

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: Yasmin Harris Position Running For: CDA 271 School Board Trustee, Zone 2

Website: Yas4CDA.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?

No 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 been a registered Republican since I was 18 years old, and have always voted Republican.

3. What is the purpose of government?

To me everything goes back to my faith, and I believe that the Bible undoubtedly speaks about the relationship between a believer and the government. I believe the government serves an important role in areas of law, budgets and taxing, security and overall rules of society. It is our job to abide and follow governmental leadership, yet hold them accountable when they stray off course. For instance, if the government asks us to do something that is in direct disobedience to God's Word, we are to position on the side of God and His Word and walk in faithful confidence of the Lord's power to protect us. I believe our founding fathers were correct in creating this nation and our government under God, and it is time to get us back on track to restore the original purpose of government.

"Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves." (Romans 13:1-2)

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

Over the last year, I have been approached by a number of people who have suggested that I would be a great candidate for this position of school board trustee. I am an active and concerned parent, with a stake in the community and the future of my children and their peers. As I continue to be met with this suggestion, and have felt the growing call to action, I have been thoughtfully praying about how to step into the political sphere in this way. I trust I have both God and my conservative values working on my side to maintain objectivity as I seek truth, transparency, and accountability within the school district, as a discerning member of this community.

I have a background in finance, bookkeeping and property management for large publicly traded companies as well as small entities and non-profit organizations. I believe this will be a huge asset in going into this office, for my ability to carefully analyze budgets, spending and organization on a large scale. I have also handled finances for Pathway Church and Noah's Ark Learning Center, here in Coeur d'Alene.

My goal as a School Board Trustee in Zone 2 is to be the voice of reason, and also someone who can be held accountable for speaking and revealing the truth. I hope to walk away from this, after my term, or terms, with a sense of completion and success, as I am driven and committed to the betterment of our community.

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.

For the past 3 years in Coeur d'Alene, I have been on staff at Pathway Church, where I have held positions in both finance and, most recently, as the Director of Ministry Development. Prior to that I volunteered my time at Noah's Ark Learning Center as a bookkeeper to assist the director in cleaning up their books. I am currently involved on the PTO at Hayden Meadows Elementary - an involvement that has grown from new member to elected treasurer over the last year. Prior to my residence in Coeur d'Alene, I was an active member in my churches in California. In 2004, I co-founded the Skid-Row Outreach in Eagle Rock, California, which has since grown and partnered with Union Rescue Mission. They are still a very active ministry in Southern California. In California, I also worked in Youth Ministry, during which time I actively mentored adolescent girls and served in both youth outreach and local missions. During my youth, from Kindergarten through my senior year in high school, I was heavily involved in my Girl Scout troop. My years of girl scouting culminated when I received the Gold Award, the most prestigious award of the organization, for my dedicated work and unique project geared toward serving elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods.

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

Yes, I do consider myself fiscally conservative. I believe that people work hard for what they earn and they should be taxed accordingly, and not excessively. On the opposite side, the government should be able to better handle their funds, rather than reaching too deeply into our pockets.

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

Yes. I believe a man is a man, a woman is a woman, life begins at conception, and everything we need to know about our social world is laid out for us in the Bible.

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.

Republican, and I don't typically disagree with the Republican platform.

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.

My email address will be easily accessible and available to all constituents. I will attend any and all town hall meetings, or other events, to which I am invited, time and schedule permitting. I will not be afraid to speak the truth, but I will also be an objective ear to constituents on all sides of the issues at hand. I would consider having a public calendar available for scheduling brief phone and in-person appointments with me, to voice concerns and discuss matters affecting our schools.

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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