

Republican Precinct Committeemen 416

	Jim Cooke	Dan Gookin
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Jim Cooke, Precinct Committeeman #416 To insure that our precinct continues to be a safe and enjoyable place to live.	Dan Gookin Kootenai County Republican Central Committee Precinct 416 We need a committee that represents Republican values and who respects Republican Voters. I am running to ensure that the chaos caused by the committee's current personality cult is stopped. I will never swear allegiance to an authoritarian party boss or his crooked "rating and vetting" system.
2. Do you believe that the central committee should endorse candidates in primaries and non-partisan elections? Why or why not?	As long as the process for endorsement is above reproach and understandable to the voter, I think endorsements such as what the KCRCC provides are very helpful. Often a candidate can alter what they stand for depending on their "audience". Most voters only have the opportunity/ability to hear a candidate once so they won't know if the candidate changes answers depending on the group being addressed.	It's the Republican voter's job to choose candidates in a primary. It's the central committee's job to support those candidates in the general election. By "rating and vetting" and "recommending," the party boss is arrogantly assuming he knows more than the voters he claims to represent. This type of egotistical, Stalinist system is anti-American at its core.
3. How will you inform the people you represent about the goals and objectives of your central committee?	I am available anytime for questions. Phone, text or email me. I am looking forward to bringing the precinct's ideas and concerns to the party's attention. My wife and I are walking the precinct before the primary and it's been enjoyable to realize that common sense leadership and common sense policies are very popular.	Primarily, these goals and objectives must be re-aligned with the will of the Republican voters in my precinct. Right now, the party wants to dictate what its goals are and for the committee, voters, and elected representatives to obey these dictates. Once current leadership is removed, the task of informing the voters involves walking the precinct and sending mailers that support what the voters have decided in the primary. As this process is currently corrupted, I have not participated.
4. What do you consider the most important qualities in a candidate for local office?	Honesty, a desire to help people succeed, and a willingness to stand up for what you believe.	To represent the public and not the party bosses. To demonstrate a commitment to public involvement beyond politics, including charity and a knowledge of local concerns.
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?	My parents did an amazing job raising me and my three brothers to understand the value of hard work and perseverance while finding ways to help others. I believe that Kootenai County residents know that our area is a wonderful place to live and want to keep it that way. Sometimes hard decisions need thoughtful explanation in order to gain acceptance.	I will represent the community's values, but it would be arrogant of me to claim that I reflect them. In fact, that's the current posture of the central committee, who feels endowed with the authority of all Republicans in the county. This attitude underscores their arrogance and their lack of respect for the voter.

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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.	Previous answers have touched on this already. Good leadership should look like good parenting - for sure it won't always be "popular". Candidates running for office are hopefully not seeking popularity. Campaigning is hard work with it's share of rejection, but it's about the greater good for our community. So you knock on the next door and hold fast to what is best for the precinct and the County.	If a principle isn't popular it shouldn't be a priority of the local party. The goal is to represent the people. The current central committee majority and its leadership force their beliefs on others, which is un-American.
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>Most voters are not aware of how local politics operates. Most people have no idea what a PC does.</p> <p>My priority is to help the precinct understand the party's priorities. The party is having to work hard to keep our community desirable, but most voters don't know this and they don't know who to contact.</p> <p>From there, it is natural that the PC role will be better understood.</p> <p>When people believe that their voice matters, they are more likely to speak up. I intend to be the conduit for our precinct to be heard by the central committee.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove Brent Regan as chair. 2. Respect the voters choices, not the back room, rigged deals arranged by the party insiders. 3. Understand that unanimous agreement, obedience, and attacking others with different opinions are not American values.
8. Are you willing to hold party leaders and candidates accountable to stay focused on principle over compromise? How will you do this?	Yes. A unique benefit I have is that I am not connected to the people of the party. I am a newcomer and I am not seeking anyone's accolades. I don't have anything to lose by staying focused on principle. I think Precinct Committeeman is a very important volunteer position and I intend to fulfill my duties to the benefit of our County.	I've been doing it for six years. I continue to hold the accountable despite being attacked on social media, lied about, smeared, and sued.