

Shoshone County Commissioner District 1

	Ryan Frick	Dameon Groves	David Hildebrand
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>My name is Ryan Frick, and I am running for Shoshone County Commissioner because our county is at a critical crossroads. We are facing a fiscal crisis that demands experienced, conservative leadership. With 30 years of experience solving complex organizational and financial problems, I have the proven ability to restore stability to our local government.</p> <p>My mission is to provide faithful stewardship of your tax dollars, ensuring we are fiscally fit and accountable to the hardworking families of this community. Beyond the budget, I am committed to defending our traditional moral character against shifting liberal influences. As your Commissioner, I will protect our community's values while ensuring a solvent, prosperous future. I have the professional experience to achieve these results and a heart dedicated to honoring God and serving our citizens with integrity.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>David Hildebrand, Candidate for Commissioner Shoshone County District #1</p> <p>Our County needs leadership along with solutions to change the disasterous direction we are headed. We can't stay on this path. Hopefully, I and others in the community can redirect and solidify a more advantageous direction to assure our financial survival.</p>
<p>2. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?</p>	<p>Property rights are a God-given foundation of a free society, and I believe the government's power to seize private land should be extremely rare and heavily scrutinized. Eminent domain is an inherently coercive practice that often infringes upon the liberties of hardworking citizens.</p> <p>I believe it should only be used in the most dire and specific circumstances, such as addressing severe environmental contamination, preventing imminent physical harm to the public, or meeting essential National Defense requirements to protect our country.</p> <p>Under no circumstances should eminent domain be used as a tool to save the government money or for the sake of administrative convenience. Taking a citizen's property to pad a budget is not a fiscal solution—it is theft. As County Commissioner, I will stand as a firm shield for property owners, ensuring that "public necessity" is never used as an excuse to trample on the rights of the individual.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>Condemnation & Expropriation are two fancy more explicate names for stealing someones property.</p> <p>But unfortunately, when all options are exhausted and it meets all legal requirements it can be utilized.</p> <p>I believe in the event someone(s) property is taken the compensation for said properties value should be far greater than the appraisal. Maybe then the eminent domain option will not be pursued.</p>

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<p>3. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes? What would be your reasons for this decision?</p>	<p>I firmly support cutting spending over increasing taxes. You cannot spend money you do not have; the government must live within its means, just like the families of Shoshone County. Increasing taxes should never be a "fix" for government inefficiency.</p> <p>Cutting is only the first step. My approach is rooted in faithful stewardship and accountability. If a deficit occurs, we must:</p> <p>1 - Analyze the Root Cause: Determine why it happened and if the exposure persists.</p> <p>2 - Ensure Accountability: Identify where the oversight occurred and hold those responsible to account.</p> <p>3 - Value Engineer Solutions: We must value engineer every aspect of the budget to find smarter, more efficient ways to operate.</p> <p>With 30 plus years of experience, I will ensure our budget is sustainable and respectful of your hard-earned money. We will solve the problem at the source rather than asking taxpayers to pay for government's mistakes and fraud.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>Above all else, cutting spending is always a priority along with establishing why there is a shortfall. Addressing these deficits will curb future financial shortfalls. Increasing taxes doesn't solve the problem. It creates more problems. Making changes causes pain. When you have to rip off the bandaid it hurts.</p>
<p>4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I strongly oppose forced annexation. As a fiscal conservative and a man of faith, I believe that if something is not yours, you should not be able to take it. One of the Ten Commandments—"Thou shalt not steal"—is a foundational principle for my life. Violating this would fail to honor my God, my family, and my community.</p> <p>In our county, property rights must be treated as a sacred trust. I believe that people can communicate and find mutual benefits in most situations through voluntary cooperation. However, to force any individual or group into an agreement against their will is never a solution; it is government overreach. As your Commissioner, I will prioritize open dialogue and respect for the individual over the use of force. We should aim for growth that is built on consensus and shared goals, rather than state-mandated expansion that tramples on the rights of the people.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I oppose forced annexation without a vote by the impacted property owners. This is piracy by government, tyranny of taxation without representation like the Kings of old would do to our forefathers hundreds of years ago.</p>

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<p>5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?</p>	<p>Shoshone County faces significant infrastructure challenges, specifically regarding our roads, county buildings, and access to public lands. As a Construction Engineer, I don't just see these as problems—I see them as opportunities for better stewardship. Solving these complex issues is my professional specialty, and ready to put that experience to work for our community.</p> <p>My plan is to help each department value engineer their projects. By identifying efficiencies and implementing design-build solutions, we can deliver high-quality results while saving the county tens of thousands of dollars. We must move away from reactive spending and toward a proactive, engineered approach that ensures our infrastructure is built to last.</p> <p>Honoring God through excellence in my work means ensuring that every taxpayer dollar is a responsible investment. I am committed to protecting our public land access and modernizing our facilities without placing an undue financial burden on our citizens.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>Our county is not growing rapidly. Our county is 1 of 8 counties with very minimal growth. We don't need more Government loans to build something we presently can't afford. We need to plan and budget for future capital expenditures just like a business would.</p>
<p>6. What is your opinion of red-light cameras and license plate readers? Should they be used by the County?</p>	<p>I am generally opposed to the use of red-light cameras and license plate readers. As a fiscal conservative and a believer in individual liberty, I find this level of constant surveillance to be a significant overreach. Government should not operate like an omnipresent "eye" spying on law-abiding citizens as they go about their daily lives.</p> <p>Public trust is built on mutual respect between the government and the community, and mass surveillance often erodes that trust. The only exception I would consider is in specific, extreme cases where persistent law-breaking creates an immediate and documented threat of physical harm to our citizens. Outside of these rare, high-stakes safety requirements, I believe our resources are better spent on visible, accountable law enforcement rather than automated monitoring. Honoring God means respecting the dignity and privacy of the individual, and I will always stand against turning Shoshone County into a surveillance state.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>Any justification for our county to install these is not worth its cost and the invasion of our privacy will surely prompt lawsuits against the county.</p>

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<p>7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I support the strategic use of Urban Renewal Districts as a tool for faithful stewardship. Our county has vast land assets but a low population base, meaning traditional tax structures often provide minimal returns. We must be creative in attracting investors to revitalize aging properties and strengthen our community's economic foundation.</p> <p>I believe providing targeted incentives to offset an investor's initial costs is a sound fiscal strategy. This encourages private development that would otherwise not occur, ultimately creating a better community and a stronger tax base.</p> <p>However, my support is strictly conditional: these incentives must never create an additional tax burden for our current residents. As a fiscal conservative and an engineer, I will ensure every project is transparent and accountable. We honor God through the wise cultivation of our land, providing a prosperous, solvent future for all.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>This question and #4 have similarities and indirectly work together.</p> <p>I presently oppose Urban Renewal Districts. I would have to do some research on the cities in Idaho who are participating.</p> <p>There are 101 cities in Idaho who have jumped on board this government program started by Democrats in the 60's to deal with blight (neighborhoods destroyed by entitled people under section 8 housing).</p> <p>When its time to acquire more land to develop more subsidized housing developers & bureaucrats just create districts through a public hearing process. They do not require a public vote. They supposidly use TIF. (Tax Increment Financing)</p>
<p>8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?</p>	<p>I believe developers must be responsible for the infrastructure their projects require and should fully understand existing conditions, and those costs must be integrated into their construction budget—not shifted onto the community.</p> <p>However, as a fiscal conservative, I am open to strategic partnerships if a small county investment would produce significant, long-term returns for our community. Any such negotiation must be governed by strict accountability: if the county's investment does not produce a positive return within five years and remain solvent for 20+ years, our portion of the expense must be reduced or structured to ensure the taxpayer is protected.</p> <p>By applying my experience, I will ensure these agreements are "value engineered" to be a win-win. We honor God by being faithful stewards of our resources, ensuring that growth pays for itself and strengthens our county's financial future without adding a burden to our families.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I support requirements for developers.</p> <p>They have an obligation to meet all infrastructure requirements at their cost. Its not the residents (taxpayers) responsibility to subside the developer profit margin.</p> <p>I would entertain possible tax insentives for a term agreeable to encourage the investment.</p> <p>Not sure who negotiated the Mavrick deal but I'm sure we got taken.</p>

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<p>9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?</p>	<p>My accountability follows a clear, unshakeable order: God, Family, Country, and my Community.</p> <p>My primary accountability is to God, my King and Savior. I believe that when a leader is 100% accountable to the Almighty, they are naturally driven to serve their family, their country, and their neighbors with the highest level of love, integrity, and truth. This spiritual foundation ensures that my decisions are not based on political convenience, but on a moral duty to be a faithful steward of the trust placed in me.</p> <p>By answering to a higher authority first, I am empowered to look out for the best interests of Shoshone County with a servant's heart. I will serve our citizens with the same transparency and dedication that I strive to bring to my faith and my home, ensuring a leadership style rooted in honor and fiscal discipline.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I work for my district and the county as a whole. I'm accountable to the people I serve and above all else God.</p>
<p>10. In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I oppose the legalization of marijuana. While I recognize that there are documented physical health benefits for a select few, the overall costs to our community far outweigh those rewards. I know that for a fact.</p> <p>From a fiscal perspective, legalization is not a "windfall"—it is an invitation for more government. Because we cannot always rely on providers to distinguish between genuine medical need and habitual use, legalization would require a massive increase in regulatory oversight and law enforcement. As a fiscal conservative, I cannot support a policy that expands government and increases the long-term tax burden on our citizens to manage the fallout.</p> <p>My duty is to honor God by protecting the health and safety of our families. We must prioritize a drug-free environment that fosters personal responsibility rather than inviting a culture of dependency that costs the community more than it could ever return.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I oppose Marijuana stores in Idaho but would consider Medical Marijuana made available by prescription through possibly pharmacies or by mail. Naturally this would have to become a law in Idaho and I'm confident the lawmakers would screw it up.</p> <p>Possession would need to be accompanied by the doctors approval</p> <p>Marijuana would still be illegal and possession over the prescribed amount and driving under the influence would still be a DUI arrest.</p>

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<p>11. County Commissioners have an enormous responsibility with the many departments that run our county. Which departments in your opinion should receive priority for increased budgets?</p>	<p>It would be irresponsible to prioritize budget increases before a full, transparent audit. For years, the county has lacked the fiscal discipline to control spending, and once money is misallocated, it is difficult to reclaim.</p> <p>My 30-year career as an engineer is defined by value engineering: identifying waste, solving complex problems, and producing a higher return on investment. I support a "DOGE" approach to local government—eliminating inefficiency and fraud at every level. While I acknowledge that some critical, underfunded areas may eventually require budget increases to function safely, my goal is to offset those costs entirely by rooting out existing waste.</p> <p>Before asking for more, every department must prove they are faithful stewards of what they already have. My priority is ensuring every tax dollar is used effectively to serve our citizens and honor God through true accountability and a return to the basics of limited government.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>No department should receive a priority for increases.</p> <p>Planning for future budget needs if any with special attention given to the Sheriff Office and public works.</p> <p>If I did set a priority it would be on the Capital Expense needs of the county.</p>
<p>12. What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?</p>	<p>Every dollar spent by the county must have a clear, justifiable purpose. Whether funds are local or federal, the American taxpayer still foots the bill. I believe we must reject the illusion that federal money is "free"—nothing is truly free when someone else is forced to pay for it. Accepting funds just because they are available is a form of unjust taxation and irresponsible stewardship.</p> <p>Doing so purely for the sake of spending goes against my primary accountability to God and our citizens. I will approach federal funding with extreme caution, only entertaining such funds if they are 100% necessary for projects that would otherwise result in physical injury or a total failure of essential services. As an engineer, I look for long-term value, not "free" money that often comes with hidden mandates. By focusing on true necessity, we honor the taxpayer and maintain a government that is both fiscally fit and morally sound.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>All federal funding should be scrutinized. Is it conditional or not?</p> <p>We have depended on the feds way too long. The feds are obligated to keep us safe & secure and stay out of our business.</p> <p>They should be substantially supporting our Sheriff office, ISP and Border Patrol.</p>

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<p>13. What is your opinion on restricting public comment at county meetings? Why do you hold this opinion?</p>	<p>Order and control are essential for effective leadership. Constant outbursts in meetings fracture a community rather than solving problems. My approach is rooted in how God instructs us to communicate: addressing concerns directly and privately first to seek a respectful resolution.</p> <p>If a citizen has a concern, they should first meet with a Commissioner individually. If still unheard, they should bring a small group for further discussion. Only after these steps are exhausted should a topic reach the public floor. This ensures a sincere effort at dialogue has already occurred and eliminates Chaos.</p> <p>Many "stir the pot" in public to distract or overwhelm leadership. This is not about hiding from objections; it is about maintaining a productive government. As a fiscal conservative and an engineer, I value efficiency over chaos. By prioritizing orderly communication, we honor the dignity of the individual and ensure the county's business is conducted with the integrity it deserves.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I oppose restricting public comment. There does need to be guidelines and non-residents can't comment.</p>
<p>14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>As a Construction Engineer for 30 years, my duty has been to create and manage budgets ranging from \$25,000 to \$345 million. My expertise lies in proactive management: identifying cost overruns before they occur and value engineering solutions to minimize expenditures. On a \$345 million project, I created systems that allowed a team of two to achieve the same results as a team of eight. This level of efficiency led Raytheon Corporate to offer me a role implementing these systems across all their projects.</p> <p>The county budget may be smaller, but the principles of faithful stewardship remain the same: communicate, investigate, analyze, and implement. My background qualifies me to bring a "DOGE" approach to our local government—simplifying procedures, reducing waste, and finding creative ways to achieve the greatest return for the taxpayer. I am ready to apply these proven professional skills to honor God and ensure Shoshone County is fiscally fit, transparent, and built to last.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>I've had a very long and diverse life and hope to enjoy life another 20+ years. Being a self-employed contractor for 35+ years knowing what it takes to manage a business. Shoshone county has had a history of poor management.</p>