

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: Thomas Ogle Shafer

Position Running For: Hayden City Council

Website: I do not have candidate website yet.

This is my business website: www.nasontek.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?

I currently serve as a board member on the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District. My participation on that board has not given me a chance to reflect a voting record that matches my political view – limited government and maximum individual freedom to each individual citizen.

As an activist citizen, I have been involved in fighting (unsuccessfully) and educating county and municipal government organizations on the environmental catastrophe that is the Stone Creek North development in Hayden. This included my own board (Soil and Water), the city of Hayden, and the Water Quality board.

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

Before moving to Kootenai County in Nov 2020, my activity as a Republican back in King County, Washington was fairly minimal. I was a PCO and a delegate for one election cycle in 2012. That all changed for my wife and me when we moved to North Idaho, having realized the importance of getting involved locally. Prior to this move, I would have to say that I felt disenchanted with the national and state-level Republican party. They continually capitulated to the Democrats on so many issues which are important to me, to the point that I no longer wanted to caucus with them. After moving to North Idaho, it was clear to me that the local Republican Party – led by the KCRCC – was championing the values of limited and transparent government.

I cannot remember having voted for any political candidates in the Democrat Party. I never had a chance to vote for the Constitution party, or conservative Libertarian candidates.

3. What is the purpose of government?

To protect the right of each and every citizen to “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”. This is done by ensuring equal access, not equal outcomes, and by being obedient to the US Constitution.

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

I do not have any mistaken beliefs that a perfect form of government operates here in Kootenai County. In my third year living here, it is my observation that many of those who call themselves Republican are just the opposite side of the same coin – that is, using government to advance personal agendas at the expense of fairness and transparency. In Hayden where I live, it is clear that the city-level government has operated too long to protect what I call “the good old boy network” of people who own and operate land development and construction businesses. Plans for new development projects are so rampant, that they will destroy the character of Hayden. The entire city was just recently re-zoned to favor of, and to accelerate high-density growth which matches up with globalist 2030/2040 agendas. The city recently passed into code a process to preferentially give local businesses new municipal construction work. The city also portrayed its complete tone-deafness to sane, common-sense “best practices” that would have protected the last undeveloped wetland within city limits. City council meetings have taken on a

character of protecting “due process” for developers while minimizing the influence of Hayden’s citizens in that process.

It is my intention, that if elected, I will fight this characteristic of our city government. Specifically I wish to:

- Bring more transparency to Hayden city government, and make its conduct impartial and without any favoritism
- Work to rebuild trust in city government.
- Get rid of the consent calendar
- Re-examine the rezoning plan that was just passed, and where possible and fair to all, reverse that zoning change.
- Diminish the influence of legal counsel in council meetings and city process which gives too much deference to developers at the expense of tax-paying citizens.
- Get rid of the “preferred vendor” rules that were just passed by the city council
- Get rid of the Hayden Urban Renewal District completely, or if that cannot be done, then to step up the taxing basis which robs the city of tax revenue, and get rid of all HURA board members who clearly portray conflicts of interest with the construction and development businesses

What are my qualifications for this position?

- I have never served on city council before, and I do not have any financial ties to the local development and construction industry.
 - An overt sense of fair play
 - Willing to take the heat and push back
 - My current and past participation in local politics
- 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.**

Current board member, Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District; Deacon and Sunday School Teacher - West Side Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA; Parent leader, Cub Scouts and Webelos, Troop 282, Boy Scouts of America, Seattle, WA; Volunteer Hunter Safety Instructor, Wash Dep’t of Fish and Wildlife; Ski Instructor, Crystal Mt, WA; Culture Impact Team lead, The Altar Church, CDA; Board member, Rocking R Home Owners Association, Hayden

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

Absolutely. Government as a “growth industry” [without competitors], is a horrible tax burden on citizens. Taxes are the equivalent of robbing people of their personal liberty because taxes are coercive, and take away from people the right to use the fruit of the labors in the way they desire. When government underwrites the cost of a sector of the economy (student loans is a perfect example), it leads only to increasing the cost of that good or service by lessening, or removing the reason to compete. The manner in which our federal government – through cooperation with the Federal Reserve – has paid its bills and propped up failing sectors of the economy by printing money, has led to the high inflation rate we’re currently experiencing. At the local level, the Hayden Urban Renewal District is a

prime example of government supporting a business sector while minimizing competition and providing favoritism. This is not fiscal conservatism.

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

I do consider myself socially conservative. I am pro-life, that children in a mother's womb have a right to life. I believe that the trends we are experiencing now – transgenderism, gender dysphoria, extolling gay lifestyles, hyper-sexualization, pornography – are being encouraged, even fomented by government and people in leadership positions. This is mostly intentional, to delegitimize Biblical principals and destroy the nuclear family. Having said that, I am wary of giving power to government to enforce “my world view” because it sets a precedent of giving political power where clearly none should exist. I believe using my voice and informed opinions to persuade rather than coerce people to my perspective.

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.

Within Kootenai County, the KCRCC-led Republicans, and within the state of Idaho, the Republicans led by Dorothy Moon best align with my core beliefs.

At the national level, I am less enchanted with the Republican party. Political figures such as Rand Paul and Thomas Massey best reflect what government should be doing on our behalf. I also look favorably on the conservative caucus who held Speaker McCarthy's feet to the fire when he was running for Speakership.

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.

First, during campaigning I will speak as openly and forthrightly as possible about what are my core beliefs and what I see is wrong about the current city government. Then if I get elected, I will make myself as available as possible to hear, learn and understand what are my constituent's concerns and desires, and conduct a voting record that reflects both my core beliefs and their desires. I think an important part of this is clearly articulating to citizens that they are required to be active participants, showing up at city meetings, acting as watchdogs, and holding officials accountable. Right now, that level of participation is lacking.

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.