

### Republican Precinct Committeemen 321

	William Dougherty	Charlie Specht
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	My name is Charlie Specht and I am running for re-election as Republican Precinct Committeeman for Precinct 321 in Dalton Gardens. I am running for re-election because I would like to see the Central Committee become more transparent and open in its processes so we will have the trust of all Republican voters. This is currently not always the case as there is a lot of favoritism and candidate competence has taken a back seat to ideology and control. While I believe a Conservative candidate's ideology is important, I think that competence and capability are essential. The NIC Trustee Board and the County Assessor are two fairly recent examples of candidates that were recommended that were not well suited for performing the job. That was evidenced by the issues that they caused.
2. Do you believe that the central committee should endorse candidates in primaries and non-partisan elections? Why or why not?	No Response Received	I don't believe that the Central Committee should endorse candidates in primaries and non-partisan elections. I think that by doing this, the Committee is taking the power out of the hands of the voters. The Central Committee should gather information on candidates and provide it to voters so they know who they are voting for and can choose a candidate that best fits their personal values. It's important that we elect Conservative candidates, and by getting information on all candidates, even in non-partisan elections, we are able to give that to voters so they can make the best possible decision. I don't believe we should be telling voters who to vote for, especially since they ultimately have the final say. I absolutely support all Republicans running for office in General Elections.
3. How will you inform the people you represent about the goals and objectives of your central committee?	No Response Received	I use my Google website and Facebook page to put out information, as well as walking my precinct to distribute voter and candidate information. I also speak to individuals at City Council Meetings and at events like the Dalton Gardens picnic, where I ran the Greeter's Table last year. I walk around me area often and speak to people when I run into them in their yards, or if they are walking as well. I also plan on setting up a texting group to be able to communicate more directly to voters and help to solicit their opinions on things so I can be doing the best possible job for them. I always encourage participation by all of my voters since they are the reason I was elected in the first place.
4. What do you consider the most important qualities in a candidate for local office?	No Response Received	The most important quality for a candidate is whether the candidate is qualified to hold the office they are running for and have the required experience and skills. I also believe ideology is important as I want a candidate who shares my Conservative morals and values and would be willing to stand up for them. It is also helpful if the candidate has lived in Kootenai County (for local races) for at least 10-15 years, so they know and understand the local landscape instead of bringing the baggage of another state or area with them to our amazing place here! We have had some candidates that ended up being recommended by the committee that I did not support for recommendation because I felt that they lacked the experience and qualifications to hold the office they were running for.
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?	No Response Received	I do believe that my values accurately reflect the values of Kootenai County, and specifically Dalton Gardens residents. I believe in transparency, and that has been an issue with the current Central Committee, in my opinion. I would like to see all Republican candidates feel like they are being given a fair chance in the process. I speak up when things are running contrary to my beliefs, and I would hope everyone else would do the same. Honesty is also an essential value. I feel that communication with voters is very important in our job as Precinct Committeemen, and I try to do as much of that as I possibly can. Pre-election, I often walk about 15-20 miles in handing out material for each election.

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<b>6.</b> 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.	No Response Received	I believe that if something is morally right, then I am on the right side of the issue. I think if we apply Conservative morals and values that we should be in the majority, but if that's not the case, I would be happy to be in the minority since I stand by my values. The Constitution and God are the building blocks of our nation and will persevere through all. I am not with the majority of the Committee on all issues, on most of them, yes, but not on all issues. I have no problem being independent and voting along the lines of my morals and values, because at the end of the day I want to be able to look at myself in the mirror and like what I see. I also do my best to represent the principles of my voters since they are the reason I'm here.
<b>7.</b> 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?	No Response Received	1. Better transparency to gain credibility with all Republican voters. I think this is the most important thing since our Republican party in Kootenai county has become so fragmented that we have 24 percent of the county registered as Unaffiliated because they feel disenfranchised, and there is a lot of infighting in the Republican party here, which needs to stop. 2. Removal of voting privileges for Executive Committee Members who are not elected Precinct Committeemen - As it stands now, the committee, which consists of 74 precinct committeemen, and an executive committee of 11 individuals, chooses the recommended candidates for voters in the county in most races. Only one of member of the current executive committee is a publicly elected PC. 84 people are voting, instead of the elected 74.
<b>8.</b> Are you willing to hold party leaders and candidates accountable to stay focused on principle over compromise? How will you do this?	No Response Received	At the end of the day, all we have are our principles. I think everyone should be held to a standard where they do what they say they will do and keep their promises. It's very important to be honest and up front with people. The old saying about those that lie down with dogs will come up with fleas fits in this situation, as in every situation. We owe it to ourselves and our voters to do our very best to represent them by being principled and being on the morally and ethically right side of issues. I will stand up for what is right by speaking up. People need to be held accountable when they are acting poorly or are not being principled. Conservative principles should always rule the day!