

**Bonner County Commissioner District 1**  
*\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \**

	James Burroughs	<a href="#">Brian Domke</a>	<a href="#">Brian Riley</a>	Meghan Yeats
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	<p>Brian Domke          Bonner County Commissioner District 1          I am running for this office because of the desire to bring decorum, professionalism, and effectiveness back to the Bonner County Board of Commissioners. The current dysfunction within the board of county commissioners has created an environment that is functionally inefficient, creating unnecessary liability, creating a work environment that negatively impacts the retention and recruitment of county staff, and has resulted in a relationship between the board of county commissioners and the public that is adversarial. It is my intent to reverse these negative impacts that have been created by the current board of county commissioners so that our county can rebuild a healthy relationship with the public, retain and attract talented county staff, reduce its legal liability, and use tax dollars in an effective and efficient manner.</p>	<p>Brian Riley, I am running for Bonner County Commissioner District 1. I have over 20 years of management experience including managing a facility of 170 employees and a \$2mm monthly budget. I have led several projects that included generating Return on Investment (ROI) reports, community communication and feedback for reducing the impact of the company projects, and validation of production improvements and ROI's.</p>	Running Unopposed
2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?	No Response Received	<p>I believe that life begins at conception and that all stages of an unborn child's development within the mother's womb are the life of a person that holds the same inalienable God given right to life as any other person. While I am not aware of any authority vested in the county commissioners that directly involves laws or the application of such laws related to that of unborn children, should such a decision need to be made as a county commissioner in the future, I would uphold the Idaho State Constitution (Article 1, Section 1) by defending the life of the unborn child, since the child is to be afforded equal application and protection under the law as any other citizen of the county.</p>	<p>does not affect running the county as member of the BOCC. A role of the Commissioner is 90% management of the county departments and budget as outlined in the Idaho State Association of Counties Duties and Responsibilities of a County Commissioner.</p>	Running Unopposed

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<b>3. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	Eminent domain tends to be abused by the government and should be used only when the health and safety of the public is truly at risk. In those limited cases when a legitimate health and safety risk can only be resolved through the taking of private property, truly just compensation to the private property owner must be provided.	I am not a supporter of eminent domain. However, I understand that there are times in must be implemented; personally, I will be affected with the implementation of the Sagle corridor highway 95 improvement project. When eminent domain is applied, there must be fair market compensation for the acquired property. Also, understanding of the future costs of maintenance to the taxpayer need to be communicated.	<b>Running Unopposed</b>
<b>4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	I am opposed to forced annexation. I believe that changing the municipal designation of a privately owned parcel from the county to a city should be at the agreement of the private property owner. If city owned utility services or other infrastructure serve a property that is not currently within a city's limits, the provision of such services and/or infrastructure should be based on mutual agreement made between the city municipality and the private property owner.	I do not support forced annexation. An established community, unincorporated or incorporated, has established itself and should not be forced into adopting the ordinances of a neighboring community.	<b>Running Unopposed</b>
<b>5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and do you have plans to improve it?</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	I believe that the county's system of roads and bridges is our most critical county-maintained infrastructure. To prioritize where our road and bridge infrastructure needs to be given the most attention for repair and/or improvement, I believe we should follow the four-step process of assessment, prioritization, budgeting, and then implementation. First, we need to understand which roads/bridges are experiencing the highest volume of traffic, while also confirming the existing condition of each county road/bridge. Second, the roads/bridges with the highest traffic that also are in less than good condition should be given a high priority for maintenance and/or improvement. Third, the appropriate budget amount should be applied to the higher priority roads/bridges. Last, the road/bridge maintenance and/or improvement should be implemented by following the budgeted priority items. Also, the county should continue to pursue obtaining grant funding (preferably from the state) to reduce the financial burden to the county taxpayers for this critical infrastructure.	There are several areas of our infrastructure that need improvement. Prioritizing these needs based on safety concerns, environmental concerns, and foresight of future growth is an area that extensive business experience is necessary for proper planning.	<b>Running Unopposed</b>

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6. What is your opinion of red-light cameras and license plate readers? Should they be used by the County?	No Response Received	I am opposed to the use of red-light cameras and license plate readers, as they are a violation of privacy and can be used as a form of illegal search. The practice of general surveillance and data capture of citizens without probable cause or a warrant is a violation of the right to privacy and being secure in one's person, which are constitutionally protected rights that must be respected and protected by our government.	Bonner County is not in need of this technology.	Running Unopposed
7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	No Response Received	I am opposed to Urban Renewal Districts since they create an unbalanced tax rate between those property owners within the district compared to those property owners who are not within the district. The formation of Urban Renewal Districts also includes the establishment of an Urban Renewal Agency and possibly a governing board. Such new agencies and governing boards can be established through appointment, instead of being positions held by those who are elected. The creation of appointed agencies or boards results in moving power and control of our local government further from the citizens of our county, which in turn reduces accountability. Government should be kept as small and accountable to the citizens as possible.	This is not a pending issue for the Board of the Bonner County Commissioners	Running Unopposed
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	No Response Received	Since new development places increased burden on county infrastructure and services, I believe it is appropriate for those who are developing land that will increase the need for county infrastructure and services to pay their fair share for the increased costs of such items.	I am in support of the developers to be reasonably responsible for infrastructure needs in the developments they are building. There are areas in Bonner County that the necessary infrastructure needs are privately owned and operated.	Running Unopposed
9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	No Response Received	If elected to the position of county commissioner, I would first and foremost hold myself accountable to the citizens of our county. The role of an elected county officer is to be a public servant who utilizes the authority of their position to protect the inalienable God given rights of the people and to apply the law equally between citizens. I wholly agree with the statement in Idaho Statute, Title 74, Chapter 2, that says "The people of the state of Idaho in creating the instruments of government that serve them, do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies so created."	The people of Bonner County. I have been open and upfront about not being tied to any political groups that I would feel compelled to support their agendas. I am a business leader, not a politician.	Running Unopposed

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<b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	No Response Received	I am opposed to the idea of a county manager since such a position is appointed, not elected, creating a layer of separation from the citizens to someone carrying out most of the executive duties of the board of county commissioners.	Potentially yes, if proper experience is not elected to the Board of County Commissioners. Having worked with BOCC's for several years while working for Idaho Forest Group, I have seen the benefits of business experience in our county leaders. Having this experienced leadership managing the departments and budgets of the county can lead to substantial cost savings while maintaining a balanced budget. For example, reducing employee turnover can lead to a savings of >35%/replaced position.	Running Unopposed
<b>11.</b> In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	No Response Received	It should be noted that the legalization of marijuana or any other controlled substance is a state statute level issue, not a county code/ordinance level issue. With that clarification in mind, the enforcement of state laws concerning controlled substances does become a county issue when local law enforcement, the county prosecutor, and the county jail become involved in addressing violations of such state laws. While I support the thoughtful use of medical marijuana, for medicinal purposes in the treatment of medical conditions under the guidance of a medical professional, I do not support the legalization of marijuana as a recreational drug. We need only look at other nearby states where the recreational use of marijuana has been legalized to see the harm that would result to our county community.	This is not applicable to the duties of a County Commissioner	Running Unopposed
<b>12.</b> What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?	No Response Received	My desire is to eliminate the county's reliance on federal funding. Unfortunately, this is a process that will take a long time to accomplish due to the decades of state and county decisions that have resulted in a significant county dependence on federal funding to supplement many areas of the county budget. To begin the process of breaking the chains created by federal funding, I believe that the county should seek to reduce its reliance on federal funding for county projects to the greatest extent possible. When considering the use of federal funding for county projects, each case should be evaluated to determine what federal requirements are	Bonner County currently relies on funds from the Federal Government, regardless of if these are directly funded to Bonner County or routed through Idaho State. If Federal funds were not available, these financial shortfalls would need to be supported by increased property taxation.	Running Unopposed

		attached to such funding and what costs will become a burden to the county to administer the federal requirements. Accepting federal funding should only be considered after completing a thorough evaluation of the legal ramifications and administrative costs, and then determined to be in the best interests of the county's citizens. It is essential that the county does not allow federal mandates linked to federal funding to erode the liberty and security of the citizens of our county.		
<b>13. What is your opinion on restricting public comment at county meetings? Why do you hold this opinion?</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	I believe that the board of county commissioners should welcome public comment during the agenda items of the county business meetings to gain knowledge and awareness prior to final deliberation and voting by the board. While including public comment will likely result in the business meetings taking a little longer, making better informed decisions will lead to better outcomes that will be more cost effective in the end. While welcoming public comment prior to making board decisions is a good business practice from a fiscal responsibility perspective, it is even more important from the perspective of upholding the constitutionally protected rights of the citizens of our county. Both the United States Constitution (Amendment I) and the Idaho State Constitution (Article 1, Section 10) guarantee the right of the public to peaceably assembly, and in doing so, to instruct and/or state their grievances to their elected representatives. Any attempt to restrict these constitutionally protected rights is a form of tyranny. I also believe that the board of county commissioners should encourage respectful dialog and decorum from the public by modeling such behavior themselves.	I feel meaningful public comment should be allowed following each agenda item to allow the constituents the ability to provide proactive feedback for a decision from the BOCC.	<b>Running Unopposed</b>

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<b>14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	I am a licensed landscape architect with experience as a project manager, regional office manager, board of directors member, and small business owner. I have over 25-years of professional experience, which includes working collaboratively with diverse groups of clients, industry professionals, regulatory agencies, and the public. My professional experience has also equipped me with the knowledge required to guide long range planning, oversee large budgets, encourage teamwork, find creative solutions, and make difficult priority decisions when resources are limited. I believe this professional experience has provided me with the insight needed to oversee the broad range of services provided by Bonner County to its citizens. I have also dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours working to protect the rural communities of our county as the Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Sub-Area Plan Committee for Priest River/Oldtown and as a member of the Bonner County Natural Resource Committee. I am committed to using my professional and volunteer experience to help strengthen the resiliency of our community and to create a limited local government that is accountable to its citizens.	I have over 20 years of management experience including holding positions with Idaho Forest Group that included being the Maintenance Manager for two locations for over six years followed by five years as the Laclede facility Plant manager. The experience obtained from the years of managing large numbers of employees, including highly educated employees, cannot be duplicated in a classroom or from running a small business. I can justifiably make the comments regarding classrooms and about small business experience as I have owned and operated a small business since retiring from Idaho Forest Group after a 25 year career. I am seeking this seat on the Board of County Commissioners as I am heavily vested in Bonner County as a 39 year resident and having property within my Wife's family homestead that is over 100 years old; our hope is our children can continue with being residents of the family homestead and Bonner County.	<b>Running Unopposed</b>