

Shoshone County Fire District NO. 2 Commissioner Sub District 3

	D. Jeffrey Passer	Gary Yergler
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is D. Jeffrey Passer. I am currently the Fire Commissioner for Sub District 3 for Shoshone Fire District 2. This sub district covers the area from Medimont to Kingston. I was appointed to this position a year and a half ago when the former commissioner resigned. My position is now up for an election. During this time, I worked with the fire chief and other two commissioners mainly on budget and the firefighter's union. I find these issues to be challenging and important for the District to provide professional EMS services to the community. This commissioners for Shoshone Fire District 1 and 2 just voted to combine. I am running for this position to help with the transition and to continue working on budget and staffing issues.	No Response Received
2. How can your fire district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	One way the district can be improved is by the combination of the two districts. The combining of the two districts will allow for the sharing of personnel, training, and equipment. Another way to improve is to have better, and more, outreach to the community. The fire district needs to have more townhall meetings to inform people what is happening within the fire department, both good and bad. These meetings will also allow the public the opportunity to give feedback about what they want and need from the department.	No Response Received
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?	The rapid growth of North Idaho can be looked at as both good and bad. I think growth can be a good thing to keep a community from getting stagnant or to fill the space as young people move away for jobs or college. It appears much of the growth is from retirees moving into the area. This increases the demand for public services and can drive up housing costs as competition for home sales increases. This makes it hard for young firefighters and EMTs to find affordable housing in the districts they want to work.	No Response Received
4. As development continues the fire districts resources are stretched. What are your suggestions on how to fund the fire district to meet its additional obligations?	Funding the fire district has been the biggest challenge I have seen since I became commissioner. By law, we are only given a 3% increase in funding every year. We will always need funding for new equipment, to pay for repairs, to pay rising utility bills, to pay for rising cost for fuel, and the rising costs for insurance. The firefighters deserve and need pay increases to keep up with the rising cost of living. No one likes the idea of levies or increases in taxes, so we have to look for other sources. Grants can be a good source for short term funding combining the two fire districts will give us more leverage when applying for the grants. These grants can often take some pressure of the budget needs in other areas.	No Response Received
5. Do you believe there should be a long-range plan for projected growth to ensure financial resources are able to meet demand? If so, what would it look like?	There should be a long-range plan for projected growth. I do not have any suggestions to offer, but this is a great topic to discuss with the other commissioners.	No Response Received
6. What are your suggestions to balance the budget for your fire district?	The fire district budget is balanced. This is done by continuing to use older equipment and not providing firefighters with pay increases they deserve.	No Response Received
7. Should there be any changes to the role that Fire Districts have in the planning and authorization of new developments?	It is very important for the fire districts to be involved in planning and authorization of new developments. The county needs to know how the increase in service will affect the fire department's ability to respond. On the positive side, new developments may allow for an increase of tax revenues if part of the increase can go to the fire district.	No Response Received

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8. Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities? Why or why not?	I am not well enough informed on this issue to comment on it.	No Response Received
9. In your opinion, are there areas can be improved with forest management in your fire district?	In my fire district, we have large timber companies, state forests, federal forests, and private forests. Each has its own challenges and restrictions. Some timber companies clear cut and replant, others only thin what is needed for a healthy forest. The U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands have their own management plans. Some private forests are managed with timber harvests, others let them grow unmanaged. With this diversity in management, my biggest concern is fire. I would like to participate in meetings with these stakeholders to address this concern and come up with suggestions to mitigate the potential fire risk.	No Response Received
10. What should be the role of the fire district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	The role the fire district has in working with local governing authorities should be limited to EMS issues. The city and county planners need to know what impacts their plans have on the district's ability to provide EMS services.	No Response Received
11. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I served 10 years in the U.S. Army as an officer. I spent 22 years in law enforcement. I have been a volunteer EMT for 15 years and 13 years as a volunteer firefighter in this fire district. A career in government service is in my nature. I have training and experience in budget management. I know the fire chief and the firefighters personally and listen to their ideas and concerns. I also believe in praying to God for guidance when considering the important issues within the district.D	No Response Received