

Kootenai Hospital District – Seat 2

	Cynthia Clark	David Bobbitt	Karina Angiletta
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>Name: Dr. Karina Angiletta. Position: Kootenai Hospital District Trustee.</p> <p>I am running for this position because I want to give back to the community and the wonderful Kootenai Hospital, which has been there for our family during the most significant moments, such as the birth of our two children. I deeply care about the hospital and am eager to contribute to its health and prosperity.</p>
2. How could the hospital be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>1. Strengthen Community-Guided Governance: One of the most meaningful ways we can improve the hospital is by ensuring it remains deeply connected to our community's values. While partnering with larger networks brings access to funding and specialty care, it's vital that a locally elected board keeps our hospital grounded in what our community wants, especially when it comes to upholding principles like informed consent and medical freedom.</p> <p>2. Expand Preventive & Integrative Health Services: We can improve outcomes & reduce long-term costs by investing in preventive care such as community health education, targeted screenings, & nutritional support. A focus on root causes, rather than just symptom management, leads to healthier lives and a stronger hospital system.</p>
3. When do you believe life begins and how will this belief affect the hospital district policies you will support?	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>I believe that life is sacred and begins at conception. Keeping the health and well-being of our community as a priority, I recognize the importance of ensuring hospital policies reflect both medical realities and the diverse needs of those we serve.</p> <p>With a focus on disease prevention and longevity, it is incredibly important to recognize that abortion is a complex medical procedure with real health risks. Efforts should be focused on educating our young adults about the health risks and available contraceptive options to protect their well-being. Such procedures should be reserved for circumstances where it is truly necessary: to preserve the life of the mother, protect her long-term health, prevent disability, or in cases of rape or incest.</p> <p>As a board member, I will support policies that protect both the life and the well-being of mothers as well as the unborn life, always guided by evidence-based medicine, ethical care, and our community's values.</p>
4. What would your overall strategy be for the hospital and how do you plan to implement it?	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>My overall strategy for the hospital centers on three core goals: protecting community values through local governance, prioritizing preventive care and integrative care, and ensuring sustainable access to high-quality services. In short, my strategy is to ensure the hospital remains community-rooted, prevention-focused, and future-ready. I'll bring both experience and heart to the board, and I'm committed to working collaboratively to serve our region with excellence, transparency, and compassion.</p>

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<p>5. What policies would you recommend to ensure patients receive the treatments they need without creating an excess financial burden by running unnecessary tests?</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>To protect both health outcomes and affordability, I would recommend policies that emphasize evidence-based care, provider accountability, and patient education.</p> <p>Promote Evidence-Based Protocols and Clinical Guidelines We should ensure that diagnostic testing and treatments are guided by evidence-based protocols.</p> <p>Encourage Shared Decision-Making and Informed Consent Patients should be fully informed about their treatment options, including the risks, benefits, and costs of tests and procedures.</p> <p>Implement Utilization Review and Peer Support Systems Creating internal review processes - like peer consultation or second opinions for high-cost tests - can help ensure decisions are medically necessary.</p> <p>Ultimately, my goal is to help the hospital deliver smarter care, not just more care. By combining clinical rigor with compassion, we can ensure that patients get the treatment they need without being burdened by unnecessary costs.</p>
<p>6. What qualities would you look for in a Hospital CEO and why?</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>When selecting a Hospital CEO, I would look for a combination of strong leadership, community focus, and strategic vision. These qualities are essential for navigating the complexities of healthcare while ensuring that the hospital serves both its patients and its staff with excellence. In short, I believe the ideal CEO is someone who combines compassion, competence, and vision, leading the hospital toward excellence while staying true to the values of our community.</p>
<p>7. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing fees? What would be your reasons for this decision?</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>In the event of a budget deficit, my priority would be to balance the hospital's financial health with the continued delivery of high-quality care to our community. I would focus on cutting spending in areas where it will not compromise patient care or safety before considering increasing fees.</p> <p>Prioritize Efficiency and Reduce Unnecessary Costs First, we must assess all areas of spending and identify inefficiencies, particularly in administrative and operational costs, without cutting into the core functions of patient care. This could include reviewing contracts, optimizing supply chains, and streamlining internal processes.</p> <p>Focus on Value-Based Care Instead of simply cutting spending across the board, I'd advocate for a shift toward value-based care. This means investing in preventive measures, wellness programs, and chronic disease management that can reduce long-term costs and prevent more expensive treatments later on.</p>

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8. How would you encourage transparency to the Taxpayer?	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>Transparency is essential to building trust between the hospital and the community, particularly when taxpayer dollars are involved. As a board member, I would prioritize several key actions to ensure transparency and open communication with taxpayers:</p> <p>Regular Financial Reporting and Public Access I would advocate for clear, accessible financial reports that are regularly shared with the public.</p> <p>Open Board Meetings and Public Engagement Transparency starts with communication, and I would push for regular open board meetings where community members can attend, ask questions, and voice concerns.</p> <p>Ultimately, transparency is about fostering a culture of openness, accountability, and mutual respect between the hospital and the taxpayers who support it. My goal would be to make sure that the community always feels informed and empowered in the decisions that affect their healthcare system.</p>
9. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>I oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana. While I understand that marijuana has medical applications, the evidence surrounding its recreational use raises significant concerns, particularly when it comes to public health and safety. There is evidence showing that marijuana can be addictive. This is a serious issue that can lead to dependency, especially among young people. Research has shown that regular marijuana use can negatively impact brain development, particularly in adolescents, potentially leading to long-term cognitive and emotional effects. The risks of impaired judgment & mental health problems, including anxiety & depression, are concerning. In addition, the increased availability and use of marijuana can contribute to a rise in accidents, including impaired driving, which puts both users and the public at risk. I believe that we should focus on prevention, education, and treatment for those affected by substance use.</p>
10. What does the term "equitable outcome" mean to you?	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>The Declaration of Independence (1776), states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Here, equality refers to legal & moral equality—the idea that individuals are inherently equal in worth & should have equal rights under the law. However, it did not imply economic equality or equity of outcomes, which are modern concepts.</p> <p>In healthcare, expecting identical outcomes for all individuals, regardless of their starting point or circumstances, is not only unrealistic but also overlooks the complex, individualized nature of human health and behavior. Factors such as genetics, personal choices, & environment introduce a level of variability that makes uniform results across populations inherently unachievable. The goal should be to reduce avoidable disparities and promote fairness—not to promise identical outcomes.</p>

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11. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	No Response Received	<p>I bring over 20 years of experience in the healthcare field, with a strong focus on clinical care and academic research. My career has taken me to some of the most renowned hospitals in the U.S., including in Chicago, San Jose, Honolulu, and San Francisco.</p> <p>In addition to my practical healthcare experience, I hold a PhD from the University of San Francisco, one of the world's leading health universities. This academic experience has given me the skills to critically analyze medical literature and make evidence-based decisions.</p> <p>With my qualifications, I am uniquely positioned to contribute to Kootenai Hospital's success by advancing evidence-based practices, supporting medical freedom, and fostering an environment that prioritizes both personalized care and public health. My goal is to work collaboratively with hospital leadership to ensure that we continue to provide high-quality, accessible care for all patients while also addressing the evolving needs of our community.</p>