

- 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 no prior experience as an elected official.

- 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 for Republican candidates that I thought aligned with my values. However, thirty years ago, when I was 23 (in 1992), I voted for Bill Clinton, a democrat (before he “did not have sex with that woman”) rather than Bob Dole. That was something of a blunder but some of my subsequent Republican presidential candidates have, in retrospect, also disappointed me. If a candidate (especially in a local election) has an ‘R’ next to their name, I am not automatically inclined to give them a vote unless there is demonstration of an ability to think critically.

- 3. What is the purpose of government?**

I believe that the purpose of government is to establish and maintain order. This can include a wide spectrum of functions, including the punishment of evil and protection of the innocent. The purpose of government in the United States is the same, and should adhere to the Constitution and the powers delegated to the States. This trickles down to the local level. There is, arguably, much latitude afforded to the States and their respective localities.

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

Frankly, the bar for public office is low. At the most basic level, I am a resident of the City and I meet the age requirements for public office. Tens of thousands of CDA residents are qualified by that definition. One thing that sets me apart is the willingness and commitment to be engaged. My primary goal is to bring a more responsible mindset to growth (population, housing, density, etc.,) while asking for more substantive evidence to support the various discretionary approvals that come before the City Council. The number of questions asked of City staff, and the content thereof, are sometimes inadequate and/or shortsighted.

- 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 have not served on a board or commission in a formal capacity, aside from serving as President of a campus club (C.V. Riley Entomological Society) at the University of Missouri while attending graduate school. As a father to two children (now adults), I

have been involved in a variety of activities and organizations over the last 25 years or so, including churches, schools, 4-H, and non-profits. I have worked as a volunteer for numerous events, as well as and instructor in a variety of capacities, leading small groups at church, teaching biology for homeschool groups, and giving presentations about entomology in public schools and in 4-H group setting. I have also volunteered technical (sound and lighting) support for community theatrical endeavors. Currently, I am a member of Sons of Norway and have built the website for the local lodge.

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

My initial, gut-level response to this question is a strong “yes”. However, as I analyze my personal finances, I realize that there may be differences of opinion in defining this term. For example, I owe no payments for ongoing or increasing debt; however, I have a mortgage on my house and owe property tax payments to Kootenai County every six months. One might question whether I am ‘fiscally conservative’ because I could not purchase my home outright with cash or completely eliminate my tax debt. So, practically, there may be some latitude in applying the ‘fiscally conservative’ label under present-day economic circumstances. That said, there is truth to the adage that you *get what you pay for*. This carries over to government and public services—an entity must determine the quality of services that can be provided based on how much or how little can be spent. Ultimately, an entity (government, person, business, etc.) cannot overextend itself indefinitely and must spend responsibly for the desired level of service that it can reasonably afford without the risk of insolvency. Otherwise, as the saying goes, you soon run out of other people’s money.

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

Given the definition of ‘conservative’, this is a somewhat ambiguous question. I am happy to address more direct questions if you have them. Otherwise, I was raised in a traditional family. My experience is, by my definition, socially conservative; my wife and I have raised our children in a “traditional” family and even homeschooled them since at least the 5th grade, which may be considered “extreme” by some. Thus, we may not fit the societal norm.

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.

The Constitution Party best aligns with my positions on public policy. The Constitution leaves a lot of latitude to the States, so there is still room for plenty of disagreement at the State level—this gets into the territory of the two-party system and its permutations. For some reason, as a society, we disagree with using the Constitution as a starting point for arguments for or against public policy and force “success” into a secondary area that still drifts into federal control where none may be warranted.

Whether in the military or public office, individuals promise to uphold and defend the Constitution but seldom want to acknowledge what it establishes or allows.

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?

I have no past or present tax liens. I have no criminal record and have never declared bankruptcy, though I was once 'locked up' in jail as part of a scavenger hunt in high school years. I do not sit on any non-profit boards nor do I owe anyone any favors and, conversely, I am owed none from anyone else.

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.

If I run and am elected, I intend to be available to constituents via email/written communications as well as by telephone and/or in-person in the evenings and on weekends (for now, I am employed full-time so have limited availability during typical working hours). Ideally, a representative in a representative government should vote according to the desires of their constituents and what they believe is right. This requires that constituents be informed and involved in such a way that their representative understands the prevailing sentiment.

Theoretically, efficient operation of the City should be quite mundane and uncontroversial, so long as the City is operating within its fiscal means and making informed decisions with the ascent of its residents. The values and answers that I have stated above may be simple but represent a desire to conserve the small-town feel of Coeur d'Alene and prevent us from quickly becoming Seattle or Portland, which seems to be the desired trajectory of the current City Council and staff.