Annexed properties are given the opportunity to connect to city services. They should be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Right now, the city is in the process of looking into dissolving the Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB) giving the City of Hayden full management. In any case, all growth should pay for itself.

	Alan Davis	Luke Sommer
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increase taxes?	No Response Received	One of my priorities will be to examine the budget to get an overall perspective of what needs to be done and find cuts where possible. All necessary service should be provided by the city.
9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	No Response Received	“Affordable housing” has become double-speak by many who seek to justify paving over the prairie and infilling empty lots with more “single-family” dwellings per acre (single family homes, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and large apartment complexes). This increases traffic congestion dramatically. We are all complaining about the traffic! I have been a realtor for 36 years, helping people buy and sell their homes, and I know that the best solution is to let free market forces correct these problems over time. Supply and demand. When the government micromanages any market, bad results are inevitable. If government does its job, the market will take care of the rest.
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	First, public comment should be allowed on any topic related to the city, whether it is on the agenda or not. The legal rights of citizens ought to be protected every bit as much as the rights of builders and developers. Second, when it comes to public hearings, relevant comments can be made at the hearing itself. Third, public comment time should be moved to the beginning of the meeting so the people’s voice can be heard before decisions are made.
11. What is your opinion of “Smart Cities” and how they apply to North Idaho?	No Response Received	I am not in favor of “Smart Cities.” I will mention three of many reasons. First, it brings more density into already established neighborhoods. This can cause overcrowding and traffic congestion. Second, Smart Cities emphasize bicycles and walking. In North Idaho we only have a small period when this is practical. Third, it means government or business can control our castles, and thus our private decisions!
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. It is unworkable and is a dumb idea.
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.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	I am a US Army veteran and a graduate of Moody Bible Institute (Chicago) and Trinity Western University (Langle, BC). I served as a pastor many, many years ago. I have been a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians for over 10 years, one of only 9 in the state of Idaho. I have served as a Precinct Committeeman on the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee (KCRCC) several times since 2010 and have served as its parliamentarian since 2019. I have served in leadership positions on numerous boards since the 1980’s . I have a unique background that is well suited to the times our city faces. As Queen Esther’s uncle said to her, “who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14, ESV). I ask for your vote and offer myself to serve the city of Hayden as your mayor.