

## **Kootenai County Republican Central Committee Rating and Vetting Program**

The KCRCC has developed a process of informing local voters about candidates running for both partisan and non-partisan offices. We have found that some candidates who subscribe to be Republicans do not necessarily hold strong Republican values. Furthermore, Precinct Committeemen are frequently asked for information about candidates and issues. The Precinct Committeemen's job is to know their constituents and to keep them informed about candidates and ballot measures.

For this reason, the KCRCC has implemented a Rating and Vetting Program whereby candidates are rated by the Precinct Committeemen.

### **FOR CANDIDATES:**

#### **Rating Criteria:**

We will be searching for and rating men and women of good character, virtue and integrity, and who hold constitutional and traditional values.

The KCRCC encourages candidates to participate in this process and other opportunities to present themselves to the voters such as forums, town halls, social media, speaking before the KRCC, and "Meet and Greets."

#### **Please tell us the following information about yourself:**

Name: **Brian Winkler**

Position Running For: **Coeur d'Alene City Council**

Website: **idahospeaks.com**

Tell us a little about yourself and your family, how long you have lived in the area and your occupation.

I grew up in Northern California in the San Francisco Bay Area. I attended Saint Francis High School in Mountain View and college at UC Davis where I played on the Division 1 NCAA men's water polo team. After college I attended OCS and became an Officer in the United States Marine Corps. I served at Camp Lejeune, NC for three years as a Financial Officer for Marine Special Operations Regiment. After the military, I attended the University of San Francisco for a master's degree in international and

financial economics. I then began a career in technology, working for IBM in Omaha Nebraska and specializing in the energy and utilities industry. In 2018 I was hired by Amazon Web Services, so I moved to Seattle and still work for AWS today. In October 2021, my job was still fully remote so I purchased a home in Coeur d'Alene, where I began working with Ed Bejarana on Idaho Speaks, interviewing local Patriots to give them a voice against a biased media.

### **Please answer the following questions:**

1. Do you have experience as an elected official and if so, what was your position, and how would you describe your voting record?

In December of 2020, I became a PCO for the Washington State Republican Party in the 36th LD (Seattle). In May of 2021, I became the District Chair, and shortly afterward the Co-Chair of Election Integrity for the King County Republican Party. My motivation to become a PCO was based on the belief that the 2020 election was stolen and I was looking for ways to contribute to saving our country by restoring integrity to our democratic processes.

2. Please tell us about your activity as a Republican. Have you previously voted for candidates of other parties? If yes, explain.

I have been a Republican from a young age, mostly because my Dad always listened to Rush, and I became a listener in high school. I supported the Bush/Cheney administration, and my first vote was for McCain/Palin. I voted for Romney in 2012, I did not vote in 2016 (although I supported Donald Trump), and I voted for President Trump in 2020, and support him for 2024. Although I have always supported Republicans, in hindsight I am less supportive of the 'GOP Establishment' which defined most federal candidates before the rise of President Trump in 2016.

3. What is the purpose of government?

The purpose of government is two-fold. First, it is to secure our rights granted by God and articulated under the Constitution. Second, it is to facilitate economic growth by providing a framework for competitive markets in the private sector. I agree with Milton Friedman's view that the government should act as an umpire, and minimize regulations which create costly barriers to entry for would-be producers. There will always be occurrences that require government intervention, at which point I subscribe to Federalist principles: it's better to have regulation at the state level than at the national level, and it's better to have regulation at the local level than at the state level. Under no circumstances should Americans tolerate "global government", and my view is that our federal government has become so large and corrupt that it must be deconstructed and rebuilt with more severe constraints imposed on it.

4. Describe why you are running for this particular office. What are your qualifications? What are your goals?

I am considering a run for Coeur d'Alene City Council. Conservatives tend to be absent in local politics, and in that void socialists have infested the ranks of local governments. The result of this is clear when you examine the plight of most major U.S. cities. I have lived in San Francisco and Omaha, and in October 2021 I moved to Coeur d'Alene from Seattle. After directly witnessing the erosion of these cities, I am determined to prevent CDA from going in that direction.

After graduating college, I served as a Marine Corps Officer from 2009 – 2013. I worked as a Financial Officer at Marine Special Operations Regiment, where I managed a \$35M budget and procurement processes for ~2,000 Marines, Sailors, and DoD civilian employees. I represent the Marine Corps history and tradition of “doing more with less”, a lesson from which any government could benefit. After the military I earned a master's degree in International and Financial Economics from the University of San Francisco, and since then I have spent almost a decade in the tech sector. From 2014 – 2018 I worked as a Client Executive at IBM, where I sold technology and services to Midwest utilities and midstream energy distribution companies. From 2018 to the present I have worked at Amazon Web Services, where I have sold cloud computing technology to global media conglomerates, global financial institutions, and digital native businesses.

While global corporations have productivity advantages in “economies of scale”, the centralization of industries is demonstrating a corruption which I believe threatens our country and our communities. The local flavor of business and commerce in Coeur d'Alene must be preserved, and it will be a challenge to avoid being dominated by globalist corporations and institutions. I also believe in the America First vision of bringing manufacturing productivity back to the United States, and would use my office to foster an environment that is friendly to small and medium local businesses. I am also concerned about the depletion of land dedicated to agriculture production and going to residential real estate developers who build massive apartment complexes. On the City Council I would focus on the health and vitality of our local businesses, industry, and capital.

5. Describe experiences where you are or have been engaged such as non-profit organizations, clubs, churches, boards, commissions, etc., where you have been of service to others.

I served as a Marine Corps Officer from 2009 – 2013. In 2020 – 2021, I served as a PCO and District Chair in the King County Republican Party. I was also appointed and ratified as the Co-Chair of Election Integrity for the county party. In this office I twice attended the Arizona election audit; during my second visit I brought with me the Chair of Election Integrity for the Washington State Republican Party (Bill Bruch), along with State Reps Young and Sutherland. Unfortunately, Washington State is still a long way from having free and fair elections. And finally, for the last year+ I have volunteered my

time to host podcast episodes on Idaho Speaks, to give a voice to local conservatives and Patriots who are treated unfairly by the established media outfits.

6. Do you describe yourself as fiscally conservative? Please, elaborate.

Yes. I believe that the federal government needs a complete overhaul and financial restructuring, and should be constrained by a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The creation of money should be anchored to either GDP growth or a commodity like gold or silver. I also believe that government policy should encourage the private capital formation of individuals and businesses, so that capital allocation is not left to centralized behemoths like BlackRock and Vanguard. I am in favor of lowering any taxes for any reason at all levels of government, while forcing governments to live within their means. I am openly resentful of the fact that I work four months a year to pay our federal government, especially when it is impossible to see what I am actually getting in return.

7. Do you consider yourself as socially conservative? Please elaborate.

Yes. I used to avoid social issues or take the libertarian attitude. However, modern revelations make them impossible to ignore. Abortion in America is nothing short of genocide, and the profiteering in the abortion industry is appalling. The history of abortion and eugenics in the United States and Europe should be examined by everyone. American culture is self-destructing, and it is clear that it centers around the fact that we have stopped valuing human life. I believe that we were created in God's image, and it is the duty of leaders to promote maximum health, happiness, and productivity for all citizens in our community.

8. Describe which party platform best aligns with your positions on public policy (Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Constitutional Party) and where do you disagree with that platform.

I am most aligned with the Republican Party, and I believe that we must return to being the Constitutional Republic that our Founders intended. More autonomy and freedom should be placed in local politics and jurisdictions, and less emphasis should be on national affairs. I disagree with the corporatist element within the Republican Party that hides behind "the free market" as an excuse to let globalist corporations dominate our lives and communities. Monopoly capital and communism are two sides of the same coin: both require the centralization of the means of production. Republicans ought to reframe their messaging to promote **competitive** markets in the private sector. **Choice** is always good, and competitive industries give us more choices as both consumers and producers (i.e. where we shop and where we work).

9. Do you have any history of tax liens, criminal record, bankruptcy or conflict of interest that may affect your future decisions or desirability to be voted into office?

No.

10. Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative with FORTITUDE, adhering to the values and answers you have stated above.

I have spent a few years now attending different groups – Pachyderms, Reagan Republicans, KCRCC, etc. – and have heard from several politicians and activists. However, I have not heard much from the Coeur d’Alene city council or government. As a member of the city council, I will pledge to speak with these groups as requested, so that conservatives and Patriots in our community will have more visibility into the CDA city government. Before voting on any new code or legislation, I will research to understand the interests behind it, and I will oppose anything that does not align with the principles I have discussed in this document. Anything that puts outside interests above the city residents will be opposed, and I would work with the other members to do the same.

The answers to these questions will be the basis of the ratings you will receive and the issues we would like addressed by you in other settings.

In previous elections there have been cases where two well-rated candidates running against a third poorly rated candidate will “split the vote” leaving the poorly rated candidate with the win. In such a case where two candidates may split the vote, the KCRCC Election Committee will encourage the candidate with the second highest rating to drop out and run again at a later time.

Those who fail to respond to this questionnaire will likely receive lower ratings.

Please respond by the date requested of you, typically soon after the candidate-filing deadline.

### **FOR COMMITTEEMEN:**

The Rating and Vetting Program is designed to assist the KCRCC in getting information to the voters in your precinct through walking, mail,

social and other media, and passing out sample ballots. In order to identify the very best candidate for each race, your job as an elected Precinct Committeeman is to vet then rate using the criteria above stated AND by confidentially contacting each other for additional information. It is your obligation to submit final ratings at a time and place designated by the Election Committee.