

### Shoshone County Commissioner District 1

	Melissa Cowles
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Melissa Cowles, I am running for Shoshone County Commissioner District 1.
<b>2.</b> When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect your executive decision making?	Life begins at conception.
<b>3.</b> What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	I am opposed of the overreach used through eminent domain. All land through eminent domain should always be paid by fair market value, too. Land owners should be compensated fairly, for their land.
<b>4.</b> Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I am opposed to forced annexation. Key word "forced".
<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?	I am a resident of Shoshone County where growth is not comparable to Kootenai County, but our roads in Shoshone county are definitely a infrastructure that we need to address, and come up with some strong solutions.
<b>6.</b> What is your opinion of red-light cameras and license plate readers? Should they be used by the County?	I am in Shoshone County, where we do not have to face this yet, and hopefully we never do. I am on the fence with this, as I want to know who is paying for it? That in itself possibly puts out more expense on the taxpayers.
<b>7.</b> Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	Shoshone County is more public land, than private land. I have seen where Urban Renewal has been abused, and for that I oppose; however, it all depends on if it is for the betterment of the county and taxpayers or not?
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support the developers to pay for community infrastructure. They want to develop that's fine, but existing taxpayers should not have to foot the bill.
<b>9.</b> In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	I will hold myself accountable first and foremost, and also to the people. Public servants should always be accountable to the people.
<b>10.</b> Do you support or oppose the idea of a county manager? Why or why not?	I oppose this, as they are not an elected official, and why impose more tax burden on our taxpayers. Big government more costs, smaller government less costs.
<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 of marijuana. I feel it is part of a collapsing society we are in today. However, I'm not against medical marijuana for those with cancer and other severe diseases.
<b>12.</b> What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?	Always read the fine print of federal government monies. Is it worth it and how does it affect our county taxpayers in the long run? It all depends on that fine print, so I am neutral.
<b>13.</b> What is your opinion on restricting public comment at county meetings? Why do you hold this opinion?	It is crucial to listen to the people, and also their right to be heard. Commissioners are public servants, and should always leave time for public comment. I believe they should do more town hall meetings, to bring the public up to speed and also listen to the questions, comments, concerns of the people.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I have 17 years in QA/QC management in the construction field. I own two businesses, and I am on 3 local boards, one is Shoshone County Republican Central Committee precinct 6 committee woman. I have worked with local, state and federal agencies in my work history. Also work with business budgets daily and in the past as well. I believe in integrity, honesty, transparency, strategic planning, accountability, regularity of meetings, and listening to the people. I am also the recommended candidate for SCRCC.