

### Timberlake Fire Protection District Commissioner Sub District 2

	Jason Charter	Kerry Kieres	Oden Olson
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<p>My name is Jason Charter, I am running for Fire Commissioner of district 2 within the Timberlake Fire District.</p> <p>I've spent over 18 years in the fire service, so I know what it takes to support the men and women on the front lines and to keep our community safe. I've lived in North Idaho most of my life, raised my family here, and I also run a business here, so I understand the challenges local families and taxpayers face. I'm running because I love our community and have felt called to serve. I want to make sure our fire district is prepared for inevitable growth, managed responsibly, and lead with honesty and transparency. This isn't about politics for me- it's about service, accountability, and protecting the community we all call home.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>2.</b> How can your fire district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<p>Our district is strong, but there are a few things I'd like to see improved. First, making sure our firefighters are fully supported with the right staffing, training, and tools so they can respond quickly and safely. Second, being smart with the budget – stretching every dollar before turning to taxpayers. And third, having a clear, long-term plan in place to prepare for growth in our area, because more people means more calls, and we need to be ready without scrambling in the future.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>3.</b> What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?	<p>North Idaho has grown fast, and it's easy to see both the good and the challenges that come with it. Growth brings new families, businesses, and opportunities, but it also puts a strain on roads, schools, and especially emergency services.</p> <p>I believe growth has to be met with planning. We can't stop people from wanting to live here – but we can make sure that we are prepared. For me, that means protecting the values that make North Idaho special, while making smart long term decisions so services like fire protection don't fall behind the pace of growth.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>4.</b> 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?	<p>As our area grows, the demands on the fire district grow with it. We have to be smart about funding. My first priority is getting the most out of the budget we already have – making sure every dollar is used wisely. Beyond that, I believe in looking at creative solutions like partnerships, grants, and community programs before leaning on taxpayers.</p> <p>Still, there are times when a levy may be the only way to ensure the safety of both the community and our firefighters. If it comes to that, it should be presented honestly, with a clear plan, so people know exactly what they're being asked to support.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>5.</b> 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?	<p>Absolutely. Growth in North Idaho isn't slowing down, and without planning ahead, the district will always be trying to play catch-up. A good plan would map out things like future call volume, staffing, equipment, and even where new stations might be needed – and then line that up with a realistic budget. That way we're not scrambling every year, and the community can see exactly where we're headed.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received

	Jason Charter	Kerry Kieres	Oden Olson
<b>6.</b> What are your suggestions to balance the budget for your fire district?	Balancing the budget starts with making sure every dollar is spent wisely. I'd focus on tightening up where we can, cutting waste, and getting the most out of what we already have. I also believe in looking for outside funding like grants or partnerships to help cover costs before asking more of taxpayers. And finally, planning ahead for growth is key – when we know what's coming, we can spread costs out over time instead of scrambling to make ends meet.	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>7.</b> Should there be any changes to the role that Fire Districts have in the planning and authorization of new developments?	Yes, I do think the fire district should have a stronger role in planning new developments. When new neighborhoods, businesses and healthcare facilities go in, it almost always means more emergency calls, but too often the district isn't brought into the conversation until after the growth is already happening. If we are included early, we can make sure things like road access, water supply, and overall emergency response are taken into account. As much as we love our small town, growth is inevitable and we have to make sure it's done responsibly so the district can keep up and keep people safe.	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>8.</b> Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities? Why or why not?	I know how important water is for both families and fire protection, but expanding city managed water into rural areas isn't a simple yes or no. It can improve safety and reliability, but it also comes with big costs and risks changing the rural lifestyle that people moved here for. I believe that right approach is to look at practical solutions first - things like water storage sites, dry hydrants, or partnerships between districts before putting more financial burden on rural taxpayers. Public safety has to come first, but it should be done in a way that protects both our community and our way of life.	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>9.</b> In your opinion, are there areas can be improved with forest management in your fire district?	Yes, I think there's definitely room to improve. Everyone here knows the wildfire risk we face, and it makes sense to stay ahead of it. We could do more with fuel reduction, encouraging defensible space around homes, and I'd like to see stronger partnerships with landowners and state agencies on thinning projects. Better forest management doesn't just protect property, it also makes it safer for the crews who have to go in when a fire breaks out.	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>10.</b> What should be the role of the fire district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	I think the fire districts role with local leaders should be to speak up for public safety before new projects move forward. Growth is happening fast, and if emergency services aren't part of the discussion early on, the community pays the price later. Working side by side with commissioners and planners makes sure new neighborhoods, businesses, and facilities are built with fire protection and emergency services in mind from the start.	No Response Received	No Response Received
<b>11.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I've lived in North Idaho nearly my whole life and have over 18 years of experience as a firefighter. That background has given me a clear understanding of what it takes to support crews, manage resources, and keep response times strong. As a successful local business owner, I've also learned how to manage budgets, make tough decisions responsibly & remain accountable. I'm a husband and father and I understand the struggles families are facing these days, whether it's the rising cost of living, safety concerns, or just trying to raise kids with strong values. My faith guides me to lead with integrity and serve others, and that's what I'd bring to this role – practical experience, deep community roots, and a commitment to putting people first while upholding our traditional North Idaho values.	No Response Received	No Response Received