

Shoshone County Commissioner District 2

	Tami Atkins	Jay L. Huber	Sabrina Hyndman
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Tami Atkins, and I am running for Shoshone County Commissioner, District 2, because our county government needs a change. I believe it's time for leadership that makes common-sense decisions based on what is best for all the citizens of Shoshone County, not just a select few. For the past 27 years, I have worked in the banking industry, where I built a reputation for being proactive, responsible, and focused on solving problems. I want to bring that same approach to the Commissioner's Office. It's time for fresh ideas, new energy, and a commitment to serving the people of our county. As your commissioner, I will work hard to be transparent, accountable, and accessible. I will listen to citizens, address concerns, and focus on practical solutions that strengthen our communities.	No Response Received	No Response Received
2. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	I believe in protecting private property rights. People work hard to earn the opportunity to own property, and I do not believe government should have the power to take that property away from law-abiding citizens. Property ownership is a cornerstone of personal freedom and financial security. As your commissioner, I will support policies that respect private property rights and ensure citizens have a strong voice in decisions that affect their land, homes, and livelihoods.	No Response Received	No Response Received
3. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes? What would be your reasons for this decision?	I believe we need to focus on cutting unnecessary spending and finding new sources of revenue before asking taxpayers to pay more. The people of Shoshone County work hard for their money, and I believe county government should do the same. As your commissioner, I will work tirelessly to identify grants, partnerships, and other opportunities to bring additional revenue into the county. My goal is to reduce the burden on taxpayers while maintaining the services our citizens depend on. Raising taxes should be a last resort, not the first option.	No Response Received	No Response Received
4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I do not believe county government should acquire land or change boundaries without the consent of the people. The citizens of Shoshone County deserve a seat at the table when decisions are made that affect their property rights, communities, and way of life. I will always support transparency, public input, and local control.	No Response Received	No Response Received
5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?	Shoshone County is experiencing rapid growth due to increased employment opportunities at our local mines. While growth brings new opportunities, it also creates new challenges. We need to focus on developing more affordable housing options for working families and moderate-income residents so they can continue to live and thrive in our communities. We must also ensure that our county budget is managed responsibly so we can attract, hire, and retain talented employees. A strong workforce is essential to providing the quality services our citizens expect and deserve. As your commissioner, I will work to plan for growth, support affordable housing solutions, and ensure our county remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.	No Response Received	No Response Received

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6. What is your opinion of red-light cameras and license plate readers? Should they be used by the County?	License plate readers have been in use along our local highways for some time, and I understand how they can help law enforcement combat drug trafficking and other crimes along the I-90 corridor. Public safety is important, and I support giving law enforcement the tools they need to protect our communities. At the same time, I have concerns about privacy and government overreach. While I recognize the value of these systems in fighting crime, I do not believe law-abiding citizens should feel as though they are being unnecessarily tracked or monitored. We must strike a balance between public safety and protecting the individual rights and privacy of our citizens. As your commissioner, I will support policies that promote safety while ensuring transparency, accountability, and respect for personal freedoms.	No Response Received	No Response Received
7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	While I believe citizens should always have a voice in decisions involving land acquisition and boundary changes, I do not see this as a major issue facing Shoshone County at this time. My focus is on the challenges that directly affect our residents today, including responsible government, fiscal accountability, economic opportunity, and ensuring county services work for everyone.	No Response Received	No Response Received
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I believe growth should pay for growth. If developers are creating projects that require additional roads, utilities, services, or other infrastructure, they should be financially responsible for the costs associated with that new infrastructure. Taxpayers should not be expected to bear the burden of development-related expenses. Responsible growth means ensuring that new development contributes its fair share while protecting the interests of current residents.	No Response Received	No Response Received
9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	If elected, I will be accountable to the citizens of Shoshone County, not special interests or political agendas. My responsibility will be to listen to the people, be transparent in my decisions, and serve our county with integrity and common sense	No Response Received	No Response Received
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?	I do not support the legalization of marijuana. While I understand that people have differing opinions on this issue, I am concerned about the impact marijuana can have on public safety, impaired driving, workplace productivity, and the overall well-being of our communities. As your commissioner, I will support policies that promote safe, healthy communities and protect the quality of life for the citizens of Shoshone County. I believe our focus should be on strengthening families, supporting law enforcement, and creating opportunities for economic growth while addressing substance abuse issues in a responsible and effective manner	No Response Received	No Response Received

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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?	The Sheriff's Department needs our immediate attention. Public safety is one of the most important responsibilities of county government, and we must ensure that our law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to protect our communities. One of my top priorities will be supporting the Sheriff's Department until it is fully staffed and equipped to meet the needs of our growing county. Recruiting and retaining qualified deputies is essential to keeping Shoshone County safe. Our citizens deserve timely emergency response, strong law enforcement presence, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing their communities are protected. As your commissioner, I will work to ensure public safety remains a priority and that the Sheriff's Department has the support it needs to serve the people of Shoshone County effectively.	No Response Received	No Response Received
12. What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?	The county may need to take advantage of federal funding opportunities for important projects that benefit our residents. However, any decision to accept federal funding must be carefully evaluated to ensure that Shoshone County does not become burdened with unreasonable requirements, long-term obligations, or costly repayment commitments. I believe we should pursue funding that benefits our community while protecting taxpayers and maintaining local control over county decisions.	No Response Received	No Response Received
13. What is your opinion on restricting public comment at county meetings? Why do you hold this opinion?	I believe public comment is an important part of local government, and every citizen deserves the opportunity to be heard. At the same time, setting reasonable time limits during public meetings helps keep meetings productive and prevents them from running excessively long. However, if citizens wish to continue discussing issues after the official meeting has concluded, they should be given that opportunity. Open communication between elected officials and the public is essential to good government. As your commissioner, I will work to ensure meetings are conducted efficiently while still making myself accessible to the people of Shoshone County and listening to their concerns.	No Response Received	No Response Received
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I have spent 27 years as a bank manager, giving me extensive experience in financial management, budgeting, employee supervision, and customer service. Throughout my career, I have been responsible for managing budgets, leading teams, solving problems, and ensuring accountability. These skills have prepared me to make sound financial decisions and effectively manage county resources. I believe my experience, combined with a commitment to serving the people of Shoshone County, makes me well-qualified to serve as your County Commissioner.	No Response Received	No Response Received