

Shoshone County Clerk

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

	Summer McWhorter	Lori Osterberg	Edward Warren
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	My name is Lori Osterberg and I am running for Shoshone County Clerk. I am running for this office because I was asked and I felt like I could help make a difference. Making sure that we are good stewards of our finances is key and election integrity is at the forefront of many people's mind. I decided to run to assist and facilitate those principles. I could either be a citizen that complains or one to serve, so I decided to serve.	My name is Edward Warren, and I am running for the office of Shoshone County Clerk. I believe the office of clerk is vital for the daily operations of our county, in budgeting and accounting, clerking and recording of documents, serving the public, and ensuring accuracy and security in our elections. I have the experience and skills necessary to conduct these duties with excellence, and I believe that it is time for the next generation of working professionals in our community to embrace civic responsibility and work together to support each other in order to make our County a better place to live, work, and retire.
2. Election integrity has become a serious concern for voters. How will you preserve election integrity at the highest level?	No Response Received	Voting is a fundamental process and people want confidence in that process. Ensuring that every vote is legal, secure, and making sure that all voters have access to their local precinct.	We currently use paper ballots, and have the ability to count them by hand, making sure that every ballot cast is legitimate, and every legitimate ballot is counted. I believe that we must have good watchers and counters, ensuring transparency throughout the voting process, so that the voters can be confident in their elections.
3. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve election infrastructure and what are your suggestions?	No Response Received	Clean up voter rolls and to be sure they are current and maintained. Update county website with current information about elections. Encouraging constituents to work at polling positions at each precinct. Encourage local political committees to submit their list of election judges as per Idaho Code 24-303. If elected I will learn more about how and what our county has in place and what their procedures are. I really cannot advise at this point as I am not sure.	In Shoshone county, actively soliciting for volunteers as poll watchers and vote counters is an area where we struggle. We need to spend the time leading up to elections making sure we have the necessary volunteers and workers to keep our elections secure and our votes properly counted.
4. What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?	No Response Received	I believe it is a double edge sword. It is taxpayers' monies so we are deserving of them, but you need to read the fine print and know the string that the federal government has attached to receiving these funds.	As clerk, I would only have oversight into making sure that the funds our county receives are accounted for properly. My focus would be to ensure that we are compliant with the terms of our grants and loans and to document and account for all funds.

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5. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	No Response Received	I oppose, with saying that Shoshone County is not facing this problem as most of our land is public.	The idea of revitalizing areas that are blighted or in disrepair and bringing them back to usefulness is nice, but it becomes an issue when it tramples on the rights of the citizen and taxpayer. If private property owners desire to work together to bring about change in their neighborhoods, this should be encouraged, but definitely not mandated by governmental authorities, nor should private property be taken by them. As clerk, I would have no direct authority to create or terminate these districts, only to manage the funds entrusted to the county by the taxpayers.
6. What is your preference on paper ballots vs. electronic ballots?	No Response Received	According to brennancenter.org they released a report on August 15th 2019 that the estimated cost for cyberattack on elections was \$833 million. I believe that if there is cyber, we will have attacks. It cannot ever be totally secure. Cyber attacker's only goal is to steal, kill and destroy. That is a lot of tax dollars being spent on an issue that could be resolved by simply going back to paper ballots verses machine. Paper ballots and hand counting worked for hundreds of years.	Paper ballots present less security challenges, and in a small county, such as Shoshone, it is still possible to count by hand. I would endorse paper ballots and recommend their use, as well as counting by hand to ensure the security and accuracy of our elections.
7. In your opinion, what does the Clerk provide in terms of checks and balances regarding the other elected officials?	No Response Received	A county clerk is responsible for numerous duties. One of the main duties is to ensuring that all account services and financial reporting is current and accurate. The Board of County Commissioners would not be able to move forward in their daily duties without knowing the available funds in accounts and if contracts and procurements are nondelinquent. This position helps to ensure there is no over expenditure of tax payer dollars.	The clerk has the job of making sure that the monies that are budgeted are being spent in accordance with that budget. They must regularly be working with the commissioners who set the budget so as to inform them of potential issues with the budget, and they must be working with the different departments in the county to ensure that the budget is being followed. It is through this management that the clerk is able to provide that balance for the other elected officials.
8. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	No Response Received	A clerk is accountable to the county taxpayers. It is the peoples vote and they essentially are your boss.	Ultimately the clerk and all other elected officials are accountable to the voters and the taxpayers. It is our job to advocate and work for the benefit of the voters, taxpayers, and general public over our own interests. If elected officials do not, they can and should be recalled.

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9. 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	I oppose the legalization of marijuana. It is part of the devastation of our society and it can lead to other drug use. I do however, believe in the legalization of medical marijuana.	I do not support the legalization of marijuana. History has shown that legalization is a detriment to the general health of the public and offers little to no benefit. As clerk, I would have no authority to legalize or criminalize marijuana, however.
10. What is your view of moving the budget from the Clerk's Office to a commission manager under the Board of County Commissioners?	No Response Received	I oppose this, it is an elected position voted by and working for the citizens of your county not the commissioners.	I believe this would remove a crucial check against mismanagement of funds. The county clerk has oversight of the budget, and are able to make sure that funds are accounted for properly. They do not answer to the commissioners, and as such they offer that balance to the authority of the commissioners. If the accounting for the budget were moved under the authority of the commissioners, it would open a possibility for mismanagement of funds, as the people setting the budget and spending the money would also be accounting. This could lead to co-mingling, conversion, or misappropriation and wouldn't be as easily detected or prevented.
11. How would you utilize the budget that you manage while being fiscally responsible?	No Response Received	Working and staying within the budget is essential. Over expenditure is a hardship on county tax payers, and making sure that funds are allocated in the proper areas. It is unreasonable to expect tax payers to fund unnecessary matters.	If elected to the office of Clerk, my goal would be to use the funds entrusted to me by the taxpayer to do the best job I can while saving the most amount possible. Rather than using excess funds before the end of the budgetary year, to ensure that I receive the same amount or more the following year, I would strive to reduce the budget, as much as possible, while still bringing excellent service to the public, oversight and management of the budget, and ensuring safe and accurate elections.
12. What is your view on eliminating the property tax in favor of a higher sales tax?	No Response Received	I am currently researching pros and cons.	If elected to the office of County Clerk, I would have no authority over tax policy, which would be set by the state.
13. What would be your suggestions to improve transparency in the county year-end financial reports to the citizens?	No Response Received	Encourage the citizens to attend the meetings and to request the public records.	If Elected to the office of County Clerk, I would hold physical meetings and record videos that can be publicly accessed, explaining the financial reports and comparing them to the previous year. This would give the opportunity to answer questions of the general public and better inform a larger amount of the public as to how their funds are being spent.

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<p>14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I worked for Kellogg School District #391 for 29 years in the transportation department. In 2011, I became the dispatcher, trainer, and assistant director under Tony Dechand. From 2019-2021, I was the director. During my tenure, I learned a lot about budgeting and staying within it. During the 12 years of leadership, I received 100% on federal and state compliance. I was also a state trainer for 12 years for region 1 & 2. I was the go-to person for the school district to ask questions about Idaho Code. I took a position at the state level at Idaho Department of Education, as a Region 3 specialist. My knowledge of Idaho code, best practices, regulations, statutes, and budgeting helped secure that position. One of my duties as a regional specialist was auditing and helping school districts stay within their budget. I took great pride in being able to advise Idaho school districts and bus contractors with their queries. I am currently the treasurer, Pinehurst Water District Board. which involves going through bank statements, verifying credit card expenditures, etc. The main duties of a treasurer are to oversee the financial administration of the organization.</p>	<p>Currently I work as a Transaction Coordinator and compliance officer for 2 real estate brokerages in addition to working as a book keeper for 5 local companies and have 5 years of experience. If elected as County Clerk, I will use my experience in this field to ensure that the taxpayer's money is monitored, managed, and budgeted appropriately. I currently serve as a City Councilmember and have been a community advocate for civic service my whole life. This service has given me insight into the workings of government and the rules and laws which govern public servants, such as Idaho's Open Meeting Laws, the Public Records Act, and the Ethics in Government Act. I believe this experience will transition well to working as the clerk, for the voters of Shoshone county. In my free time, I enjoy working with the youth of our community. Having spent the majority of my life in the area, I have deep family roots in the Silver Valley and have seen the importance of building up others to succeed. For 3 1/2 years, I taught at the Silver Valley Christian Academy teaching the High School classes. I was also the director of the Dare to Imagine Summer Camp for the better part of a decade, taking on responsibilities for organizing, instructing, and directing this organization. Currently, I am the youth pastor at The Worship Center where I work with students throughout our County to build and develop life skills, grow in their faith, and learn the social skills necessary to be functioning members of society.</p>