

Republican Precinct Committeemen 410

	Jeremy Lokken	Sid Smith
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Jeremy Lokken. Precinct Committeeman for precinct 410. I'm running for this position because my community has been frustrated with the incumbent not delivering the Official Republican Party message to their door. I share their frustration and hope to end that by strengthening communications.	Sid Smith Precinct 410 I am running for reelection to this position, because I believe my conservative values and my long track record in this community show I am best qualified. The current leadership of the KCRCC has been in charge for more than a decade. I am running to provide accountability and challenge the establishment.
2. Do you believe that the central committee should endorse candidates in primaries and non-partisan elections? Why or why not?	Absolutely. It's important to vet candidates for public service. The Official Republican Party should be giving their insight into every elected position in the county. It helps keep North Idaho representative of our values. I've been learning about other precinct committeeman candidates from an unofficial group and how wild their backgrounds are including signature gathering for the abortion initiative and supporting Joe Biden. When you don't vet candidates, outside groups can infiltrate and drastically change our county for the worse.	No. A primary endorsement puts the weight of the party machinery behind one candidate or another. The Founders believed in the right of the voter to choose who would represent them. They didn't want Chicago-style machine politics, which is what you get when parties endorse in the primary. If the party picks the "approved" insider candidates, they're telling other candidates not to run and dictating choices to the voters. As for non-partisan elections, the KCRCC endorsements have emphasized obedience to party bosses and how candidates answer questions that have little to do with qualifications for the office. By prioritizing lockstep loyalty over competence, we have gotten poor leadership that has cost county taxpayers. We need to change course at the KCRCC.
3. How will you inform the people you represent about the goals and objectives of your central committee?	I have a website called Precinct410.com that I maintain for my precinct Republican voters who are interested in more frequent communication. Other voters just want to be informed come election time.	Throughout election season, I walk my precinct door-to-door, making myself available. I deliver candidate literature personally. My e-mail and phone number are included in letters I send to my precinct voters. This is truly a neighborhood-level position, so I'm not far away.
4. What do you consider the most important qualities in a candidate for local office?	Find out what motivates the candidate. If they're motivated solely on power or to take control back then it's very revealing. Faith is important. Understanding that there is a higher power and our rights come from God, not the government. The Democrats abandoned God in their platform years ago and look at the fallout. So much pain and anger. Honesty is important. Tell the truth. There's one county-wide race that I'm watching where one candidate is genuine and honest while the opponent appears untrustworthy based on their talking points and presentation.	Honesty, humility, willingness to listen, kindness, and an anchor to conservative principles are highest on my list. We can't serve well if we aren't willing to listen, understand others, put them before ourselves, and deal truthfully. Too often these days, I see a mentality of "the ends justify the means." We can't restore this great country, defend it, or preserve it if, in the process, we run roughshod over everyone else, and destroy our moral foundation and the principles that made it great.

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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 believe my values are shared throughout Kootenai County. When CDA city council allowed the all-age drag show in downtown in front of the children, I was shocked. I had to document it to make sure the community knew it happened. When they were going to pay for the communist clenched fist statute, I was shocked. Now I'm discovering that they just voted in an anti-ICE protester into our local government, and two of them are NIR RINOs inside the Official Republican Party. This is the city council that will transition us into a blue city if it's not already. President Trump won every precinct within Coeur d'Alene so they need to do it quietly when voters aren't paying attention. It's our job to call out the Democrats especially if they're in the Republican Party.	I do. While I was born here, I moved away for awhile for college and work. Because of that, I feel fortunate to live here and understand - at least a little - everyone who has chosen to move here. This is a great community. While I work hard to hold firm to my faith and my principles, I also work to understand others. I try to treat everyone with dignity and respect, which is how I was raised, and I think it's a good way to operate on the central committee too.
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.	This isn't a popularity contest. Voting is the easy part. I've documented radical leftists yelling at our good conservative elected officials. They did it at NIC and at CLN library meetings. They shut down an NIC meeting. They shut down a library meeting too. The RINOs love working with the Democrat activists. I saw how CDA city council members coordinated with the Democrats to cause chaos at our college. Now one of those Democrats is running as a "Republican" to take control over our legislative district. She supported Joe Biden in 2020. What Republican do you know supported Joe Biden in 2020? Rep. Elaine Price is a fantastic legislator who fights to protect our freedom and has a fantastic voting record. All of our legislators love working with her. On May 19th, vote Elaine Price!	Yes. Over the last two years, I have often reminded the KCRCC when they are straying from the party's founding principles, the party platform, and the things that should unite us as Republicans. For example, there was a resolution introduced in support of adding employees in the legislature, so state legislators could read and draft more bills, and handle more work. In debate, I noted that adding state employees would expand the state budget (more employees need more pay, benefits, office space), lead to the legislature introducing and passing more bills, which would lead to more laws and more regulation. All these things conflict with the Idaho GOP platform planks of restraining government growth and spending. The KCRCC approved the resolution - without my vote.
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?	Many of the voters in my precinct share frustration because they were not getting the Official Republican Party materials. I will work to address this issue and strengthen communication. One of my top priorities is to make sure the Official Republican Party message is heard throughout my precinct. I will fight any attempts to suppress that message by outside unofficial groups that want to manipulate and control the party.	1. We need new leadership. Despite the fact that that KCRCC members are all Republicans, current leadership is predisposed for picking internal fights, rather than finding areas and issues where all members can work toward a common goal. The constant internal conflict is destructive. 2. We also need to reassess the rating and vetting system (endorsements). I believe we need to scrap it altogether, but at the very least, it needs a serious overhaul. Ever since it has been implemented, the quality of elected officials has declined, while the level of conflict and controversy in the community has increased. This is a bad track record.

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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>Yes. I've already seen it within the central committee. When some volunteers say that they'll do something and don't do it, other volunteers adapt and hold those accountable next time. We've seen instability with the NIR-endorsed PCs coming in and failing to meet the minimum requirements, like simply attending the once-a-month meetings. There's an attendance policy now that holds them accountable if they miss 4 meetings in a row. That's basically being absent for an entire season. How are the precinct voters going to stay updated if the NIR-endorsed PC misses so many meetings? It's a failure that needs to be resolved.</p>	<p>Yes. See answer to Question 6. It is important to remain anchored to your principles. However, it is also important to keep a sense of humility and understand that nobody is right 100 percent of the time. I have to continue to pray for wisdom every day, and understand that there are others who are smarter than I am. I will work hard to understand the issues so I can exercise good judgment, and when things aren't black and white, seek God's guidance.</p>

Watchmen Ministry North Idaho