

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: [Ramona Grissom](#)

Position Running For: [School District Trustee, Lakeland Jt. School District #272, Zone 2](#)

Website: www.voteramona.com

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

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?

Yes. I currently hold the office of School Board Trustee for the Lakeland Joint School District #272, Zone 2. I would describe my voting record as principled, deliberate, and conservative.

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

I've consistently voted for the Republican candidate and have been a delegate for the Idaho State Republican Convention since 2018 and on the Platform Committee in 2020.

3. What is the purpose of government?

The specific purpose of the U.S. Government is in our founding documents and summarized in the Preamble of the Constitution.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

In essence, the purpose of the government is to serve and protect the interests and rights of its citizens while providing a national defense and ensuring the general welfare of the country as long as the governed consent.

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

I seek reelection for the School Board Trustee office in the Lakeland Joint School District, Zone 2 of Kootenai County, Idaho. My current term has established my qualifications. I took office in January of 2020, and in March of 2020, the government declared a pandemic. I was born in the fire and had drank from several fire hoses to thoroughly understand the tasks and see our school district through one of the most controversial and decisive times in history. The pandemic defined the goals and requirements in the first 3, 3, and ½ years.

I hope to continue implementing community committees, strengthening the parents' and guardians' voices in their children's education, and strengthening the communication between staff and the Board. The Board represents the people in the people's educational institution, and all of us at the district serve at the people's pleasure. Some even receive a paycheck.

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.

- Lakeland Joint School District
- Policy Committee
- IBB – Interest-Based Bargaining Committee
- Lakeland Educational Foundation, current
- Athol Chamber of Commerce, Inc., Feb 2017 – Dec 2021, Treasurer & Founding Member
- Idaho Rural Partnership - Athol Community Review, Economic Development Officer 2016
- Oregon State University, Germplasm, Direction of Dr. Maxine Thompson – Growers Cooperative & Trialing Site, Haskap Berry 2013 – Current
- National Association of Professional Women, Current Member
- National Business Advisory Council
 - NRCC Honorary Chairwoman
- Director, Christian Fellowship Chapel Board – 9 years

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

Yes, I consider myself fiscally conservative, but it's more important I understand the fiduciary responsibility entrusted to the School District Trustee elected by the people to provide the most thorough and free education possible with the funds they have delegated.

As a representative of the people in my zone and the entire district, I am mindful of the responsibility to judiciously appropriate their funds with all due diligence. I respect the fiduciary duty entrusted to the office of School District Trustee and believe it is one of the most essential trusts given to a Trustee by those who elect them.

I believe the People's budgets - agencies and political subdivisions - should balance, and all funds should be accounted for in a format easily understood by the general public. Ultimately, the government budgets should be in the black with enough on hand to weather any emergency without jeopardizing future improvements or expansion.

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

Yes, I would be considered socially conservative. I hold a biblical worldview and believe in traditional values. I don't ascribe to the proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." Parents or guardians are the absolute authority over a child's life. After all, if a child commits an offense, the judicial system won't go to the "village" for compensation.

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.

If I had to align with a Platform, it would be the Republican platform. Minimal government, personal responsibility, and hard work produce good fruit.

As for disagreement, I believe the criminalization of abortion in section 3, Right to Life, needs clarification.

I agree and support the Right to Life and life at the moment of conception. I authored Section 3: General Principles for Health Care A. Conscience Clause of the Idaho Republican Platform.

I believe it needs more clarification based on the tactics employed by those who promote abortion to women. They can be convincing, and, in most cases, they guilt the mother into murdering their child. The promoters and those who “counsel” and perform the abortion are the criminals.

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?

Yes. About 22 years ago, we had an out-of-state family emergency requiring immediate attention. The eighteen months it took to address our family members' medical and living needs caused us financial hardship, which we couldn't recover from. We lived in the church parsonage until we were back on our feet.

I've had two tickets for speeding, no liens, no criminal record, and no conflicts of interest or pecuniary interests that would affect my future decisions or holding the office. Desirability is subjective and I will almost always fail when measured by mankind.

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 am always available to my constituents via phone or email. I serve the people and their voices and always strive to vote in their favor keeping in mind I am there to provide a thorough and free education as defined in the Idaho Statute. I desire to empower The People to speak up in the face of adversity, stand on moral principles, and be the voice. If not us, then who? 2 Timothy 4:16-17a , Galatians 1:10 & Hebrews 12:4

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.

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