

Kootenai County Commissioner District 3

	Leslie Duncan	Roger Rowland
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Roger Rowland, County Commissioner district 3. My ultimate reason for running is I want to do whatever I can to keep Kootenai county special. No hidden agendas. I believe voters deserve a choice in candidates. Our county government is a large and complex organization with a budget approaching 200 million dollars. We have grown rapidly, and the county will continue to grow. We all have and will continue to experience a number of issues associated with growth. I am concerned about the health of the aquifer which supplies our drinking water, availability of housing for our workforce which impacts small business, the pace and density of development on the prairie which impacts our local farmers and increased crime. I think we need leadership at the county level who can differentiate partisan politics and issues of national importance from managing the county. I believe my perspective, background and education are well suited to the challenges we face.</p>
<p>2. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>At a personal, state and federal level, this is a relevant and very important question. For a county commissioner I don't think it should impact the types of decision a commissioner makes in regard to budget, administration and managing the county.</p>
<p>3. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The government's power of eminent domain is only justified when used to claim private property for a legitimate public purpose and the owner is justly compensated. Examples of eminent domain I would support include protecting our water supply or widening a public road for public safety.</p>
<p>4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Based on the symptoms I observe from forced annexation, I believe the county (BOCC) has to continue to work with all the municipalities to better understand the impacts and costs of rapid growth as a result of annexation on our county, our aquifer and the prairie.</p>

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5. 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.	Infrastructure is a broad term and includes many things: schools, roads, water, electricity, county services and others. All of these require resources (money, people, facilities and equipment). Although one can legitimately argue what many think of as infrastructure examples are not within the authority of the (BOCC) I believe how we manage and pay for growth touches all elements of infrastructure. My plan for addressing infrastructure will include the involvement of city government, business, and interested citizens to collect, analyze use information/data to make informed projections for the future. We need a multi-year plan to credibly forecast what will be required to support the future infrastructure requirements of the county. We are where we are. Doing the same thing for the next four years and expecting a different outcome is naive and will result in reacting to the issues of growth rather than managing them.
6. 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.	Today privacy is a legitimate concern. For many citizens the use of any type of surveillance equipment by any level of government is also a concern. In my view the use of red-light cameras and license plate readers is justifiable because they provide a level of safety for our first responders and our citizens. I believe the privacy issues introduced by these tools is far less intrusive than the use of social media, smart phones and the internet.
7. 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.	Yes. If properly managed, they provide a mechanism to address the housing issues we face.
8. 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.	Yes. Properly defined and administered impact fees are necessary to help pay for growth.
9. 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.	As a county commissioner I am accountable to the taxpayers.

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10. 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 support the idea of organizing the county in the most effective and efficient way possible. I think it is imperative the county commissioners have the time, motivation and ability to set the course for the county moving forward. I support any organizational model that enables forward looking thinking and actions as opposed to one that focuses primarily on the day-to-today operations of the county. Organizing the county to allow commissioners the time to provide leadership and vision for the county has my support.
11. 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.	As a conservative my short answer is the legalization of another substance that alters the ability of someone to function is not a good thing. The reality is 24 states plus the District of Columbia have legalized the use of recreational marijuana including Washington, Oregon and Montana. If someone in our county wants to use marijuana it is easily accessible.
12. 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.	Accept it.
13. 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.	Public comment at county meetings that is disruptive and abusive should be restricted. The purpose of a county meeting is to conduct the business of the county in an environment that is safe and open for different points of view.

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14. 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.	Veteran Federal Law Enforcement experience 30 + years' experience across multiple industries in senior leadership roles Graduate degree in public policy and administration 10 years' experience as a small business owner providing management consulting services 32 years residency in Kootenai county 45 years of marriage I raised two teenage girls!!