

Republican Precinct Committeemen 319

	Dave Schaaf	Mike Stavish	John Young
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>Hi. I am Dave Schaaf. I'm running for Committeeman in the 319th Precinct. I was invited to consider running for this position to be a holder of the values and positions of the Idaho Republican Party. I am semi-retired after a 40+ year career in service and ministry and now have more time to devote to public service. My decision is ultimately the result of prayer and a principle found in Proverbs.</p>	<p>I am Mike Stavish, and I am running for Precinct Committeeman in Precinct 319. This is in the southeast corner of Hayden.</p> <p>I find the idea of the position charming. I like to follow local politics and I love sharing ideas. I'm excited at the opportunity to discuss local political issues with my engaged-voter neighbors. The position is a perfect intersection of ideas and people.</p>	<p>My name is John Young. I am running for Precinct 319 Precinct Committeeman. I am running for this position to use my experience and community ties to represent the Republican voters in my Precinct on the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee.</p>
<p>2. Do you believe that the central committee should endorse candidates in primaries and non-partisan elections? Why or why not?</p>	<p>The central committee has the right to endorse candidates as they see fit.</p>	<p>Republicans should always want to ensure that Republicans are winning political offices. What are we doing if we aren't trying to win elections? Non-partisan in this context merely means any party endorsements will not appear on the ballot. It does not prohibit party endorsements, nor does it imply they shouldn't exist.</p> <p>Association with the Republican party is freely done and not inherently legitimate. It's unfortunate but true that candidates who support less than Republican values do sometimes run as Republicans in our county because that is how they are most likely to win. The committee would be derelict in duty if it did not investigate the good faith of every Republican primary candidate.</p>	<p>I do not agree with recommending candidates for the Primary elections and non-partisan races. I think that this practice reduces the pool of qualified candidates for the partisan races and politicizes constitutionally nonpartisan races.</p>

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3. How will you inform the people you represent about the goals and objectives of your central committee?	Especially now, I encourage all citizens (certainly including my precinct) to be aware of each political party's platform, how that aligns with the vote of elected representatives, and the observable outcomes of their political role. It is not enough to be satisfied with a campaign speech or promise.	A precinct has only a handful of people in it, by design. I will communicate directly with voters, by knocking on their doors during election periods, and via text, calls, and emails. Even now, anyone can get my personal email and phone at mikestavish.com, and I invite any voter in Precinct 319 to call or text me.	The KCRCC website and social media accounts do a good job of identifying the goals, objectives and actions of the committee. When I'm in conversation with constituents in my Precinct, I share or point them to that information.
4. What do you consider the most important qualities in a candidate for local office?	Honesty. Respect for others. Being grounded in unshakeable guiding principles which help them see from the 30,000 ft level while keeping their feet on the ground. Being un-buyable. Valuing the ideals and beliefs this great country was founded on.	It should be noted that the Precinct Committeeman is not a local office. It is a party position within a private association, the Republican Party. You can freely associate with the party, thereby gaining certain privileges within the party, like voting for Precinct Committeeman. As PC, I will be a loyal Republican, and I will work towards the unity of the local party committee, in service of furthering conservative values being put into policy and laws across all offices of our government. For candidates running for office, there is no one size fits all answer, but each should be evaluated in context based on character, values, and competence.	I believe that having qualifications that are in line with the job description of the office a candidate is pursuing, having local ties and a knowledge of our history are all very important.
5. Do you believe your values accurately reflect the values of Kootenai County residents? How will you work to incorporate those values into the central committee?	I do. I will use the influence and voice I have to support, articulate, and vote in accord with these values.	I do believe that I accurately represent conservative and Republican values. People before governments. Families before corporations. Fiscal responsibility in all institutions. Steadfast protections of God given rights. On these, there is no compromise. Reasonable minds can disagree on the means sometimes.	I can't speak to whether my values accurately reflect the values of Kootenai County residents. I am a conservative Republican and I have reviewed in detail the votes over the last several years for my Precinct. I have voted the same way as the majority of Republicans did in those elections.

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<p>6. Becoming a precinct committeeman is the most direct way to influence your local party, shape its priorities and fight for the principles that built this nation. Are you willing to vote for these principles even when they are not popular? Please explain your answer.</p>	<p>Yes. I have a long history of speaking up for and walking out principles I believe in. America is at a crossroad. I grew up saying the Pledge of Allegiance alongside of a dad who fought in WWII and a mom who always served in our local elections. I started voting as soon as I was of age. Being a responsible citizen was ingrained into me and I have passed those values on to our three adult daughters. Along with my wife, we are Red, White, and Blue to our core. I am a Christian. Conservative. Republican. It's time to weed out those who call themselves Republican and yet are silent or even vote against the platform.</p>	<p>See my previous answer. "On these, there is no compromise."</p>	<p>During my tenure on the KCRCC, vary rarely was there any debate on principle. The Idaho State Republican party sets the platform that defines our identity. Should an issue arise that doesn't conform with that platform, I would certainly argue against such a issue.</p>
<p>7. Meaningful change begins in our local elections. As precinct committeemen you serve as a link between the voters and your parties' leadership. What are two or three top priorities that you want to bring to the central committee?</p>	<p>Obviously, the voters in a local area have local concerns like safety, health, and affordability. While those concerns can't be addressed by a single precinct, as committeemen it is our job to listen to people in the neighborhood and faithfully represent the major concerns of their area. Growth in our area has put a strain on all of us. All of us deserve a place at the table as we find answers.</p>	<p>Party unity is my top priority. We can disagree privately. We can debate internally about processes and decisions, but once we have made our committee level decisions, we should all stand behind our committee and move in unison. SECOND PRIORITY is continuing the rating and vetting system, and refining it, while developing a process to evaluate judicial seats (which is a far more complicated topic and is desperately needed for sound voter decisions). THIRD PRIORITY is to foster a committee culture of professionalism and procedural perfectionism. An ideal committee action is beyond reproach.</p>	<p>My top priorities are to represent the position and perspective of the majority of Republican voters in my Precinct.</p>

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<p>8. Are you willing to hold party leaders and candidates accountable to stay focused on principle over compromise? How will you do this?</p>	<p>Accountability serves to separate true public service from self-service. I watch for actions more than words. When I see actions that are inconsistent with stated principles I will first try to gain further understanding to avoid stirring up trouble with misinformation. At the same time I am absolutely willing to hold other accountable to their word and the principles of our party. And I will be accountable for them also.</p>	<p>Politics is the art of compromise. Action does not happen and the status quo does not change without compromise. To repeat answer 5 again, "On these, there is no compromise. Reasonable minds can disagree on the means sometimes." If any political action asks me to compromise on traditional conservative and republican values, then I will work to halt that action, rather than move on these unmovable positions. Everything else is an agreement with people that disagree with you and might also not like you.</p>	<p>Yes, it is important that all elected or appointed candidates and leaders be held to the standards of our Republican party platform. Members of the KCRCC can request issues be added to the agenda for discussion by the committee and action if necessary.</p>