

# **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: Mike Hill

Position Running For: Mayor, City of Rathdrum, Idaho

Website: www.mikehill4rathdrum.com

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

I was born in Lewiston, Idaho, and raised in the small town of Culdesac, just 30 minutes outside of Lewiston. Family values and community have always been at the heart of who I am. I've been happily married to my high school sweetheart, Serena, for 23 years, and together, we've built a life founded on love, trust, shared values, and mutual respect.

We have lived in Kootenai County for 16 years. We took the leap into homeownership in 2017, settling in Rathdrum. Our family has flourished in this beautiful part of Idaho, and we are proud members of the community.

Speaking of family, my wife and I are blessed with four wonderful teenagers, all of whom attend schools within the Lakeland School District. As parents, we understand the importance of a quality education and share in our community's concern of overcrowding. It's a responsibility we take seriously and one that drives my commitment to our community's future.

Except for my time serving in the Active Duty US Army and 1 ½ years we lived in Spokane; I've always been a resident of north Idaho. After the Army, we made the choice to return to this region to be closer to my parents, with whom I've shared enjoyable hunting and fishing experiences north Idaho has to offer. Additionally, I've found that the values of north Idaho align well with my own conservative Republican beliefs.

I have worked for Spokane Transit for 17 years and held many positions, including Special Commissioned Transit Police Officer, System Security Specialist, Fixed Route Supervisor, Operations Technology Specialist, Operations Technology Manager and currently as the Fixed Route Senior Transportation Manager.

**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 have experience as an elected official. I served as a member of the City Council in Rathdrum, Idaho, from 2020 to 2024, and during the period of January 2022 through December 2023, I held the position of Council President.

In terms of my voting record, I consistently leaned towards a conservative approach during my tenure. Specifically, I opposed annexations and rezoning efforts. My rationale behind these votes

was rooted in the belief that there is already an abundance of available acreage for housing development within our city. In my view, it's crucial to prioritize the completion of existing development projects before embarking on new ones. This approach allows us to thoroughly assess the impacts of the growth we've already initiated before committing to further development.

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

I have consistently supported the Republican Party in my voting history. While I have considered candidates from other parties in the past, I have not ultimately found their viewpoints to be as closely aligned with my own core beliefs and values as those of the Republican Party.

3. What is the purpose of government?

The role of government should be limited to fulfilling essential public service needs, such as maintaining infrastructure like streets and utilities, ensuring access to quality education, and providing emergency services. Beyond these core functions, the government should generally allow the free competitive market to address other societal needs and demands.

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

I decided to pursue a seat in City Council initially due to my concerns about the unbridled pace of growth within our community. Over my tenure on the City Council, I have gained valuable experience and insights into the workings of local government.

My primary goal in seeking this office is to advocate for city leadership that prioritizes listening to the voices of our citizens. I

firmly believe in moderating growth in a manner that aligns with the desires and pleas of our residents, who have expressed their concerns consistently. My aim is to bridge the gap between the community's aspirations and the actions of the city leadership.

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 a record of actively serving my community, including:

In 2019, I served on the Parks and Rec Commission for the City of Rathdrum, where I was honored to be nominated as chairman during my one-year term.

Since 2020, I've been a committed member of the Rathdrum Lions Club, dedicating a year as Vice President from July 2022 to June 2023.

Within my neighborhood, the Rathdrum Prairie Property Owners Association, I held the position of Vice President for one year in 2019, followed by a two-year term as President from 2020 to 2021.

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

Yes, I identify as fiscally conservative. My perspective on this stems from viewing government funds as the collective resources of the people. I approach the allocation of these funds with the mindset that they are akin to personal funds, emphasizing prudence and responsible management, much like I would with my own finances.

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

Certainly, I do identify as socially conservative. I believe many of the challenges we face in society are connected to the erosion of traditional values.

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.

I find that my views tend to align more closely with the Republican party platform than any other. I don't have any specific area of disagreement.

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, I do not have any history of tax liens, a criminal record, bankruptcy, or conflicts of interest that could impact my future decisions or make me less desirable as a candidate for office.

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 believe that collaboration and open dialogue are essential in effective representation. I am committed to listening to the views and ideas of my constituents, valuing the perspective of others. I am readily available to engage with the public, and while email has been an effective means of communication, I also envision the City actively using social media platforms to foster community interaction and engagement.

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.