

Kootenai County Assessor

Allyson Knapp

1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Allyson Knapp, and I am running for Kootenai County Assessor. I decided to run because I was encouraged by people who understand the importance of this office and believed my background and experience would serve the county well. I have spent more than 30 years as an appraiser, served as Chief Deputy Assessor, and understand both the technical side of property assessment and the responsibility of public service. I am running to bring steady leadership, fair and consistent assessments, and a strong commitment to serving the people of Kootenai County.
2. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	I believe private property rights should be strongly protected. I am not a proponent of government using eminent domain unless there is a clear and necessary public purpose, such as roads, highways, utilities, or other true public infrastructure. Idaho law recognizes public use and requires just compensation when property is taken. When eminent domain is used, it should be limited, necessary, and fair. Projects like Highway 41 expansion show that there are times when public improvements are needed, but property owners should be treated with respect and fully compensated for their loss. It should never be used casually or in a one-sided way.
3. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	As Assessor, my role would be to follow the law, not make annexation policy. Personally, I do not support forced annexation. I believe property owners should have a meaningful voice in that decision and that government should be very cautious about forcing people into something they do not want. Annexation decisions should be transparent, lawful, and respectful of private property rights.
4. Where do you see we need to improve systems or processes within the assessor's department and what are your suggestions?	I believe the Assessor's Office needs stronger customer service, better transparency, and more consistency in how things are done across the county. Assessments should be accurate, fair, and applied uniformly so property owners can trust that the same standards are being used no matter where they live. I also believe more attention needs to be given to mapping, record maintenance, and making sure all taxable property is identified and placed on the roll in a timely manner. When systems fall behind, it creates inefficiencies and can shift more of the tax burden onto those already on the roll. My focus would be on improving processes, supporting staff, creating better accountability, and making sure the office is running efficiently and serving the public well.
5. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	I generally do not support Urban Renewal Districts unless they are being used for their original purpose in areas that are truly urban and in need of redevelopment. In established downtown areas, they can make sense and have worked as intended. Idaho urban renewal plans use revenue allocation financing, which redirects growth in assessed value within the district to pay for improvements. My concern is when these districts are used in outlying growth areas where they seem to benefit development more than taxpayers. From the Assessor's Office side, they also require detailed administration and reporting. I believe they should be used sparingly, transparently, and only where there is a clear public benefit
6. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	If elected, I would be accountable to the taxpayers of Kootenai County. The Assessor's Office is there to serve the public, and property owners deserve fairness, consistency, transparency, and respect. I also believe the way the office runs is a direct reflection of the person leading it. If the office is doing well, if people are being treated well, and if the work is being done the way it should be, that starts at the top. If elected, I would take that responsibility seriously because accountability for the outcome and the day-to-day operation of the office would ultimately rest with me.

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7. The county population is increasing as are housing prices. Is there anything you would do or recommend to the legislature that would keep property taxes affordable for homeowners?	The Assessor does not control growth, home prices, construction costs, tax rates, or the budgets set by taxing districts. But one change I would support at the legislative level is increasing the Homeowner's Exemption. The current exemption simply has not kept pace with today's housing market. Years ago, when home values were much lower, it provided more meaningful relief. Today, many homeowners are paying taxes on values far beyond what that exemption was designed to address. I would support increasing it so it gives real tax relief to owner-occupied homes and helps keep homeownership more affordable for the people who actually live here.
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	If those costs are placed on developers, they are often passed on to the homebuyer, and many people already feel housing prices are too high. If the public pays for the infrastructure, taxpayers end up carrying that burden, and many already feel taxes are high enough. Because of that, I believe those decisions need to be made carefully, with both affordability and fairness in mind. This is not something the Assessor decides, but it is important to understand how those choices affect taxpayers.
9. How would you utilize the budget that you manage while being fiscally responsible?	I would manage the budget carefully and with respect for the taxpayer. My goal would be to make sure the money is being used where it actually matters, whether that is staffing, training, technology, or improving workflow so the office can run efficiently and get the job done on time. To me, being fiscally responsible means planning ahead, avoiding waste, and making sure every dollar supports the work of the office and the service we provide to the public.
10. Do you believe the six Row Officers (assessor, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, treasurer, coroner, and clerk) should be appointed or stay elected? Why or why not?	I believe the six row officers should remain elected. These are important county offices with significant responsibility, and they should be directly accountable to the public. Idaho's county system has long been structured around elected county officers, which reflects that principle of voter accountability. In my opinion, once those positions become appointed, the process can become too one-sided and too influenced by insiders rather than the people. I believe the public should decide who serves in these roles, not a handful of decision-makers behind the scenes.
11. In your opinion, does the office of Assessor provide any checks and balances amongst the other elected officials?	In my opinion, no. The Assessor's Office has a specific role, but it does not really function as a check and balance on the other elected officials. When problems in leadership or performance arise, there are often very limited options for correction outside of public pressure and the election process. I believe there should be stronger accountability across county government, because taxpayers deserve confidence that elected officials are doing their jobs well and serving the public responsibly

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12. Is there anything in your personal, business, or career life that would be a conflict of interest in your ability to serve the people of this county?	No. I do not believe I have any conflict of interest that would affect my ability to serve the people of this county fairly and ethically. I understand why people ask about my appraisal work, but if elected Assessor, I would not be appraising properties in Kootenai County while serving in that office. That background gives me valuable experience, but the position comes with clear responsibilities and boundaries.
13. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I am a Certified Residential Appraiser and have been appraising property in Kootenai County for 30 years. I have held the Certified Mass Appraiser designation, which directly relates to the work of the Assessor's Office. For the past 15 years, I have worked as a Realtor, giving me firsthand knowledge of our local market, neighborhoods, and the factors that influence value. I previously served as Chief Deputy in the Assessor's Office, so I understand how the office runs, how it should run, and what it takes to do the job well. I served as State Political Coordinator for the Idaho Association of REALTORS®, working with legislators on property rights and homeowner issues. I believe this background gives me the experience, knowledge, and leadership needed to serve as Kootenai County Assessor.