

ELECTION COVERAGE

BONNER COUNTY ASSESSOR

We asked the three candidates running for Bonner County Assessor a few questions:

1.) What, in your view, are the most important responsibilities of the county assessor?
4.) What should be the priorities of the office moving forward?

2.) What are your qualifications for the job?
3.) What motivated you to get into the race?
5.) Is there any specific message you want to send to voters prior to the election?

DONNA GOW

Republican



AGE: 66

BIRTHPLACE AND RESIDENCE: Born in Redlands, Calif. Resided in Hope since 1980

PROFESSION: My profession is currently lead commercial, industrial appraiser for Bonner County Assessor's Office

EDUCATION: I am a high school graduate and have taken many classes through junior college. I have over 500 hours appraisal education.

FAMILY: I have been married to my husband, George, for 44 years. We have two grown, married sons and four grandsons

FUN FACT: My husband and I like to camp in our RV with our little dog, and I love history

1. Of course one of the most important responsibilities is to ensure assessments are fair and equitable using Idaho State Code, State Tax Commission rules, and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice guidelines. Also, since a lot of different agencies, such as Realtors, title companies and insurance companies depend on information from the assessor's office, it is important to have the most accurate information. Know how to work with lawmakers, and professionals in the field. It is also essential to hire the right person for a position whether it be in the appraisal division or the department of motor vehicles division. Turnover of employees cost money.

2. Unlike my opponents, I have a working knowledge of the

mechanics of the assessor's office. I have 27 years experience in the assessor's office, over 500 hours of appraisal education, and I have appraised residential, mobile and manufactured homes, condos, commercial and industrial properties. Having served under five different assessors, I have learned what type of management style works in the assessor's office and what does not. I also know some of what is involved with the DMV. This gives me the advantage of training, guiding and mentoring the assessment staff without relying on others, as is the current situation in the assessor's office. Because of this background, from day one I will be involved in the day to day operations of the office, (not necessarily out in the field) and not be a bureaucrat sitting behind a desk all day.

3. I have seen and heard the concerns of residential property owners regarding their treatment by management and the effect of existing policies on the value of their property. I have

also witnessed the frustration of the staff knowing things are not being done properly and either being dismissed or ignored by the management. I have wanted to run for the assessor's position for several years, but was unable to due to Bonner County policy. Some of the existing policies in the assessor's office are detrimental to the public and employees. I know what policies need to be changed.

4. The most important priority is communication. I already have an open-door and open-ear policy and will extend this policy through the office. I may not always agree with your opinion, but I will always listen. Second is to change the existing improper policies currently utilized in the assessor's office. With these changes, property owners can feel more confident that assessments are fair and equitable.

5. Experience and knowledge are important for any job. I am sure that neither one of my opponents would

hire a supervisor without experience in that field. Bonner County voters have always been smart enough to elect a sheriff with a law enforcement background, and I am confident that the voters will elect an assessor with an appraisal background.

If given the opportunity, intelligent people learn from others knowledge and experience, and the current assessor's office is full of intelligent people. I will give these people the opportunity to learn from my knowledge and experience.