

City of Kootenai City Council Seat #1

| | Danelle Baumgarten-Pickett | Robert Dressel |
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| 1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position? | My name is Danelle Baumgarten-Pickett and I am running for City Council for Kootenai, Idaho. Why? I love living in my community! I enjoy the small town feel of it and would like to keep that feeling. I'm concerned that as we grow as a community, that there is a potential to loss of the integrity of our community. | No Response Received |
| 2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas. | 1- For the safety of our residents, we need more sidewalks and bike lanes on arterial streets. We have many community members regularly walking or biking upon our streets within existing traffic lanes or on the limited road shoulders. They may be out for leisure activities, but as often they are traveling to and from the Post Office or are children going to Kootenai Elementary. 2- Dedicated Law Enforcement – LEOs would be able to provide First Responder care in case of an emergency. This would include Kootenai Elementary, the businesses, Churches, and the elderly care facility within our community. This would help to provide stability and integrity that will benefit our community and its members. | No Response Received |
| 3. In your opinion, is growth in North Idaho being handled appropriately? | There are pros and cons to the growth that is coming to our area. With this influx, there are people with many backgrounds and talents to help us with this growth. The reality here is that as our community is growing, we need to prepare appropriately. With new growth is the potential for new businesses, increased revenue, and local youth engagement. We need to make certain that we have the infrastructure in place now to handle the population that we will potentially see in 20 to 50 years. I see so many plans come out that focus on short term solutions that raise our taxes, both property and sales, now – that don't address long term concerns. We MUST start looking at long term solutions. What will our community need in ten years? Twenty, or Fifty? Instead of applying band-aids on broken bones, we need real solutions. | No Response Received |
| 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? | Consumer conscious fees and taxes, and other tools such as impact fees, special assessment districts, and tax increment financing will help future growth pay for itself. Multiple methods are crucial for funding the increased costs of infrastructure and services associated with future home building and development, rather than shifting the financial burden to existing residents. There are also grants and other funding options that can be pursued as well. | No Response Received |
| 5. What improvements should be made to the city council's role in the planning and authorization of new developments? | I believe that the City Council should be hands on when it comes to the planning and authorization of new developments. Having a cohesive plan, both for the long-term and short-term growth of our community. If our community leadership is all on the same page in the planning and authorization of the potential growth, it will be easier to manage. Our City Leadership Team needs to have a fresh perspective on both the current and future growth and how to manage these plans to keep our community relevant. | No Response Received |
| 6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized? | I don't feel that our community has a need to cut, eliminate, or privatize any of our services at this time. | No Response Received |

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| 7. Do you believe access to city managed water and sewer should be increased to rural communities, why or why not? | If our current infrastructure for water and sewer will support the increased need, then yes, this is necessary. This would bring in additional revenues. It would be necessary to extend these services that are beneficial to our overall community stability and support. Knowing that growth will happen, we need to be prepared for future expanded and improved infrastructure. | No Response Received |
| 8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increasing taxes? | Keeping taxes in check is one of those major topics that is in the front of everyone's mind. One way would be to draw additional commercial or retail endeavors to our community. For this to work, we need to make sure that we have appropriate commercial zoning in place. This would draw revenue without raising taxes. Researching and applying for appropriate grants to add funds for specific projects would be another way. | No Response Received |
| 9. What is your opinion on affordable housing? Is it something that the city should be pursuing? | Affordable housing IS needed. However, often for those that need affordable housing they also need ready access to other services. For that to happen, we would need additional stops for the SPOT bus within city limits, or for those services to come to our community. This is a goal that needs further development. It may not be very feasible for our community at this time due to infrastructure restrictions. | No Response Received |
| 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? | Currently, our meetings do allow for public comment. Unfortunately, seating is limited. This means that if multiple residents have a desire to comment at a meeting, they will have to wait in line outside – occasionally in inclement weather. Having a better way for residents to participate via an online platform would enable those that are unable to attend in person to also leave a comment for the City Council to review and respond to. Regarding specific complaints made by community members, I would implement a tracking system so that once a complaint is made, Residents can track the complaint from start to finish so that they can see what the final resolution may be. This would also help the City track the complaints to make sure that all parties are cooperating appropriately. | No Response Received |
| 11. What is your opinion on "Smart Cities" and how they apply to North Idaho? | At this time, we lack the infrastructure AND the necessary budget to implement the hardware for a "Smart City" design. We also do not have the population to support the commercial endeavors that are implied within a "Smart City". Most of our retail or commercial locations are greater than a 15-minute walk from a residence, this is mostly due to distance rather than traffic. At this time, even with long-term planning, we do not have the population density needs that demand "Smart City" solutions. | No Response Received |
| 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. Instead, I believe in a hybrid approach of equitable and equal outcome. For many situations there is not a single best solution or approach. Instead, we must often evaluate the situation that provides the most equitable and equal outcome. For example. We need to examine local transportation opportunities and fit them to better serve our community. We should reexamine the potential for livestreaming City Council meetings to provide the Residents of our city the ability to be better informed and able to participate and interact even when unable to attend in person. | No Response Received |

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| 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, I do not have any conflicts that would be a conflict of interests in either my personal or professional capacities. | No Response Received |
| 14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position? | North Idaho is my home, I grew up here. However, I did move away and live in a variety of other communities and was able to experience the way that laws, infrastructure, housing, taxes, and population density affected those communities. I have also been employed as a business manager and am aware of the necessity of balancing budgets and making sure that there is a true need for the things that are being purchased. As a parent and grandparent, I am focused and very aware of the needs of our community. I want it to thrive and grow in a sustainable way that is safe for our future generations – not just those of us who are here today. | No Response Received |