

### Kootenai County Commissioner District 3

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

	<a href="#">Leslie Duncan</a>	<a href="#">Brett Surplus</a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Leslie Duncan County Commissioner. I am running for reelection because an overwhelming number of people (including both citizens and county employees) have pleaded with me to run again and continue the good work being done at the county. There's more work I can do in the next term to protect the rights of citizens and plan for the future of county operations.	Brett Surplus, Candidate for County Commissioner District 3 I decided to run for this seat because I can no longer sit back and watch the wasteful spending, poor decisions and lack of protection for tax payers like myself.
<b>2.</b> When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?	Life begins at conception, fact. I consider all human life precious and make decisions based on protecting the rights of individuals first and foremost no matter what class or group to which the individual belongs.	I believe life begins at conception, and I don't believe it effects my decision making at all, I believe we will all answer to god for the choices we make-so my decisions will follow gods laws.
<b>3.</b> What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	I do not believe in eminent domain except in the rarest of circumstances such as public roadways, but the property owner must always be compensated fair market value for their property.	Eminent Domain should be a last resort when any and all other solutions fail. It must be only by necessity for the good of many, to solve a much needed service or use. Otherwise it should be avoided at all costs.
<b>4.</b> Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I am against forced annexation because of private property rights. It must be the desire of the property owner to be annexed. Typically, the property taxes will increase when a property is annexed into a city.	Anytime you use the word "Forced" generally it means its not good. Circumstances vary so it weighs on the question of "Is it good for the people, and who or what does it harm". "Who's effected by it, and who benefits from it.
<b>5.</b> Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and do you have plans to improve it?	The County government's infrastructure needs are most apparent in facilities. The current BOCC has been moving towards impact fees, however, if every city in the county does not participate (i.e. collect fees for the County) then impact fees will not move forward. The county does not have jurisdiction over roads, schools, and other taxing districts' needs.	Our entire infrastructure needs to catch up to the rate of our building. Which is why we need to be building responsibly. If we don't consistently match the rate, we will end up bottle necking into a choke point. Plans to improve all revolves around money, tax payers shouldn't be the ones to pay to have more new residents move here due to poor governing in the states that they flee from.
<b>6.</b> What is your opinion of red-light cameras and license plate readers? Should they be used by the County?	So much technology starts out for a good purpose. I believe that some criminals have been apprehended due to the cameras and the plate readers. I am not convinced, however, that the loss of independence incurred by law abiding citizens is commensurate with the usefulness of those tools.	I think once you start any type of cameras it always leads to other types of cameras. There is a difference between Progression and Invasion of Privacy. I think they are a gateway for more intrusive ways for the government to keep tabs on its people, much like what China does now.
<b>7.</b> Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	I do not support URD's. They are taxation without representation. The abuse or misuse of them has been apparent in Kootenai County. If done right (several examples in Post Falls) they can benefit citizens, however, the opportunity for misuse is too high.	For us here we don't have areas of decay, so Urban Renewal Districts have no purpose for us. Places that have tried it have failed over time so that would be a NO from me.
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support developers paying for or providing infrastructure corresponding with the impact of their development.	I do believe developers should help with the cost of community infrastructure. When you have a development built that changes the dynamics of an area. It results in "Cause and effects" of that area and the services it requires and the congestion it causes.

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<b>9.</b> In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	I am accountable to the taxpayers and voters, and the citizens of Kootenai County. Government should only exist to provide that which individuals cannot provide for themselves. Over the past 5 decades, citizens have become accustomed to government services, many of which I do not believe are appropriate to be funded using tax dollars.	I would be accountable to god and the Tax Payers of this county. The tax payers are the employer and I would merely be the employee.
<b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	County manager is a broad term. I do not believe a manager is necessary if three commissioners work full time. A commission manager, as was proposed by the Study Commission for Alternate Forms of Government, would be a disaster. This person would have the authority to hire and fire hundreds of employees under the BOCC's 16 departments, 10 advisory boards and even the other 6 current elected officials and their departments that become hired officials under Alternate Forms. That alone is too much power/control for one individual. There are more reasons such as lack of transparency, and lack of checks and balances just to name two.	I don't see the need to add on another government expense. We haven't had one, and I don't think we need to change the structure.
<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?	I oppose the legalization and decriminalization of illicit drugs. These ideas are harmful to the individual and society. Many more people would become addicted if use were made legal or decriminalized. Many people who get arrested can find help and become productive members of society again because of the justice system. With more drug and mental health treatment options, Kootenai County could see an even further reduction in abuse.	This is a difficult question when the surrounding states are making it legal. I see the need when it comes to medicinal use for patients, but I think our state legislatures should have serious discussions about the implications that comes with it, along with any benefits.
<b>12.</b> What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?	This is a great question. The policy should be one considering both return on investment and the strings attached to the funding. Federal funds belong to the people. Government can only get money by taxing or printing it. It is aggravating that the Federal Government puts conditions on use of our money.	Federal money is our money, but the question is what "strings" come with it? I would rather have our community benefit from our money before some foreign country like Ukraine. And if we all believe that the goal of the swamp is to crash it, then I think its best for us to get in front of our money and get the things we need before they give it away or crash the system. And above all our counties policy should be to spend the federal money first before tax payer dollars, and that hasn't been happening.

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<b>13.</b> What is your opinion on restricting public comment at county meetings? Why do you hold this opinion?	Public Comment at county meetings should be encouraged. It is different than at a public hearing where the sole purpose of the meeting is to get public feedback. Public Comment should not, however, disrupt the business of the BOCC. Literally a thousand decisions are made each year and if disruptions are allowed, it would be detrimental to the service of the citizens of the County. As Chairman, I support relevant, concise and constructive comments. People need to be heard and that's a part of my job that I welcome.	I don't believe in restricting public comment, the public is the employer and therefore has the right to address concerns, questions and hopefully gratitude for any positive work being done by the BOCC.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I spent nearly 10 years in law enforcement and 14 years running a small business. I have volunteered thousands of hours in my lifetime for different entities and non-profits. I have, as commissioner, advocated relentlessly for conservative values. My voting record has proven my ability to serve the citizens of Kootenai County and I will continue to do so with the same unremitting passion. I believe a person who values service to their community, is humble, has integrity, is truthful, and has energy to do the job, is qualified.	My background ranges from Law Enforcement, Banking, Real Estate and business owner. These are three key careers beneficial to the board of commissioners. Understanding law enforcement and the needs to perform the job are crucial. Having the knowledge of banking and banking laws is vital when you're dealing with tax payer dollars. The county frequently buys and sells buildings and vacant land on behalf of the tax payers. It is of the utmost importance to protect the tax payers when these transactions occur. Something we haven't been protected by in the latest purchase projects. Purchase transactions should always be inspected to protect the tax payer before we complete a transaction.