

Boundary County Commissioner District 2

	Timothy Bertling	Debra Henderson
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	TIM Bertling im running for boundary county commissioner dis.2 im running so i can see things through, like the county GNA agreement with the U.S.F.S. and the Riverside Park with grants that we have pending.	My name is Debra Henderson and I am running for Boundary County Commissioner District 2. I have lived here since 1979, raised four children in this county, and now watch my grandchildren grow up here. I am running because our county is growing fast and our core services are under strain. We need practical leadership that listens to every resident and makes decisions that keep Boundary County strong for the long term.
2. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	when a project will benefit the county as a whole and people are getting proper compensation then i think it can be warranted	Eminent domain should only be used in rare cases when a project clearly benefits the entire county and property owners receive fair compensation. It is a serious power that must be exercised with great care and full transparency. I do not support using it lightly or for the benefit of private interests over the public good.
3. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes? What would be your reasons for this decision?	I would look at cutting spending no raises, no new equipment, higher taxes are not the solution that can drive business out there other things to look at.	I would first look at cutting unnecessary spending and improving efficiency before considering any tax increases. Higher taxes can drive businesses and families away and place an unfair burden on existing residents. We should focus on responsible budgeting and eliminating waste while still protecting the core services our county needs.
4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	The state changed the law so cities do not annex the county sets that, and i dont like forced annexation because that is a county forcing its will upon people, it would have to be a exceptual case.	I oppose forced annexation, Cities should not be able to force county residents into city limits against their will. Annexation should only occur when property owners clearly want it and when the city can provide better services without placing additional burdens on county taxpayers.
5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?	we keep up on our R&B equipment and we apply for grants to upgrade our road systems.	We need to improve roads, water and sewer systems, emergency services, and planning so growth does not outpace what we can safely support. My plan is to require new development to pay its fair share for infrastructure, bring Planning and Zoning back in-house for local accountability, and work with Road and Bridge to prioritize practical upgrades that keep our rural character intact
6. What is your opinion of red-light cameras and license plate readers? Should they be used by the County?	Boundary county is not big enough for me to worry about them, we would have to have enough accidents to warrant them.	I believe red-light cameras and license plate readers raise serious privacy concerns and should only be considered if there is clear evidence of a specific safety problem that cannot be addressed through other means. In a small rural county like Boundary, I do not see a strong need for them at this time.

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7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	they can be beneficial for projects if they are in the scope of the project and meet certain requirements	I support Urban Renewal Districts only when they are truly needed for blighted areas and when they have strong oversight and clear time limits. They can be useful tools for revitalization, but they must not become a way to shift costs or favor certain developers.
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I support them having to upgrade infrastructure for the impact it brings.	I support requiring developers to pay for the infrastructure their projects create, roads, water, sewer, and emergency access. New growth should not place extra costs on existing taxpayers. Responsible development means the people who benefit from it help pay for the impact it creates.
9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	the Counties citizens as a whole not a minority what benefits everyone.	I see myself accountable to every resident of Boundary County, not just certain groups or long-time families. My job would be to listen to all voices, make decisions based on facts and fairness, and serve the best interests of the whole county
10. In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	we are surrounded by it, i don't support legalization I've seen first hand how it effects people and families. i would support medical uses that are supervised by a Dr.	<p>I support regulated medical marijuana when it is prescribed and supervised by a doctor. My young son used it during his battle with cancer, and it helped him when nothing else did. I also see the potential financial benefits of carefully regulated medical sales for our state and county.</p> <p>But I have serious concerns about broad recreational legalization. I looked at what has happened in neighboring states like Colorado, Washington, and Oregon. They have brought in tax revenue, but the numbers have dropped a lot in recent years as prices full and the market became oversupplied. At the same time, they have seen higher public safety costs, more traffic problems, and increased pressure on mental health and addiction services. Even after legalization, the black market is still active in many places.</p> <p>In a rural county like Boundary, we need to be very careful. I believe medical use under a doctor's supervision makes sense, but I do not support recreational legalization that could bring more problems than long-term benefits for our families and our community</p>
11. County Commissioners have an enormous responsibility with the many departments that run our county. Which departments in your opinion should receive priority for increased budgets?	we only have so much money to go around and all departments are in need, The R&B department and then the Sharrif.	All departments are important, but I would prioritize Road and Bridge, the Sheriff's Office, the Restorium, and the hospital. These core services directly affect public safety, senior care, and daily life. Any budget decisions must be made with transparency and a clear focus on what keeps the county running safely and sustainably.

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12. What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?	we take it and use it we would have not got anything done in the past and present if we didnt use some.	We should accept federal funding when it is available and truly benefits the county, such as PILT payments or road grants, but we must never become dependent on it. I support strong advocacy for our fair share while maintaining local control and fiscal responsibility.
13. What is your opinion on restricting public comment at county meetings? Why do you hold this opinion?	It is a meeting held in public, not a public meeting there are times this would make doing our jobs hard to get things done. That being said we have almost always let people talk unless its something that should not be talked about for legal reasons.	I believe public comment should be protected. County meetings are held in public for a reason. While meetings must stay orderly, limiting comment too much reduces transparency and trust. I support reasonable rules that allow residents to be heard while still letting the board conduct business efficiently.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I know this county, i was raised here, have a business here, my children went to school here, I served on the School board for 11 years and proved i can work with people and get things done. My wife of 38 years supports me in this for some reason, i like to get things done.	I am humbled to be interviewed by my community for this important role. I have extensive management experience in business operations, budgeting, and leading teams. I have worked hard my entire life without any special advantages. I understand the everyday economic struggles most Boundary County families face today with rising costs and making ends meet. That real-life experience and practical leadership background qualify mee to serve as commissioner with common-sense decisions that put residents first and address the real challenges our county is dealing with.