

## Kootenai County Republican Central Committee

Name: James C Washko  
Position Running For: NLFD Commissioner Sub District 4  
Website: [northernlakesfire.com](http://northernlakesfire.com)

My name is Jim Washko, I have lived in Hayden since 1996. I was born and raised in Pasadena, California until relocating to North Idaho in 1996. I started in Construction in 1974 and became a licensed contractor in California in 1980, I did construction on my off days throughout my fire career accumulating over 40 years of experience. I became a firefighter with City of Fullerton 1987-1996 and then became Coeur d'Alene Firefighter in 1997 – 2018 accumulating over 30 years' experience. My wife and I have been married for 37 years and have 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren. I retired from the fire service near the end of 2018.

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

I have been a Fire Commissioner for NLFD for over 14 years. I vote according to what is best for the citizens we serve. NLFD board is a non political position. We serve to help the fire district provide the best possible services in fire, EMS, and all hazards that arise. I am in the position utilizing the 30 plus years of experience as a professional firefighter. 9 years with the City of Fullerton, California and 21 plus years with Coeur d'Alene Fire Department. I attained the rank of Deputy Chief for 14 of those years. I started in 1997 with CDAFD back when all the other departments were volunteer with minimal paid staffing. During that time all Kootenai County Fire Departments have grown into professional organizations to meet the need of growth in the county. Now our job is to keep up. The need for knowledgeable individuals with fire department experience is never more important than it is right now.

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

I have voted Republican, since my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ronald Regan and the Bush's were my favorites. I voted for Trump both times and I will again if he is the man. The sad problem is, if he wins we will see an even more intense attack and the democrats will waste even more of the tax payers dollars than they did the first time and unless the republicans gain control of the house and the senate, nothing positive will happen for the American people.

3. What is the purpose of government?

To provide safety and security for the citizens they serve. Adhere to the constitution and protect us from tyranny. That being said it is a bit of an oxymoron. I don't see anything in the last few Democratic terms that would show they care about the people of this country.

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

As described above, I have been in this position for over 14 years and with my knowledge, skills and abilities, with 30 plus years as a professional firefighter. I have been able to help drive forward into the future of the fire district. Our goals for the future are to do everything we can to keep up with the growth that is happening in our county and our district. Everything we do is for the county as a whole. Our main focus is Northern Lakes, but with mutual aid agreements, that all the fire departments have we respond to any situation when called upon. My experience with Fullerton Fire in California showed me what it is like with unlimited resource and when I moved to CDAFD in '97, there was no mutual aid only 2 paramedics in the county on duty each day and very minimal manpower in each district. Moving up in rank during my tenure with CDAFD allowed me to be instrumental in the growth of all the fire departments in the county, with response capabilities, communications, and emergency medicine and has allowed me to see and help plan for the future.

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

Starting in 1977 – 1989 I was a Reserve Sheriff Deputy with LASD. I was on mountain rescue and a street deputy. With Mountain rescue we responded to an average of 65 operation a year of which I was usually on at least 60 of them. From 77 – 87 I was a general contractor with the ability to come and go as needed. Hired in 1987 by FFD. From 1979 – 1987 I was a Floor Hockey Referee for Special Olympics. In the 80's I was also a certified weapons instructor with the NRA and volunteered my time teaching youth gun safety. In Coeur d'Alene my wife and I were the set builders at Lake City Community Church which we did for 5 years. We called ourselves "Just in Time Productions" due to the fact we usually finished up just in time for service. In the past I volunteered quite a bit of my time training small rural fire departments, such as Calder Fire, Elk River FD, Sagle FD before their merger with Sandpoint.

6. Do you describe yourself as fiscally conservative? Please Elaborate.

Yes, that is one thing that is of great importance to me. As a commissioner we are in charge of the tax payers money of which I am one. Being in the business for so long I have been responsible for millions of dollars. My main Job with CDAFD was logistics. I was in charge of our facilities,, apparatus, equipment, technical rescue team and planning for major disasters. All of which cost money. I saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by doing research, shopping for the right product and price, negotiating with vendors and contractors and keeping them accountable to their contracts. That experience has help all along the way with NLFD in my 14 years.

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

Emphatically yes, I struggle daily with what is happening to our country and the lack of accountability. It is very obvious that the "squeaky wheel get the grease". What is saddest of all is the silent majority is sitting silent. It scares me to think that we have dropped so far over the edge. My fear is for my grandchildren. What kind of train wreck is being created for them. God said "he who is without sin cast the first stone" so it is hard to throw stones at all of it but the lack of common sense and the fear that people have is appalling. One thing COVID did, is it brought the ugly in a lot of people and that ugly is showing through like the fires from hell.

8. Describe which party platform best aligns with your positions on public policy (R,D,L or C) and where do you disagree with that platform.

Sadly, I disagree with all of them in one form or another. It appears that each party has become very fanatical in their beliefs that they are right in every way. There is no longer any give and take or civility. Too much my way or the highway with no common ground. It is going to be very difficult to reunite the United States of America. 4 of the last 5 presidents were taped saying we need a wall on our borders, but Trump gets in and does it and look what has happened. The fear and hate during his tenure was obscene and sadly now it is even worse. All the knuckleheads putting their name in the ring for president and say they have a better way but I sadly don't see it happening. Well Eugene V Debbs, the socialist, ran for president 5 times and in 1920 ran for president from a prison cell. So if the Democrats and Liberals are successful in convicting Trump it seems he can still run.

9. DO you have a 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.

As stated above, I have been in the position of NLFD fire commissioner for over 14 years and I am available at our meeting every 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday and I am happy to give my phone number to any constituent that has the need to discuss any issue pertaining to the Northern Lakes Fire District. I value the responsibility that has been given me and it is always my ultimate goal to use my knowledge, skills and abilities for the betterment of the citizens we serve and those that travel into our area. They are all important and they all matter.