

City of Spirit Lake Council Member (2 Seats)

	Lynn Gronlund "Cole"	Terry L. Moore	Erin Soule	Christina (Tina) Stirling	Darrell Woods
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Lynn (Gronlund) Cole and I am running for city council. I am running for city council because i believe that if you want to see changes made, you have to be a part of making them happen. We, the people of Spirit Lake, need change. The people need a voice, we need to feel heard. I have spent the last two years being highly active in the community. I have done a significant amount of community outreach and done my best to help the other residents get the information they seek and deserve. I am running for city council because after countless hours of conversations with the people of this city, I have come to realize that almost everyone can agree on at least one thing. We need change and we need it now. I hope to bridge the communication gap between the citizens and council. Help me, help you.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
2. How could our city be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	The city of Spirit Lake needs to be improved in many ways. Our city being in an endless moratorium is not healthy for the current residents or the growth of the city. The previous infrastructures of the water issues have failed. Not only have people paid for water to be hooked up but could not get it after 7yrs. They asked for their money back. The moratorium is meant to be temporary. Our city should be holding public hearings. The actions of city hall and the mayor not allowing public participation is hurting the city. There needs to be community workshop meetings with citizens, business owners, and planning experts from surrounding cities. All of our decisions affect others, whether its our neighbors or the outlining area. Our public speaking needs to be returned to this city. The fact that citizens are not allowed to participate makes them angry. What is the point of going to a city meeting where you are not allowed to even ask questions? This needs to be changed!	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
3. In your opinion, is growth in North Idaho being handled appropriately?	I don't feel the growth of the northwest is being handled correctly, though it has been mishandled in some ways making it difficult to get all the infrastructure to work together as it should. There is always a huge amount of stress with infrastructure. In order to find a balance there needs to be community groups and local government addressing smart growth. Smart growth is maximizing existing infrastructure and preserving the surrounding open spaces. An example is the Mill pond. All the property around it was purchased on the other side. This gentleman wants to build condos. In the event he is able to build one structure, it will change what he is allowed to build after that. Condos will remove the beauty that is sustained now, harm the wildlife the mill pond protects and allows us to be a part of. Contamination of the pond from sewer. The list goes on. It is very important that we all pay attention, participate in its historic value, wildlife preservation and beauty it gives.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received

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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?	<p>The best way to help growth pay for itself is to strengthen our city from within. We have the capability to help the local businesses we have instead of picking on them. Find out from the community where they are spending outside the city, try to fill those market gaps with existing or new businesses. Encourage local spending with community events for the citizens to get to know the business owners. Repurpose the existing small infrastructure we have where we can. Find a place where local artists and home businesses can participate with existing businesses. Low cost upgrades that make sense using grants for community spaces to revitalize areas.</p> <p>Law enforcement needs more than 7 officers to be available 24hrs a day. There has been so much prevention with our PD. They should be number 1 on our list for safety of our community. EMS, so vital. Volunteers are needed. Government and state grants should be sought out with existing levies. Insurance doesn't always cover EMS 100%.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
5. What improvements should be made to the city council's role in the planning and authorization of new developments?	<p>I feel that city council needs to be more involved with planning and zoning, the historical society, and any group affiliated with the city. The communication needs to be better so everyone has the same understanding of city meeting content. The comprehensive plan is often referred to, but has not been followed. City council needs to be in control of the decisions made based on community input. The mayor acting only as the deciding vote for the best interests of the community. That's not what we have now.</p> <p>Development of any kind needs to have the input of the citizens so that the city council can be there for us. Workshops that include all areas of development. There needs to be a communication change. We wait until the next city council meeting to have the minutes approved. 2 days before an agenda of the meetings in the paper. There should be more time allowed so residents can see if they can or want to attend. The bridge needs to be gapped for the elderly that want to be involved.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
6. In your opinion, should any services currently provided by the city be cut, eliminated, or privatized?	<p>I feel all areas need to have a comprehensive review of its financial health. Looking at the communities needs with strong input from citizens once again. There is a level of negotiation that needs to be fulfilled in efficiency with focus on our current resources. Implementing SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). This helps take complex information and make it manageable to identify areas that need attention.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	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?	This is a tough one. I know that Spirit Lake East residents had purchased permits but never got water. Nothing should be done for any reason, until there is an agreed upon a restructuring of infrastructure for the water system. The current one has failed for some time. Other avenues need to be explored before promising something we can not give. A huge undertaking that takes quite a bit of time.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
8. How do you plan on keeping a healthy reserve fund without increasing taxes?	We have to be proactive in managing the expenses. Looking at operational efficiencies, look for better contracts as we go. Call and see if we can renegotiate an existing contract. Plan for future costs. Necessary funding levels. Most of all, keep the residents included in everything we do. We all will give as much as possible when we see the need and why. TRUST needs to be rebuilt here. That's why it is so important for the GENERAL FUND to be itemized. What money is there for each item. No one knows and city hall has been asked numerous times to provide this and will not do it.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
9. What is your opinion on affordable housing? Is it something that the city should be pursuing?	Affordable housing definitely needs be addressed since the state has not done it. With the growing needs of elderly and families in general struggling to make ends meet. As a city we can adopt new ordinances with new affordable development. Government programs such as HUD, HOME PROGRAM, and others with ordinances for upkeep. Volunteer groups for when help is needed by the elderly.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	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?	All public meetings and open workshops should be just that. The citizens have the right to have a VOICE! Not only that, we all have experiences that may help, good or bad, so we should be heard. The citizens are upset over city hall and the mayor being disrespectful and shutting them down for public input. It is not only against the law, its also wrong!	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
11. What is your opinion on "Smart Cities" and how they apply to North Idaho?	Smart City technology starts at the internet, then data, and AI to optimize city functions. This is an area that needs to be fully explored by the residents before adopting any of those technologies. It means using sensors and faster networks to optimize public services. I'm not sure this is a community that will openly invite it in. We will know for sure, once we make the appropriate changes which allow our residents to speak their minds.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received

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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?	I feel most cities have been at a disadvantage by past government. The previous policies no longer work with the current resources available and the demands. A new approach on equitable policies should be considered. It can address fair housing, employment opportunities, and infrastructure for the community. Equitable outcomes can help redefine how things are funded to meet the needs of our city. Making equitable outcomes a priority through means of reaching out to the community to build meaningful relationships in areas that feel left out, which can change the value of how people feel. There is once again a level of negotiation. It needs to be addressed as a whole, not as one opinion or one need.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
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?	There is nothing that can take my time from the city unless it a family event. I have dedicated myself to this community for the past 2 years in saving the police department when we only had one officer. I believe in this community. I have met some amazing people in this process that i continue to connect with on a regular basis. We appreciate and respect each other.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I have dedicated a lot of my time to finding and giving the citizens any information I feel they need to know regardless of the backlash. Truth is rarely told because there is always someone who will not approve. I believe it is important to be as transparent with the residents as possible.	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received	No Response Received