

## Republican Precinct Committeemen 521

	<b>Doug Balija</b>	<b>Jim Barton</b>
<p><b>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</b></p>	<p>My name is Douglas Balija and I am running for the position of Precinct Committee Man in Precinct 521.</p> <p>I am a dedicated family man with a loving wife and four children, and I also enjoy life as a hobby farmer here in beautiful North Idaho. I have a deep appreciation for our local community and the freedoms we enjoy.</p> <p>I am running for this position because I want to play a direct role in protecting our county’s future. Specifically, I aim to help ensure the integrity of the candidates we elect and to hold accountable those who are entrusted with running our local government. By doing so, we can better protect the rights and values that are so important for our families and for the generations to come.</p>	<p>Jim Barton Kootenai County Republican Central Committeeman Candidate, Precinct 521</p> <p>I am running to bring positive changes to our Central Committee’s leadership. I believe the conservative qualities of strong leadership still matter. Where integrity, honesty, transparency, are still qualities respected in a good leader. I support a “big tent” Republican Party that welcomes differing perspectives while remaining grounded in our core conservative principles.</p> <p>My primary goal is straightforward. To help ensure our Republican Party remains firmly rooted in those principles. I will work diligently to uphold them within the Central Committee and in the decisions that affect our community.</p> <p>I am also deeply committed to serving my neighbors of Precinct 521. It is important to me that their voices and concerns are not only acknowledged but actively represented. I will provide clear communication and accessible ways for my neighbors to be heard. As a precinct committeeman, it is essential that we listen to the people. It is their input that should shape our party’s direction and decisions</p>
<p><b>2. Do you believe that the central committee should endorse candidates in primaries and non-partisan elections? Why or why not?</b></p>	<p>Yes, I believe the central committee should endorse candidates in primaries and provide ratings in non-partisan elections. With over 25 years working with the central committee, I’ve seen candidates with great intentions and energy get elected—some serve admirably, while others change once in office. I’ve also watched people with bankruptcies, DUIs, and gambling problems slip through because local media rarely covered it. Too many voters in my precinct know more about Fox or CNN than their own county officials. Central committee vetting allows real background checks and gives everyone a better baseline. This process helps strengthen our party by weeding out issues early and supporting the best candidates. I could have written a lot more than 800 characters on this topic.</p>	<p>No, I do not believe the Central Committee should endorse candidates in primaries or non-partisan elections. Only in general elections. Our system was designed so that voters, not party insiders, choose their candidates. Republican voters should have the opportunity to hear from all qualified conservative candidates and decide for themselves who will best represent them. Endorsements in primaries limit that process and give the appearance that a small group is deciding on behalf of the broader electorate. I believe a stronger approach is to trust the voters, encourage open participation, and allow the best candidates to emerge on their own merits.</p>

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<b>3.</b> How will you inform the people you represent about the goals and objectives of your central committee?	<p>As Precinct Committee Man for 521, I will keep residents informed about the central committee’s goals and objectives through direct, face-to-face communication.</p> <p>I plan to host town-hall style meetings at our local Grange where neighbors can meet candidates, ask questions, and hear straight talk about what the committee is working on. I will also walk the precinct regularly, knocking on doors to deliver updates in person and listen to your concerns. These conversations will bring important information directly to voters and make sure our community stays connected.</p> <p>North Idaho families deserve transparency. I’m committed to keeping our precinct informed, engaged, and never left in the dark about decisions that affect our rights and future.</p>	<p>I will attend and actively participate in Central Committee meetings and remain committed to serving the residents of Precinct 521. It is important to me that their voices and concerns are not only acknowledged, but truly represented. I will communicate regularly through my website and email updates to keep residents of Precinct 521 informed about the committee’s goals and actions. Listening is essential, because it is the input of the people that should shape our party’s direction and decisions.</p>
<b>4.</b> What do you consider the most important qualities in a candidate for local office?	<p>I look for leaders who will keep Idaho free and clear by fiercely protecting our constitutional rights, our property, and our way of life against overreaching government. They must uphold faith and family values that have made North Idaho strong. Above all, I want candidates who will boldly protect the unborn and defend the sanctity of life from conception.</p> <p>Local office is where real impact happens. We need honest, principled people who put Idaho families first, not special interests or national agendas. That’s the standard I will fight for as Precinct Committee Man.</p>	<p>I believe the most important qualities in a candidate for local office are integrity, honesty, and a strong commitment to serving the community. A candidate should be principled, experienced, and grounded in conservative Republican values, including support for strong families, an educated society, and fiscal responsibility. Just as important is the ability to make decisions based on what is best for the community as a whole, while demonstrating sound judgment, accountability, and a willingness to listen to the people they represent.</p>
<b>5.</b> 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?	<p>Yes, my values align closely with Kootenai County residents who hold dear faith in God, strong families, and the protection of life and liberty.</p> <p>I will incorporate these values into the central committee by championing candidates who defend our constitutional freedoms, prioritize family and faith, and stand firmly for protecting the unborn. Through active involvement in candidate selection and rating, I will help ensure the committee reflects the heart of our community — keeping Idaho free, faith-filled, and committed to safeguarding every innocent life.</p>	<p>Yes, I believe my values reflect those of Kootenai County residents. I will work to incorporate those values by collaborating closely with fellow committeemen, listening respectfully to differing perspectives, and maintaining open and effective communication. I am committed to being honest and transparent in my decisions, and to ensuring that the voices of the people I represent are reflected in the actions and direction of the Central Committee.</p>

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<p><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.</p>	<p>Yes, I will vote for these principles even when they are not popular.</p> <p>Serving as precinct committeeman gives me the most direct influence to guide our local party and keep its focus on the principles that built this nation — faith in God, strong families, constitutional freedom, and protecting the unborn.</p> <p>One of the most impactful images from my childhood was a photo of a man standing defiantly with arms crossed in a massive crowd saluting Hitler. He refused to conform because he knew it was wrong. That picture taught me the difference between popularity and integrity. I will carry that spirit into the central committee, standing firm for life, liberty, and Idaho values no matter the pressure. Real leadership means doing what’s right, not what’s easy.</p>	<p>Yes, absolutely. I believe it is essential to stand by the core principles that built this great nation, even when they are not popular. The principles of our founders, particularly those trusting the people to choose who best represents them are essential and must be upheld. Our system was founded on trusting the people to decide who best represents them, and I believe those principles must always be respected and upheld.</p> <p>My priority is to the residents of Kootenai County—not to political insiders. I will work to ensure that the voices of the people are reflected in the actions and direction of the Central Committee. Leadership is not about popularity; it is about doing what is right and what is best for our party and our community.</p>
<p><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?</p>	<p>Meaningful change starts at the local level. As precinct committeeman for 521, I serve as the direct link between voters and central committee leadership.</p> <p>My top priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fiercely protecting our God-given constitutional rights and preserving Idaho’s independence.</li> <li>2. Championing strong families and faith-based values that built North Idaho.</li> <li>3. Standing firm to protect the unborn and defend the sanctity of innocent life.</li> </ol> <p>Through rigorous vetting and candidate support, I will bring these conservative principles to the forefront. I will fight to keep the central committee focused on what matters most — faith, family, freedom, and life — so future generations can thrive in the North Idaho we love.</p>	<p>My top priorities are open communication, transparency, and strong, principled leadership. I believe the Central Committee should operate in a way that is honest and accessible, keeping voters informed and engaged. Just as importantly, I will work to ensure that the people and not a small group of insiders decide who they want as candidates and to represent us as our public officers. Our role as Committeeman should be to support that process, not control it.</p>

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<p><b>8. Are you willing to hold party leaders and candidates accountable to stay focused on principle over compromise? How will you do this?</b></p>	<p>Yes, I am fully willing to hold party leaders and candidates accountable and keep them focused on principle rather than compromise.</p> <p>As precinct committeeman for Precinct 521, I will serve as the direct link between voters and central committee leadership. I will speak up clearly whenever leaders drift from core values — defending constitutional rights, upholding faith and family values, and boldly protecting the unborn. When pressure comes to compromise on life, liberty, or traditional family principles, I will push back firmly. North Idaho deserves a Republican Party that stands unapologetically for faith, freedom, and the sanctity of life — not one that trades core values for short-term political gain. I will be that consistent voice of accountability.</p>	<p>Yes, I am committed to holding party leaders and candidates accountable to principle. I will do this through clear and respectful communication, sound judgment, and thoughtful reasoning. When necessary, I will address concerns directly and constructively, ensuring that our leaders decisions remain aligned with our party's values and the expectations of the people we represent. Accountability should be consistent, fair, and focused on strengthening our party and its leadership.</p>