



# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2023

Compiled by Zach Hagadone, Soncirey Mitchell and Ben Olson

1. Why are you running for mayor?

**Sandpoint City Council**

2. What would be your top three priorities if elected?

3. What do you see as the No. 1 challenge facing Sandpoint, and how do you propose to address it?

4. It's no secret that many people in the community feel City Hall is disconnected from what actually affects residents and have doubts about the equitable stewardship of their town on a number of fronts. If elected, how will you speak to these concerns and chart a path forward that a majority of citizens feel is in their best interests?

## Deb Ruehle

*(incumbent)*



**Age:** 55

**Birthplace and residence:** Michigan/  
Sandpoint

**How many years lived in Bonner Co.:** 19

**Past/current government service (if applicable):** past Sandpoint Planning and Zoning Commission (two years), current Sandpoint City Council (10 years)

**Profession:** physical therapist

**Education:** M.A., physical therapy, Emory University (1995)

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1. I'm very invested in the city of Sandpoint and the amazing people that live in this community. I feel that having been a council person for the past 10 years, I've been able to learn so much. I understand how the city functions and how to work within those boundaries to find solutions. That's an important perspective that is valuable to the community, especially since these last few years have brought a lot of change and there are many plans and codes that need updating to keep in alignment with what the residents of Sandpoint desire.

2. a. We need to maintain our water quality. Moving forward with the plan for the treatment plant in a timely fashion is important. There would be a precipitous decline in the monetary value of our community if the timeline for the plant becomes significantly delayed.

b. The Multimodal Transportation Plan has deficiencies that the community is frustrated with. The plan needs to be amended and

aligned with what the residents need and desire.

c. The Downtown Waterfront design must include code changes addressing building heights and integrate seamlessly into the rural nature of our community without being flamboyant.

3. Housing is our No. 1 challenge. Let's make the Sandpoint Housing Authority a reality and through that entity, build relationships with other community groups in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, to come up with real solutions and options to provide housing for our residents.

4. I would like to strengthen and re-energize Sandpoint's citizen committees. By working with City Council, the committees need to be empowered to be a more effective tool in supporting city staff, engaging with elected officials and helping the city to improve connections with residents.