

Boundary County Sheriff

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

	David Schuman	Jon VanGesen	Travis Stolley
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>David John Schuman – Candidate for Boundary County Sheriff - Our community is truly Gods’ Country. There are good and bad in this area and they both need the best representation possible. It is sometimes hard to find the good in people; but it is there. My career is an example of a life time of training experience to build a better tomorrow. With the state of our nation I am the best choose for the position of Sheriff. I know this area. I have no problem standing up for myself and of course the people that I serve. That is all the people and not just certain groups.</p>	<p>Jon VanGesen, a candidate for Boundary County Sheriff. Boundary County is our home and four generations of my family live here. The Office of the Sheriff carries tremendous responsibility. I listened to our community. What I heard was we want a Sheriff who has experience leading a Sheriff’s Office and a path of proven success. Law enforcement has been my life’s calling and I want to continue to use my 35 years of professional law enforcement experience to lead the Boundary County Sheriff’s Office, by developing our employees and supporting the services they provide to our community. I want our community to see our Sheriff’s Office as a well-respected and trusted agency, with public servants who enjoy working for our community. I am excited to see the tremendous work we can accomplish together, preserving the many reasons we love Boundary County. With my strong leadership, we will protect you from the many threats from inside and outside of Boundary County.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>2. Define your role as Sheriff.</p>	<p>Accountable first and foremost to the Constitution of their state, then to the Constitution of the United States and finally to the citizens of his or her county. Must be willing to tell people the facts, good and bad news. Of course the Sheriff processes and manages court paperwork and actions. Enforces penal provisions and statutes, prevents and suppresses al affrays, breaches of the peace, riots and insurrections. Obey lawful orders and directions of the courts and keep records. Educate the community to best be able to care for themselves in the absence of immediate Peace Officer response. 1. Educating the community is a large portion of what I will be doing in Boundary County. Some of the ways that we will assist our community to best be able to care for themselves in the absence of immediate Peace Officer response are: Citizens Academy, Advance Academy, Home Visits to improve security and improving existing Neighborhood watch. We will have “Citizens Academy” within the first year of our administration. The following year will have the Basic Citizens Academy and also an advance Academy. The ability to have a safe place to go to is not always there. However, we will assist our community with home visits and make suggestions as to home security. Additionally we improve existing</p>	<p>The primary responsibility of the Sheriff is to protect and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the Great State of Idaho. As Sheriff, I am responsible for the safety of our citizens through the operations of 911, leading our professional law enforcement services, safely housing inmates in our jail, organizing our search and rescue efforts, and providing civil and driver’s license services. The Sheriff appoints deputies, leads, mentors, evaluates, provides training, issues commendations, promotes and disciplines, ensuring accountability. My role as Sheriff includes professional personnel management and development, being a good steward of the taxpayer’s money through conservative budget management, securing outside funding resources including grants and providing the appropriate facilities and equipment for our staff to provide the best public service within the resources we are provided. I am dedicated to the safety and liberty of Boundary County.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>

	Neighborhood Watch programs so our residents will be able to contact closer assistance.		
3. The 10th amendment states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. What does this mean to you?	As Sheriff I will insure that NO violations of the Constitution will be permitted. There are no fine lines in the differences between the Federal and States governments. We will take responsibility for: * ownership of property * education * welfare and other benefits and distribution of aid * protecting people from local threats * maintaining a justice system * setting up local governments * maintaining state highways and setting up the means of administrating local roads * regulation of industry * raising funds to support their activities. If the Federal Government oversteps or over reaches their positions and encroaches on our rights it is your Sheriff's duty to be that line of defense to halt their advances.	The 10th Amendment protects individuals from federal overreach, limiting their power, supporting state independence and the rights of the people to form our own state government. We, Boundary County residents cherish our liberties, and I will protect our citizens from federal overreach and will not enforce unlawful mandates.	No Response Received
4. What do you see as the top issues facing the Sheriff's Office? What are your proposed solutions?	* Lack of on scene supervision. * Lack of adequate personnel on each shift. * 1 agency with many subtasks to complete the overall mission. --- What are your solutions? * Corporals and above to be watch commanders. Once at a desired level of proficiency they will be plugged into schedule to maximize this effort. * It's improved since 1999, however it needs to become better. We will balance the number of personnel on each watch in conjunction with the mission needs. * BCSO has many subtasks to complete the overall mission. Training to exceed standards is a must to be successful. Comingling of sections members in training will assist in complete understanding of overall mission.	Drugs and drug related crimes in our community. Fentanyl deaths are preventable and on the rise. I have dedicated my law enforcement career to identifying drug trafficking organizations, investigating them, seizing drugs, and presenting cases for prosecution to punish these criminals. Successful enforcement and prosecution of drug related crimes will be accomplished through training, investigative resources, and proactive enforcement of Idaho's drug laws. Additionally, the investigation and prosecution of sex crimes against children needs additional resources dedicated to investigation and prosecution. This can be accomplished by realigning our current staff by adding a detective. Coordinating priority investigations with the prosecutor's office is paramount. I have been successful in forming partnerships with regional law enforcement will improve our abilities as a Sheriff's Office to investigative the most serious threats to our community, including drug crimes and sex crimes committed on children.	No Response Received

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<p>5. What should the State of Idaho's policy be regarding the prosecution of Fentanyl dealers?</p>	<p>There are many recent changes to charging the crimes of illegal Fentanyl distribution. If there is a death shown from the use of Fentanyl dealers actions then prosecute for that death.</p>	<p>House Bill 406 will help local communities combat fentanyl trafficking by setting mandatory prison terms beginning in July 2024, Also, the same law includes prosecution for delivery of narcotics in which a death results. Idaho was one of the last states to enact a law which allows local prosecuting attorneys to charge a drug dealer with the death of drug user. Idaho needs to continue to have aggressive drug laws, enforcement, prosecution, and sentencing to protect our county from the devastation drugs have caused in many of our neighboring states. I spent over 15 years of my career as a narcotics detective, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force officer, and Commander in charge of a multi-jurisdictional drug task force. I bring experience investigating, dismantling, and prosecuting street level drug dealers and large international drug trafficking organizations.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>6. If a federal, state, local government entity, and/or the United Nations were to implement a policy of door-to-door gun confiscation in your jurisdiction, what would you do?</p>	<p>NOT ON MY WATCH. We will not support the over reach of any entity in Boundary County. We will fight it in offices, courts and ensure it never comes to our streets.</p>	<p>A fundamental right of Americans and Idahoans is to keep and bear firearms, protected by the Constitutions of the United States and the Great State of Idaho. This would be a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment and will not be enforced by any deputy of the Sheriff's Office and my office will block those efforts. Also, Idaho House Bill 69 makes it illegal for state resources to be used to enforce federal gun laws. Our rights to posses and carry firearms was even further defined in 2020 as Idaho honored Constitutional carry of firearms.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>7. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?</p>	<p>The people as in "We the people". The people are the power of who puts individuals in office. They are also the ones that can remove them.</p>	<p>I am accountable to all people of Boundary County. As the elected Sheriff, I am accountable for all employees of the Sheriff's Office as they perform their duties for our citizens and I have the responsibility to ensure our employees are held accountable. Accountability is extremely important to gain and keep the public's trust. Misconduct can be both criminal and administrative in nature. Any allegations of criminal misconduct by a Sheriff's Office employee or volunteer will be turned over to an outside law enforcement agency to investigate. Alleged violations of policy will be investigated completely to their logical conclusion and resolved with appropriate counseling, training, reprimand, discipline, or termination for violations.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>

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8. Would your agency cooperate with legal requests made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement?	Immigration and Customs Enforcement, more so the Customs Enforcement is a common event in Boundary County. We are willing to work with these agencies with the understandings that we will protect our community in regards to negative impacts. A common question lately is what will you do as Sheriff when that bus load of illegal aliens show up on your door step. Well, first step to escort them to the United States Border Patrol complex within our county. They will process these individuals. The Sheriff has nothing to do with that. My concerns would be, what are you doing with these people after you process them. Just as Boundary County stood up against Sanctuary Cities in our area about 8 years ago, we will not allow ourselves to over run by illegal immigration issues. If that means we legally relocate these people, so be it.	Yes, if the request is lawful, legal, and ethical and does not conflict with Idaho laws or Constitutional protections.	No Response Received
9. Do you believe that North Idaho should implement a traffic control center? Why or why not?	No - Why or why not? I believe the traffic control centers, what I know of them, having "big brother" cameras out there might be convenient, however the potential of abuse of these are definitely there.	Boundary County has no current need for a North Idaho traffic control center. Boundary County currently uses Everbridge, Facebook, X, and the local media to communicate to the public any issues impacting the efficient movement of traffic throughout Boundary County.	No Response Received
10. What is your opinion of Red-light cameras?	I have concerns about privacy and accuracy of this technology.	We now have two traffic lights in Boundary County. There is no need for red-light cameras in Boundary County.	No Response Received
11. What does religious freedom mean to you?	Freedom of religion is covered in the U.S Constitution in the very 1st amendment. As a retired U.S Army Soldier, I fought for our freedoms. I have continued that in civilian live. Totality of time, just under 45 years. The Constitution is imbedded in my make-up.	Religious freedom is a fundamental right in our country. Our families can choose how their children are educated and how their families choose to worship.	No Response Received
12. When do you believe life begins and how will that belief affect your role as Sheriff?	Life begins at conception. With totality of any circumstances taken into consideration goes to what actions a Sheriff's role comes into play.	I believe life begins at conception. I have sworn to protect life and property. I will follow the Constitution and laws of Idaho as Sheriff.	No Response Received
13. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I could support legalization of medicinal marijuana. Why or why not? I have had family members that suffered through cancer.	NO. I have seen, like many others around our country, how the legalization of marijuana, in any form, as opened the door for full legalization of marijuana and other drugs. Communities that have allowed the legalization of marijuana and other drugs have been plagued by increased crime, mental illness, and homelessness. As Sheriff, preserving the way of life we have here in Boundary County is paramount. Legalization of illegal drugs will erode our community.	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>44 year plus experience. Started on July 10th, 1979, with the Military Police. Started with BCSO 5 August 1999, retired 31 March 2024. I have the experience of running sections of 1 or 2 people to organizations equal to and greater than the Boundary County Sheriff's Office. I hundreds of formal training hours in leadership training and over multiple decades of practical experience and having accommodations and awards attesting my level of leadership abilities and success any reasonable person could see a positive trend here. I currently hold a Masters Level certification through the Idaho Peace Officers Standards and Training.</p>	<p>I have been a law enforcement professional for more than 35 years. I have held nearly every position within a Sheriff's Office and supervised most specialty units. I have been a patrol deputy, regional drug task force detective, supervisor, internal affairs investigator, lieutenant, command staff member, detective lieutenant, commander of a drug task force, regional SWAT team and regional major crimes/officer involved shooting investigative team, and acting chief. I have thousands of hours of training related to investigations, narcotics, supervision, management, and administration of a Sheriff's Office. As your Sheriff, we will Enhance Communication, Expect Professionalism, and Invest in the Future of Boundary County. I bring Experience, Integrity, and Leadership to the Office of Sheriff.</p> <p>Please check out VanGesen4Sheriff.com, or our public and private Facebook pages, Jon VanGesen for Boundary County Sheriff, for additional personal and professional information about me, my vision and plans for the Sheriff's Office, and the knowledge, skills, and abilities I will bring to the Office of Sheriff.</p> <p>VOTE May 21st, 2024.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>