

Randy Westlund KCRCC Questionnaire Answers

Please tell us the following information about yourself:

Name: Randy Westlund

Position Running For: Post Falls City Council

Website: _____

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

I'm 33, married, with 3 kids ages 6, 4, and 2. I attend St Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Post Falls. I grew up in North Carolina, but have lived in Post Falls for 5 years. My wife's family has been living in Idaho for generations. I'm a software engineer and entrepreneur, currently running two small software businesses here in North Idaho.

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 recently joined the KCRCC as a precinct committeeman, but aside from that I have never run for office.

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

I vote Republican. I have voted third party a couple times when I felt that the Republican candidate was a RINO and there was no danger of splitting the vote.

3. What is the purpose of government?

The purpose of government is to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

A city government in particular exists in order to provide infrastructure and stability for the common good of a local community so that its residents can enjoy their God-given freedoms and live peaceful and prosperous lives. A city is unique because it's one of the only governmental structures that is human-scaled—both navigable by local residents and truly accountable to them. Good local policy is simultaneously achievable and has the most direct impact on the quality of daily life.

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

I'm running for city council because I want my great grandchildren to grow up here in North Idaho and I fear they won't be able to unless our cities are guided by good Christian stewardship. It's become very clear over the past few years that our civic duty doesn't end at the ballot box; the health of our society relies on good men stepping forward even when they'd rather be with their families.

Here are some key issues:

1. **Growth management.** This is the most pressing current issue; our population is growing rapidly, the prairie has been consumed by sprawling suburbs, traffic keeps getting worse, and there's legitimate concern about overtaxing our aquifer. Our current model of growth is clearly not sustainable. There are no easy answers, but we need to be looking at alternatives that avoid the sprawl that has made many other cities unlivable (like in California).
2. **Fiscal responsibility.** Government should always be careful spending taxpayer money, especially with long-term maintenance commitments. New miles of road and water and sewer pipes look good on the city's balance sheet because they're considered depreciating assets instead of expenses, but after 10 or 15 years the maintenance costs begin to balloon and the taxpayers are on the hook for it. When evaluating new infrastructure projects, we need to carefully forecast what spending we've already committed to 10 years in the future. The typical approach is to assume infinite growth and not worry about future spending, but this is not fiscally responsible.
3. **The housing crisis.** With the median home price in Kootenai County over \$500k and interest rates no longer at historic lows, home ownership is unattainable for most young families. Some are leaving their hometown for cheaper areas, draining young talent from our local economy. Some may be stuck in a new social class of permanent renters, with no opportunity to save up money or participate in the American Dream. Some are forced into a dual-income model, separating mothers who would rather be home with their children. Do we want a society in which raising your own children is a luxury that most cannot afford? If we have any concern for family formation and stability then this is indeed a crisis for those of us with conservative values.
4. **Local small business.** The supply chain issues of the past few years have made it abundantly clear that global supply chains are fragile and relying on them is a systemic risk. To make our area resilient, we should do everything possible to encourage local production (especially of food) and small independent businesses here in our own city. We should legalize a greater variety of backyard food production. We should also give residents more freedom to start small garage-based businesses to encourage entrepreneurship before the requirements to rent expensive commercial space kick in.
5. **A sense of place.** Post Falls lacks a strong sense of identity. What makes Post Falls unique and enjoyable? What does it mean to be a resident here? Is there a reason to be proud of being from Post Falls? We struggle with these questions because Post Falls is typically seen as a mere bedroom community for Couer d'Alene and Spokane. To be a healthy community where neighbors know each other (which keeps crime down) and

where there's a unique culture (which supports local business), Post Falls needs a unique sense of place. We can promote festivals, host quality public art, and provide more places for small businesses downtown. When done correctly, this can be accomplished through private investment and local business sponsorships, so it doesn't need to cost the taxpayer anything.

To each of these key issues, I will bring my entrepreneurial mindset and experiences as a local small business owner to advocate for efficiency and fiscal responsibility while providing the most value to local residents.

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'm currently the KCRCC precinct committeeman for precinct 507 and am on the board of the Northwest Property Owner's Alliance.

Places I've previously served:

- Finance council member at St Clement Catholic Church near Boston.
- Youth group co-leader at St Mary Catholic Church in North Carolina.
- I've run the pro-life booth at county fairs in North Carolina.

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

Very much so. I'm frugal with my personal finances and expect my government to be the same. Elected officials should be very cautious about spending the people's money.

I know how to read balance sheets, budget statements, and boring financial reports. As a city councilman, I will work to ensure the city is spending money responsibly and not setting us up for future financial problems as maintenance costs grow.

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

Absolutely. Traditional Christian values have served our country well and we depart from them at our peril. Degeneracy of all kinds needs to be kept out of our libraries, schools, and parks.

As a city councilman, I will do my part to keep the city focused on the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. I will never support mask or vaccine mandates and I'm ready to stand against whatever comes next.

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'm most aligned with the Republican party, by far. My criticisms of the Republican party are:

- Being too friendly with big corporations, which have been captured by the woke Left and have hollowed-out local communities by destroying small businesses and pushing us toward globalization.
- Being too eager to get involved in foreign wars.
- Paying lip service to family formation and small business, but largely failing to provide a positive vision for how to encourage these things or how to combat falling marriage and birth rates.

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.

I'm happy to share a beer with anyone and I love to discuss ideas. I will always speak and vote honestly, according to what I believe is right.