

### City of Coeur d'Alene Council Member Seat #2

	Amy Evans	Jeff "Doc" Larson
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	I'm Jeff "Doc" Larson, candidate for Coeur d'Alene City Council (Seat 2). I'm running to provide a fiscally and socially conservative voice that keeps government disciplined and neighborhoods safe. As a servant leader, I'll prioritize public safety, protect taxpayers, manage growth responsibly, and insist on transparency and accountability so City Hall consistently acts in the best interests of our residents.
<b>2.</b> How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	Strengthen community safety and livability. Improve traffic enforcement in residential areas, and invest in safe crosswalks, lighting, and pathways so families feel secure walking, biking, and driving across the city. Protect our natural assets. Improve waterfront and park maintenance, add trail connections, and enforce responsible development near the lake and river so growth doesn't erode what makes Coeur d'Alene unique. Support local businesses and workers. Streamline permitting for small businesses, encourage trades and apprenticeship programs in partnership with NIC, University of Idaho, and local employers. Promote "buy local" initiatives that keep dollars in our community.
<b>3.</b> In your opinion, is growth in North Idaho being handled appropriately?	No Response Received	Growth in North Idaho is a very complex issue to tackle. Saying that, I believe growth pays for growth (update impact fees and developer agreements), infrastructure first approvals (traffic, water, emergency response in place before permits), and neighborhood protection with added housing only in targeted corridors near jobs and arterials. I'll streamline and make the process transparent, with clear standards and early public input, no new taxes on residents unless absolutely necessary. We can welcome investment without sacrificing our quality of life.
<b>4.</b> As cities face increasing costs to pay for city services including law enforcement, fire districts, schools and increased traffic due to increased home developments, what are your suggestions so that growth pays for itself?	No Response Received	Let visitors pay their fair share. Pursue a tourism occupancy assessment (bed/door fee) dedicated to public safety, parks, and first responders, so growth in tourism helps fund the services it uses.  Future-proof with non-invasive technology that cuts costs and can create new revenue. Energy savings projects on city buildings (LED streetlights, HVAC, solar) via contracts paid from grant money, not new taxes. Lease excess city fiber/rooftop space for broadband and public-safety connectivity, and explore small, low-impact data/edge compute partnerships that generate recurring revenue.
<b>5.</b> What improvements should be made to the city council's role in the planning and authorization of new developments?	No Response Received	Early, plain-English transparency: Publish concise staff summaries and hold neighborhood work sessions before hearings so residents can weigh in early. Predictable compatibility: Adopt clear design/compatibility standards (height, setbacks, buffering) to protect neighborhoods while allowing targeted housing/mixed-use in defined corridors. Independent verification: Mandate third-party peer review of traffic and fiscal impact studies on large projects; discuss findings in open session. Accountability through delivery: Maintain a public dashboard tracking approvals, fees collected, and infrastructure delivered
<b>6.</b> In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	No Response Received	I won't cut core services like police, fire/EMS, 911, water/sewer, or road maintenance. Those are non-negotiable. But I do support auditing non-core functions and using targeted outsourcing or partnerships where they clearly save money and improve service.

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<b>7.</b> Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities, why or why not?	No Response Received	Not by default. We should prioritize water/sewer capacity for residents and businesses inside city limits and our defined growth areas. Extending city utilities far into rural areas can encourage sprawl, strain public safety/roads, and push costs onto existing taxpayers.
<b>8.</b> How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increasing taxes?	No Response Received	I believe we can maintain a healthy reserve fund without raising taxes by practicing disciplined budgeting and smart financial management. That starts with a strong reserve policy that automatically directs year-end surpluses into reserves and capital funds, ensuring savings are consistent rather than optional. One-time revenues such as grants or asset sales should be used only for one-time expenses like capital projects or debt reduction. Growth and visitors should pay their fair share through updated impact fees and carefully structured visitor based revenues, protecting local taxpayers. Finally, by using conservative forecasts, making mid-year adjustments when necessary, and funding routine capital through annual set-asides instead of new debt, we can safeguard reserves for true emergencies. In summation, disciplined planning and efficiency not higher taxes are the path to keeping Coeur d'Alene's reserve fund strong.
<b>9.</b> What is your opinion on affordable housing? Is it something that the city should be pursuing?	No Response Received	No. I don't believe the city should pursue affordable housing programs that make government a developer, create subsidies, or raise taxes. The proper role of the city is to deliver core services and a predictable, low-friction permitting environment not to pick winners or shift costs onto existing residents. I support market-led solutions: faster, predictable approvals in appropriate corridors, clear rules (not mandates), protection of neighborhood character and property rights, and "growth pays for growth" so new projects cover their own infrastructure. This keeps housing attainable without expanding government or burdening taxpayers.
<b>10.</b> All too often local residents feel that their public comment is not taken into consideration when decisions are made that directly affect their daily lives and their property values. What would you do differently to change the public's perception?	No Response Received	I believe public comment has to be a two-way street. Too often, people feel they speak into a void. As a council member, I'd create a standing citizen forum, online and in-person where residents can raise issues, track responses, and suggest solutions. If someone brings forward a concern, I'll listen, but I'll also encourage them to come with constructive ideas, not just complaints. That way, we move from venting to problem solving, and the community sees their input shaping real outcomes.
<b>11.</b> What is your opinion on "Smart Cities" and how they apply to North Idaho?	No Response Received	I'm a pro-technology conservative: use tools that save money and improve service (LED/energy performance contracts, smart water/leak detection, traffic optimization, open-budget dashboards), but draw a firm line against anything invasive. That means no facial recognition, no warrantless geofencing, no social-credit style scoring, no constant tracking. Any "smart city" effort must be opt-in where feasible, follow privacy laws (data minimization, short retention, local control), include independent security audits, and be governed transparently with public approval. In short: efficiency without surveillance or infringing on peoples rights, that's the North Idaho way.

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<b>12.</b> Should the concept of "equitable outcome" be implemented as a part of the city council's decision-making process? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No. City decisions should be based on the law, safety, fiscal responsibility, and equal treatment, not demographic targets or engineered "equitable outcomes." I'll protect fairness, neutrality, and the rule of law with focus on excellent services for everyone, without social engineering or new costs for taxpayers.
<b>13.</b> Is there anything in your personal, business, or career life that would be a conflict of interest in your ability to serve the people of this city?	No Response Received	No. I do not have any personal, business, or career interests that would conflict with my ability to serve the people of Coeur d'Alene. My professional background is in service, business leadership, and consulting, but none of those roles involve contracts with or financial interests in the city. If any situation ever arose where a potential conflict could be perceived, I would be fully transparent and recuse myself when appropriate. My only priority on City Council will be to represent the residents of Coeur d'Alene with integrity and accountability.
<b>14.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	I'm a U.S. Army veteran with extensive experience as a combat medic and counterintelligence specialist agent. I have had numerous overseas deployments, where I learned discipline, accountability, and how to lead under pressure. After my service, I built a career in business leadership and consulting, helping organizations manage resources wisely, cut waste, and deliver results, skills directly relevant to city budgeting and oversight. I have deep ties to Coeur d'Alene and have worked alongside local businesses and entrepreneurs to support responsible growth and opportunity. I'm a socially and fiscally conservative servant leader: I listen first, collaborate, and keep taxpayers' interests at the center. That mix of service, practical management experience, and conservative principles makes me well qualified to represent Coeur d'Alene on City Council.