

Ohio Match Road Water District – Director Seat 5

| | Jack Jenkins | Mary Perez |
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| 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 Mary Perez, I am a lifelong Idahoan and am running for a seat on the board of The Ohio Match Road Water District to be of service to my community. |
| 2. How could the water district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas. | No Response Received | I think when people receive the rules and regulations upon joining the water district it would be wise to include some paperwork with suggestions (products that are helpful and harmful) to protect our aquifer and lands. I believe engaging with and educating the water users so they understand the challenges of the water district and how together we can overcome those challenges. |
| 3. Do you believe that water districts have a role to play in area growth? Why do you believe this? | No Response Received | I believe more importantly by analyzing data of consumption of water used by members and production data and estimates a district should be able to restrict growth. Since our well is over the Aquifer, having sufficient infrastructure is important. Right now DEQ has limited the number of connections the district has until a redundant well is constructed. Without the necessary funds to do this, it naturally limits growth however, property owners are not precluded from drilling their own wells. |
| 4. How do you believe water quality can be improved in the water district? | No Response Received | Educating water users against using certain chemicals, since much of the district is over the Aquifer. To improve water quality in the Ohio Match Road Water District, and Idaho in general. We must prioritize protecting the Aquifer beneath us. I'd push for community education programs to teach residents about avoiding harmful chemicals, like pesticides or fertilizers, that can seep into our water. Encouraging natural landscaping to reduce runoff and partnering with local farmers to limit contaminant use are practical steps. These efforts keep our water clean without heavy-handed rules, preserving North Idaho's rural way of life. |
| 5. What role should water districts have in the design and authorization of new developments? | No Response Received | Property owners still should have the right to develop their land even if they have to truck water in if water is not available, or in the case of our district, drill their own well. |
| 6. Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities and why? | No Response Received | I don't believe access to city-managed water should be expanded to rural communities. My preference for living here stems from valuing the independence and natural resources available, and I have concerns about the potential oversight and quality issues that can sometimes come with city-managed systems. |
| 7. Water districts play a significant role in the approval or denial of new developments. What do you believe the proper process should be to include the existing residents' (impact area) concerns? | No Response Received | I believe water districts should prioritize transparent and direct ways to involve existing residents in decisions about new developments. A good process would include early public meetings where people in the impact area can voice concerns about water availability, environmental effects, or infrastructure strain. I'd also suggest a clear comment period where residents can submit written feedback, ensuring everyone has a chance to weigh in. While I understand that new users might pay fees to cover infrastructure costs, I think we should focus on protecting the quality of life for current residents. Any decision should reflect a balance that respects the community's values and resources without adding unnecessary red tape. |

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| 8. What recommendations do you have for improving delivery of water in the water district? | No Response Received | I will become familiar with the capital improvement plan approved by DEQ for Ohio Match Road Water District and make sure to participate in updating it when appropriate. |
| 9. What should be the role of the water district in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why? | No Response Received | The district has to answer to the users and regulatory authorities (DEQ). As an independent government entity, it would be rare to work with those other entities. The County requires 'will serve' letters for development but there isn't any other interaction. |
| 10. Are there any connections either personal or working relationships that would pose a conflict of interest? | No Response Received | No |
| 11. With growing concern over protection of the aquifer, should additional considerations be added to the development review process? If so, what are your recommendations? | No Response Received | I recommend requiring developers to show how projects avoid aquifer contamination, like limiting runoff with natural barriers or low-impact designs. We should also have public education sessions, teaching residents and builders how the aquifer works and ways to shield it from pollutants, like proper waste disposal. |
| 12. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position? | No Response Received | My background is rooted in a lifelong dedication to Idaho's land and water. I've gained valuable knowledge about sustainable land management through my time volunteering with Boise Cascade, learning firsthand how to balance resource use with environmental care. When I was a board member of the Lake Coeur d'Alene Anglers Association, I collaborated with our members to build a salmon weir, helping monitor landlocked Chinook populations for Idaho Fish & Game to ensure healthy fisheries—an effort that directly ties to responsible water stewardship. Growing up here, I've always prioritized keeping our waters and lands clean, whether by organizing cleanups or leading by example in the outdoors. I'm passionate about protecting our rural way of life in Kootenai County, and my hands-on experience gives me the practical insight needed to make sound decisions for our water district. I believe I'm qualified because I'm committed to ensuring our water resources remain reliable and pristine. |