

Shoshone County Assessor

	Katie Murray	Robert Savage
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	My name is Robert Savage, and I am running for Shoshone County Assessor. As a small-business owner and general contractor, I bring practical property experience and a commitment to public service. My goal is to provide fair, accurate, equitable, and consistent assessments while ensuring transparency, fiscal responsibility, and accountability to the taxpayers we serve.
2. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	No Response Received	I strongly support protecting private property rights. Eminent domain should only be used as a last resort for essential public needs. Property owners deserve due process and fair compensation, while taxpayers deserve transparency and assurance that public funds are not being used to benefit private interests.
3. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	No Response Received	I oppose forced annexation. Property owners and affected residents deserve a meaningful voice in decisions impacting their property, taxes, and community. Any annexation should respect individual property rights and be conducted transparently and responsibly.
4. Where do you see we need to improve systems or processes within the assessor's department and what are your suggestions?	No Response Received	Before proposing changes, I would complete the state training provided through the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) for newly elected officials prior to taking office, along with continued training each year. I would then evaluate the office's current procedures, ensure I fully understand the laws and requirements governing assessments, and listen to the experience and input of current employees. From there, I would identify areas where we can eliminate (if any) inefficiencies, better support staff, improve transparency, and ensure assessments are fair, accurate, and equitable. I believe improvements should be based on training, facts and a thorough understanding of how the office operates, not assumptions.
5. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	No Response Received	I currently oppose Urban Renewal Districts. While redevelopment has potential benefits, I believe our existing budget challenges and financial obligations must come first. Responsible government should prioritize current needs before committing taxpayer resources to additional long-term projects.
6. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	No Response Received	My primary responsibility would be to the property owners and taxpayers of Shoshone County. I would work professionally with other county officials while ensuring the Assessor's Office operates with integrity, transparency, and accountability. Public office is a public trust, and we must never forget whom we serve.
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?	No Response Received	My priority would be ensuring every assessment is fair, accurate, and consistent with Idaho law. I would evaluate opportunities for improvement while respecting the legal authority of the Assessor's Office. Since I also have a good working relationship with our three state legislators and speak with them often, I plan to work with them on issues affecting Shoshone County, including exploring additional revenue sources to reduce our heavy reliance on property taxes. One area worth examining is the approximately 73% of the county's real property that is federally owned. This may present an opportunity to explore ways to reduce the property tax burden, since our taxpayers face unique challenges in funding local services.
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	No Response Received	Yes. Developers should pay a fair and reasonable share of infrastructure costs directly resulting from their projects. I support responsible growth and free enterprise, but existing taxpayers should not automatically bear the financial burden of private development.

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9. How would you utilize the budget that you manage while being fiscally responsible?	No Response Received	I would distribute workloads efficiently, establish clear expectations, and ensure employees have the resources and time necessary to provide accurate assessments. My focus would be responsible spending, operational efficiency, consistent standards, and accountability for every taxpayer dollar.
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?	No Response Received	I support keeping all six county row officers elected. These positions directly impact our communities and taxpayers. Voters deserve the authority to choose their representatives and replace them when necessary. Elected officials should remain directly accountable to the people they serve.
11. In your opinion, does the office of Assessor provide any checks and balances amongst the other elected officials?	No Response Received	The Assessor's Office has an important, independent responsibility within county government. Until I fully understand its statutory authority and limitations, I will not make assumptions about every aspect of its oversight role. My commitment is to uphold Idaho law, protect the office's independence, and maintain accountability to taxpayers.
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 Response Received	I am currently unaware of any personal, business, or professional conflicts that would interfere with my ability to serve Shoshone County fairly and impartially. I am committed to transparency, integrity, and protecting the public trust.
13. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	As a general contractor and small-business owner, I bring years of hands-on experience with property, construction, improvements, budgeting, and responsible management. My background has taught me accountability, problem-solving, attention to detail, and the importance of earning people's trust. I also have strong working relationships with our state legislators, which helps me stay informed about issues and legislation affecting Idaho and our local communities. I bring practical, real-world experience, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to mastering Idaho's assessment laws and applying them fairly, consistently, and responsibly for the taxpayers of Shoshone County.