

Kootenai County Sheriff

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

	<u>John Michael "Mike" Bauer</u>	<u>Robert "Bob" Norris</u>
<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 John Michael "Mike" Bauer. and I am running in the Republican Primary to be the next Sheriff of Kootenai County because I want to ensure that Republican voters in Kootenai County have a choice, after having had an opportunity to experience the leadership of the current Sheriff.</p> <p>Over the last thirteen years of living in Kootenai County, I have heard time and again that the people of this county want a transparent efficient and effective limited government and a Sheriff's Department that has the same attributes. Now is your chance to make a change.</p> <p>I offer myself as a trained, qualified and ethical law enforcement manager who has extensive field and administrative experience and who believes in personal values over personal gain. The residents of Kootenai County deserve a choice for Sheriff who is intent on running a lean but effective Sheriff's Office that is rated the highest in the Northwest.</p>	<p>My name is Robert "Bob" Norris and I'm running for the office of Sheriff. I have and will continue to uphold the rule of law, protect individual liberties and serve our community with integrity and dedication.</p>
<p>2. Define your role as Sheriff.</p>	<p>The Sheriff's role is to enforce Idaho law. It is not to enforce Federal law. It is not to curry public favor by politicking nonstop for reelection. The Sheriff's job is to try to convince the BOCC to provide the necessary funds and resources to perform the statutory responsibilities outlined in Idaho law.</p>	<p>As sheriff, I am the foremost defender of the constitution within the county. I am an official who can interpose himself in a situation to prevent, mitigate, or eliminate government overreach. My primary responsibilities are to uphold the peace, preserve constitutional rights and safeguard the safety of our community. As the Sheriff, I am accountable to the citizens of our country, regardless of political affiliation, socioeconomic status or any other factor. I am the sheriff for everyone!</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>With the formation of the Homeland Security Department as a Federal Cabinet Office in the early 2000 timeframe. the relationship between State and local law enforcement and the Federal law enforcement agencies changed forever, and not for the better. The 10th Amendment was damaged in this.</p> <p>During my career from 1969 through 2002, I was assigned to LA Sheriff intelligence and organized crime functions for 13 years, retiring as Captain of the Major Crimes Bureau, Detective Division. One of my responsibilities was local Terrorism investigations, which were conducted in coordination with Federal agencies but without formal agreements and Federal funding. Information exchange was voluntary at the direction of our elected Sheriff. Following 9-11, after my retirement, massive funding was given to local law enforcement for formation the of Homeland Security units and for personnel to be assigned full time to Federal sponsored "Fusion Centers", or task forces if you will. Many retiring local law enforcement were hired by the Federal government to staff the new</p>	<p>It means that the federal government has limitations. It also means that local and state governments, including the sheriff's office, have significant autonomy in governing and enforcing laws within their jurisdiction, ensuring that decisions affecting the community are made at the most local level possible, in line with principles of limited government.</p>

	<p>Federal Homeland Security structure, absorbing them into the Federal family while maintaining relationships with their local agencies. This mingling of law enforcement function has in my opinion seriously damaged the intent of the 10th Amendment and has resulted in State Sheriff elections being overly influenced by Federal interests. For example, our current Sheriff worked as a sergeant in a Federally sponsored "Fusion Center" within the Homeland Security Division of LASD, and he was staff to Sheriff Lee Baca's Homeland Security Advisory Council that enlisted local and foreign businessmen as "special reserves", yet most were later identified as campaign donors to Baca and little else. Badges and guns for unqualified donors became a public scandal, and all under the umbrella of Federal Homeland Security funding. In 2020, I identified many former Homeland Security Division supporters as campaign donors to our Sheriff. The question arises then whether Federal Homeland Security interests have any right to lobby or to be involved in funding County level candidates for Sheriff at least, and whether this honors the 10th Amendment as written. The question becomes moot if a Sheriff who has never been intertwined with the Federal Government is elected, such as was Ben Wolfinger, or myself or Dan Wilson. The voters can then be relieved of worry that their Sheriff may split allegiance with the Federal government.</p>	
<p>4. What do you see as the top issues facing the Sheriff's Office? What are your proposed solutions?</p>	<p>The most important problems facing the Sheriff's Office involve employee recruitment, training, discipline, retention and employee professional development. Pay is not the primary issue, lack of adequate recruitment effort is the problem. The Office is in need of Career Integrity training and in need of an Employee Political Activity Policy to tame unprofessional behavior during election cycles involving Sheriff elections. Funds to make these improvements should be just behind jail expansion and just ahead of helicopter activities. Expected changes in BOCC composition would support reprioritizing these goals.</p>	<p>Under Funding Public Safety: Adequate funding is crucial for maintaining essential services, upgrading necessary equipment and ensuring the highest level of public safety within our community. This is not just a Sheriff's Office issues, public safety also includes our Prosecutor's Office, Juvenile Justice, Probation, etc.</p> <p>Proposed Solution: I will work diligently to secure necessary funding through conversations with our commissioners, legislators and Governor. Additionally, I will explore alternative sources of revenue, such as a resort and sales tax revenue to support law enforcement efforts.</p> <p>Recruiting and retaining qualified personnel: The county has lost too many qualified employees to other agencies. You can get more done with high performing employees, which ultimately saves taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>Proposed Solution: Offer competitive pay and foster a positive, leadership oriented culture within the office.</p> <p>More legislative engagement: It is important to have ongoing dialogue with legislators to address pertinent issues affecting law enforcement and to advocate for policies that strengthen public safety and uphold constitutional rights.</p> <p>Proposed solution: I will actively engage with legislators to discuss and propose legislation that strengthens state laws, enhance law enforcement capabilities and ensures the protection of citizens' rights.</p>

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5. What should the State of Idaho's policy be regarding the prosecution of Fentanyl dealers?	The Sheriff Should encourage the County Prosecutor to seek swift punishment for this crime.	I lobbied legislators in passing House Bill No. 406 that implements mandatory sentences for fentanyl traffickers. I support harsh sentences for offenders that distribute this deadly substance. Fentanyl is a highly potent opioid that poses a significant threat to our community. Drugs, as a whole, is a scourge in our country. I am for tougher laws as long as the community is willing to support more enforcement and incarceration.
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?	In the unlikely event of such a scenario, truly a Mad Max environment, the Sheriff should refuse to assist these efforts and should focus on ensuring that critical emergency services are still available to the citizens of Kootenai County.	I would stop it.
7. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	Every four years an election is held for the Sheriff position. It is apparent that no other remedy is available to unhappy citizens. Front load the problem by choosing carefully, or recruit suitable qualified and trustworthy candidates to run for Sheriff. Get involved.	First and foremost, I am accountable to the residents of Kootenai County. They are the ones who have entrusted me to uphold the law, protect their rights, and serve their best interests. I represent the people of this county, and it is my duty to listen to their concerns, respond to their needs, and ensure their voices are heard in all matters related to law enforcement and public safety. I am also accountable to the principles and values outlined in the constitution of the United States and the laws of the state of Idaho. Upholding these foundational documents and adhering to the oath of office I have sworn are essential aspects of my accountability as Sheriff. I am committed to continue serving with Integrity, transparency and dedication.
8. Would your agency cooperate with legal requests made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement?	Yes I would honor ICE detainers for prisoners.	It depends on the request. I support the enforcement of immigration laws and deportation of individuals who have entered or remained in the country illegally.
9. Do you believe that North Idaho should implement a traffic control center? Why or why not?	I am not big on central control and central planning, so unless I knew a lot more about the issue I would just say it is not appealing to me.	No, there are too many concerns/issues with our freedoms and possible abuse.

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10. What is your opinion of Red-light cameras?	Remote traffic enforcement is not constitutional, in my opinion, because there is no opportunity to confront your accuser. I believe accusers must be human, and equipment is prone to malfunction, damage and error.	Municipalities have turned them into a revenue source. I am against automated enforcement to generate fines and penalties.
11. What does religious freedom mean to you?	The right to worship or not worship as I believe, without government interference. It is of some concern that individual churches may be advocating for specific candidates, which may violate 501C3 regulations.	Ability to worship without government interference, I issued a press release on 1/11/2021, I will never interfere in religious gatherings.
12. When do you believe life begins and how will that belief affect your role as Sheriff?	Life begins at conception. This reverence for human life is critical for humane law enforcement, especially the use of deadly force. That is why I advocate for Career Integrity workshops to reinforce an expectation that life must be respected at all times.	Life begins at conception and my job is to enforce the law.
13. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	Oppose. Every year someone tries to push legalization of marijuana. Not on my watch.	I oppose the legalization of marijuana. Today's marijuana is much stronger than yesterday's marijuana, today's marijuana has additive properties to it.

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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 lived in Montana and Idaho for the past 23 years, and I bring 33+ years of law enforcement experience. During my career I became very familiar with administrative, civil and criminal law, and risk management. As a former Sheriff captain of an Organized Crime Unit, I now see election fraud as organized crime, and it should be severely punished as such. I have been Chairman of the LA County Emergency Medical Services Commission, regulating policy for paramedic first responders, and a Deputy Coroner in Montana. I have been Captain of the LASD Aero Bureau and the Special Enforcement Bureau (SWT,K9,Paramedic Rescue). I have been Operations Lieutenant at Inmate Reception Center, which processes over 100,000 prisoners in and out per year. I have been a Patrol Lieutenant, a Risk Management Lieutenant, and a Training Bureau Lieutenant. I was one of the last well rounded and prepared managers of the Sheriff Sherman Block administration, importantly before the Homeland Security cabal was formed.</p> <p>I am a private pilot, an experimental aircraft builder, Life Member EAA, and Life Member NRA. My wife Joey and I live above Carlin Bay with our German Shepherd dogs, four Quarter Horses, chickens and 25 ducks.</p> <p>My experience running for Kootenai County Sheriff in 2020 and Clerk in 2022 exposed me to election law, campaign finance law, and the responsibilities of running a political campaign for office in Idaho. I am experienced in filing campaign finance reports and complaints with the Idaho Secretary of State. Since 2020 I have been an avid student of election fraud theory.</p> <p>My personal and professional accomplishments speak for themselves, and my candidacy for Kootenai County Sheriff is an opportunity for you to make a change in County Government if you believe it is necessary. If so, you should elect John "Mike" Bauer because you care about the future of Kootenai County.</p>	<p>I am a 33-year law enforcement veteran, and I am the current sheriff. My record of protecting citizens' rights and community engagement should speak for itself.</p>