

City of Coeur d'Alene Council Member Seat #6

	Bill Brooks	JD Claridge	Kiki Miller
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 JD Claridge and I'm running for Coeur d'Alene City Council, seat #6. I am running to elevate the voices of those residents often ignored outside of downtown.	Kiki Miller, Cd'A City Council seat 6 - I'm running for City Council because I believe one person can make a meaningful difference—and I've spent nearly four decades proving it through dedicated community service. From long-time residents to passionate newcomers, I've consistently sought input from all corners of our city to shape policies that reflect our shared values and vision.
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	My key priorities include upholding traditional family values in the governing process, limiting unnecessary surveillance of our citizens, and favoring family friendly development over high density housing.	I believe in keeping taxes low and ensuring the government lives within its means. Despite rising property values, I've worked to keep individual tax bills reasonable. Our city staff now accomplishes more with fewer employees, per population, than a decade ago—while services continue to improve. I support efficient budgeting and prioritizing essential services that directly benefit our residents. Safe communities are the foundation of freedom and prosperity. I'm a strong supporter of law enforcement and public safety, and during my time in public service, Coeur d'Alene has seen consistent reductions in crime. I've also worked to improve traffic flow and infrastructure through strategic partnerships, grants, and public input—without placing additional burdens on taxpayers. Our events and city leases need review and updating to current costs vs benefits and market values.
3. In your opinion, is growth in North Idaho being handled appropriately?	No Response Received	I am not for limiting growth, but I think it needs to happen with much more consideration to our infrastructure. I favor single-family homes and parks over high density. Ultimately this will stabilize our city and reduce the congestion and strain on citizens.	North Idaho is a place unlike any other. As more people discover its beauty and move here, we must manage growth thoughtfully. I'm committed to preserving our rural heritage and ensuring future generations can afford to live and work here. That means supporting housing solutions that work—not government subsidies—but practical tools like development agreements and deed restrictions to maintain attainable housing for local workers.

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4. 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	I would support a plan that works with the builders and developers to properly carry the appropriate cost of growth instead of burdening the existing taxpayers. City council for its part could make zone changes more transparent, with a longer view on how these changes affect the quality of life for neighbors and every day citizens.	Multiple recent statewide legislations have had a detrimental effect on revenue for cities. As a region, we need to work more closely with our legislators to find compromises on formulas that allow municipalities to capture the new growth revenue they need to pay for additional infrastructure and ongoing services.
5. What improvements should be made to the city council's role in the planning and authorization of new developments?	No Response Received	I have watched with interest the unfolding of the Coeur Terre development plans. Many of these meetings, including planning and zoning seem to reflect that citizen voices, especially of surrounding areas are not valued. When developments go in, concerns of existing neighborhoods should be especially considered. I have not seen that happen personally.	Many projects do not come to the city council for review. I believe each project needs individual scrutiny for the benefit it will bring to the city as a whole. In following the changing views and population needs, our comprehensive plan may need updating sooner. I will continue to advocate for increased use of development agreements in order to ensure projects as presented are followed through with and carry benefit for the entire city.
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	No Response Received	One idea is to privatize the Arts Commission. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize those costs. Coeur d'Alene's conservative values and natural beauty are often not reflected by the art selections. These resources could be better used in areas of actual need for the citizens. Police and fire should remain protected, but all other services could use a good review!	With over 80% of the city budget being spent on its people, I have voiced the potential need for review of programs and services in order to balance the budget when necessary. I strongly view working with the public on what they value, what may be outdated as a needed program or service, and creating a priority based on their values.
7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities, why or why not?	No Response Received	No. Other solutions exist for rural homes such as wells or community services and septic systems.	When evaluating whether to increase access to city-managed water and sewer for rural communities, policymakers must consider a complex interplay of public health, economic, environmental, and financial factors. Initially, I would say no, however, the decision involves weighing the distinct advantages of the expansion against the costs, challenges, and potential downsides.
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increasing taxes?	No Response Received	I would lean into tourism to bring in more income while decreasing taxes on our local citizens. I want to reduce taxes for residents. By some estimates we are spending more than we take in by close to two million. We need to balance the budget! Good choices over time will get a healthy reserve in place where it is lacking now.	By reviewing city events, programs, leases and necessary services, without hampering public safety.

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9. What is your opinion on affordable housing? Is it something that the city should be pursuing?	No Response Received	Some affordable housing already exists within our community. Alternatively, certain kinds of “affordable housing” only bring problems so I want to avoid that. With what’s left to develop in CDA I would advocate for single family homes. Some of the housing issues are beyond the scope of what government can fix.	I started the Housing Solutions Partnership and have led multiple options for attainable housing for nearly 5 years. I’ve championed housing types that blend seamlessly into existing neighborhoods—Twin Homes, Cottage Housing, and ADUs—while protecting community character. I helped launch HomeShare Kootenai County, a nonprofit connecting homeowners with those seeking housing, often exchanging services for reduced rent. I also led the county-wide ADU plans project, offering free resources to property owners to expand housing options without increasing density. I am currently involved in an ad-hoc committee to create 100+ attainable homes in Cd'A as well as a game-changing funding mechanism that will help bridge the gap to what local workers qualify for and the rising median home prices without government funding. I believe home-ownership is the key to a strong city economy. Learn more at housingni.org .
10. 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 also feel that over the course of many years my public comments as well as those of friends and family members have not been heard. There appears to be a certain category of citizen not represented and if elected I will be their voice.	I listen to everyone and I do talk, meet, or otherwise communicate with them. I have many, many coffee meetings! I want to assure everyone feels heard and given the most accurate information regarding their request or issue.
11. What is your opinion on “Smart Cities” and how they apply to North Idaho?	No Response Received	Technology can be a wonderful thing but smart cities seem to be about controlling people. Nobody wants the details of their lives controlled on that level. How we communicate, how far we commute and our purchases do not need to be monitored. Unfortunately, a lot of surveillance is already happening, but we need to stand firm for our freedoms as citizens.	In receiving recent public input and comments, I don't feel the values of the community as a whole reflect the acceptance of this approach. I am open-minded, but wouldn't go against the majority of public input.

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12. 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 it should not. Equal opportunities need to be given, but outcomes should be merit based.	
13. 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	I would do my best to serve the community with the strength and vision God has given to me!	No, I am semi-retired now and have the background, time and experience to serve fully.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	I am a family man and business owner and have developed the skills to lead in this capacity. I have deep roots in this community and would like to use my talents to elevate Coeur d’Alene.	<p>I’ve always stood for personal responsibility, limited government, and preserving the natural beauty and freedom of North Idaho. I’m a problem solver who brings forward practical ideas to improve city policy and enhance our quality of life. I was a small business owner for 30 years, a community advocate and very involved in making Cd'A the beautiful, thriving place it is today.</p> <p>I’m honored to be endorsed by: CDA Fire Fighters IAFF Local 710 North Idaho Working Families PAC NIB-PAC (North Idaho Builders Political Action Committee) North Idaho Republicans The Cd'A Regional Realtors@</p> <p>I ask for your vote to continue serving with integrity, transparency, and deep respect for the community we all cherish.</p>