

Watchmen Voter Guide for Rathdrum Mayor

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

	<u>Mike Hill</u>	<u>John R Lamb</u>	Anthony Turrentine
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>My name is Mike Hill, and I am running for Mayor of the City of Rathdrum. My decision to run for Mayor stems from my deep concern for the future trajectory of our small-town community. I am driven by a desire to offer leadership that aligns with the wishes and aspirations of the citizens of Rathdrum, aiming to steer our town in the direction they envision.</p>	<p>My name is John Lamb, and I am running for Mayor of Rathdrum. I'm running for this position because I have the proven leadership and experience to bring a well-balanced direction for our city. For 36 years I served in the United States military, beginning in the Navy for my first 6 years, and moving on to the Army. I retired as a Command Sergeant Major, the highest rank possible for an enlisted soldier. Because of my years of leadership experience in both the military and civilian worlds, I am qualified to face the current and future challenges that effect our citizens.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>I want to prioritize citizen input, preserve the Rathdrum Prairie, and focus on other infrastructure development that has been strained by the rapid growth of our community (schools, fire, police, traffic). Elected officials must embody their role as representatives of the people, acting in the best interests of those who have entrusted them with their votes.</p>	<p>1. I will bring a targeted approach to business that provides goods, services, and resources that best meet the needs of our residents to our city. 2. I'll work to maintain and control the level of development and growth while continuing to preserve the small-town atmosphere that we all love. 3. Finally, the mayor needs to be available to put in the time required. This is not a part time position that can be filled on nights and weekends. As I am retired, I have the time, ability, and commitment to do just that.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho? How should the Mayor manage growth?</p>	<p>The growth rate of our community has been out of control. Cities seem to be in a land grab raise to annex as much of the Rathdrum Prairie into their city before the next city does. The community has had enough.</p> <p>We want to preserve the Rathdrum Prairie. We want to maintain our small-town charm. We want to preserve the North Idaho way of life. We don't want to see this area turned into a metropolitan city.</p> <p>Annexations are the greatest tool a City Council has to control the rate of growth. Zoning is the 2nd greatest tool.</p>	<p>Our entire state has been growing at a rapid pace. There are many external forces that have influenced people to relocate here to our city. The mayor must be up to speed to address all factors that affect our city and continually adjust to meet these challenges. It is important that we focus on the infrastructure that affects our Rathdrum citizens every day and focus on improving our ability to meet the needs of our community. Our attention needs to be lasered in on goods and services so that we can shop and receive services right here where we live.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>

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4. In your opinion what best serves the public, elected officials, or appointed officials?	Appointed officials lack accountability to the public they serve and therefore the drive for those officials to act in accordance with the desires of the citizens. Elected officials provide accountability to the public and ensure the power remains in the hands of the citizens.	There needs to be a balance of both. Often, it seems that officials are elected based on “sound bites” during the election, popularity, or who has the loudest voice. These elected officials are then the ones who control who is appointed to appointed positions. For this reason, it is important that we look beneath the rush and noise of an election “season,” and find out who the individuals running for office really are. Bottom line: elections matter.	No Response Received
5. What improvements should be made to the city councils’ role in the design and authorization of new developments?	Councils have this control through adoption of ordinances (City Code) that developers must follow. Zoning Ordinances is another method of controlling the development of a community, but Councils can not	Rathdrum has a Planning and Zoning Commission which reviews any potential developments to ensure that they are in compliance with Idaho State law and our City ordinances while working to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Rathdrum. The Planning & Zoning Commission then makes a recommendation to the council based upon their investigation. The City Council makes the final decision. I would like to see council members come better prepared to make those decisions, considering the long-term effects on our City, and balancing all the factors.	No Response Received
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	Any services that can be privatized, should be. I don’t have any specific examples of a service that I am currently aware of that should be privatized.	To make this determination, a careful evaluation of costs, efficiency, and the effectiveness of specific services provided would need to be made. Privatizing services has the advantage of cutting costs to the city, but also carries the risk of a lack of control over the quality of these services.	No Response Received
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities and why?	No. City services are funded by the residents of that community. Extending services to others beyond the limits of the jurisdictions fails to collect their fair share of paying for those services.	Depending on the location of the property it may be cost prohibitive. Before extending access to city managed water and sewer to rural communities, we need to make certain that we are adequately meeting the needs of our city.	No Response Received

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8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increase taxes?	Live within your means. The City of Rathdrum has healthy reserve funds. Budgets proposals need to be scrutinized to find means without raising taxes. Taxes should only be raised as a last resort.	The key on this issue is to go through the budget and understand where the money is spent. Within both the military and the civilian world, I have had to manage large budgets. It takes time and research to understand all the moving pieces. In all the budgets I've managed, I have found more efficient ways to accomplish our goals and minimize waste to more effectively utilize the money we have. I'm the president of my current HOA with total assets of nearly \$400,000. Over the past three years, we have managed to improve our facilities, increase our reserves by over 30%, and yet still reduced HOA fees. I will follow this proven formula in managing the budget and finances of the city of Rathdrum.	No Response Received
9. What is your opinion of the increased push for affordable housing?	Affordable housing is a private sector issue that the government should not attempt to resolve. The solution other elected officials have attempted, claiming to be aimed at resolving this issue... has it worked?	This is a concern throughout our nation. Due to inflation, costs of land, building materials, impact fees, interest rates, and labor, it has become a balancing act to produce homes that are considered affordable. Affordable housing is vitally important to any community. Having said that, well-paying jobs from successful businesses attracted to our community increases our citizens' ability to pay for a home and thus helps solve the need for affordable housing.	No Response Received
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?	I believe elected officials need to listen to and act as a representative of the citizens that elected them. My voting record shows I'm not just a campaign promise. I have proven to act on behalf of the community. You can see my voting record at www.mikehill4rathdrum.com/record	The mayor's primary role is to be an advocate for, and to represent the interests of the community. A mayor who is PRESENT – who makes it his mission to continually attend public events to talk with and get to know his constituents makes a huge difference in the community's perception of whether they are heard and cared about. A mayor who is available by phone or email and has the time and ability to promptly respond helps build trust between the mayor and the community. Educating the public about what we can control now and what has been ordained in the past is also important. Many developments currently being built are built on properties that have been zoned for that development 10, 15, and even 20 years ago. Without knowing this, the community is understandably frustrated, and blames the current City Council or the developer, when neither has control over the situation.	No Response Received

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11. What is your opinion of "Smart Cities" and how they apply to North Idaho?	In my view, "smart cities" may not suit North Idaho. The rural, nature-focused landscape, privacy concerns, potential high costs, and a preference for a simpler lifestyle argue against implementing extensive smart city technologies in this region.	To a large degree, Rathdrum is already heading in the direction of a "Smart City." We use technology to inform the community (our website, emails, social media). Our utility billing now has the ability to be completely paperless. The use of technology just needs to be a balanced approach, so that we don't lose the personal touch of one-on-one individual communication. It needs to be used for the tool that it is, while the mayor continues to be physically present both in City Hall and out in the community.	No Response Received
12. Should the concept of "equitable outcome" be implemented as a part of the city council's decision-making process? Why or why not?	Yes, I believe in fair and equal opportunity. If a Council denies an application for one reason, and another person/business/group requests the same thing... how can you justify the unequal treatment?	"equitable outcome" simply put, implies that all citizens of the community who might be affected by a city council decision need to be considered. Using this definition, I would suggest that it is already part of the city council's decision-making process. As mayor, it will be my task to make sure that the city council is carefully representing their constituent's needs, wants, and desires, and translating that into good decisions for Rathdrum.	No Response Received
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?	I have worked for Spokane Transit for 17 years and I am a member of the Lion's Club. Other than issues dealing with those 2 groups, I have no other reasons needing to recuse myself.	No, there is not. The huge advantage to my stage of life at this point is the fact that I am retired and therefore have the time to dedicate myself to the citizens of Rathdrum. Aside from the citizens of Rathdrum, I am beholden to no one and no organization. This allows me to have an unbiased approach to the role of Mayor of Rathdrum.	No Response Received

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<p>14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I have diverse experience that I believe will greatly contribute to my role in this elected position. My journey includes serving in the Active Duty US Army and working as a Correctional Officer for the Idaho Department of Corrections in Orofino, Idaho. Over the past 17 years, I've been a part of Spokane Transit, where I currently hold the position of Senior Transportation Manager, overseeing approximately 360 employees. Additionally, I've had the privilege to serve on and lead various boards and committees, including the Rathdrum City Council.</p> <p>These professional experiences have honed my expertise in employee performance management, public policy development, and navigating legal matters. I firmly embrace a servant leadership approach, placing significant value on active listening and collaboration.</p> <p>For additional insights about me, please visit my website: www.mikehill4rathdrum.com. Thank you for investing your time in researching the candidates.</p>	<p>It's important to understand where our tax dollars for the city are coming from, and how we can more effectively use them. Throughout my 36-year active-duty military career, in the businesses I've owned, and in the HOAs I've managed, I've learned how to effectively use the funds we have to work within our budget to accomplish our goals. I have a Master's Degree in Business Administration, which gives me the ability to understand and operate within the "business" of government very effectively.</p> <p>On the Planning & Zoning Commission I'm working to ensure that the city stays in compliance with Idaho State Law, 67-65, and works to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the City of Rathdrum. I'm involved with the Seniors at the Rathdrum Community Center, the American Legion, the Rathdrum PD, I'm part of the Long-Range Planning Committee for Lakeland School District, and since May of 2021 (after being re-elected in May of 2023) I've been the president of Radiant Lake Homeowner's Association, managing a budget and reserves of nearly \$400,000 along with a board of other dedicated volunteers. During this time, we increased our reserves over 30% while maintaining the beautiful common areas and facilities and yet still managed to reduce HOA fees. Radiant Lake is like a "city within a city," managing our own water systems to include multiple streams, fountains, and a large lake, road maintenance, snow removal, community activities, and extensive recreational facilities including 5 parks.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>