

READER



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2023

Compiled by Zach Hagadone, Soncirey Mitchell and Ben Olson

1. Why are you running for mayor?

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?

Sandpoint Mayor

Kate McAlister



Age: 64

Birthplace and residence: raised in the Boise Valley, lived in Sandpoint for 30 years

How many years lived in Bonner Co.:
See above

Past/current government service (if applicable): current Sandpoint City Council president

Profession: president/CEO Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce

Education: Boston College, Carroll School of Business – Corporate Social Responsibility, various courses from University of Utah, Whitworth University, Idaho State University

Contact info: kateforsandpoint@gmail.com, katemcalister.com

1. 9,417. This is Sandpoint's approximate population. We've experienced huge growth, and while it brings benefits it poses serious challenges. I will help our community meet those challenges and not become a haven for wild, incongruent development. I believe in responsible, thoughtful development. I believe running for a nonpartisan position is a privilege — the privilege of representing all community members. We are a great community and I will do everything to keep us great. It starts, and ends, with fairness to all our citizens. We still have a strong-mayor form of government and I will be a strong mayor.

2. a. Infrastructure improvements: Drinkable water — city recently purchased backup

generators for the water treatment plant. Flushable toilets — \$2.7 million budgeted for treatment plant reconstruction. Initial phase to start next year. Drivable streets — increased bed tax, applying to visitors only, which increased streets budget from \$250,000 to \$1 million per year. Over \$2 million in street projects will be completed.

b. Citizen involvement: Involve citizens from the beginning of projects. Institute monthly topic-specific community conversations along with reinstating citizen committees, as warranted.

c. Workforce housing: Continue exploring options, including a Housing Authority, and opportunities for the needed workforce housing in our area.

3. How to balance the needs of the residents who live here with the rapid growth and development pressures changing Sandpoint. The issue can be addressed by engaging citizens in authentic planning and educating efforts, then making decisions based on what is in the best interest of residents, while continuing to have open houses,

workshops and surveys. Citizens required the council and mayor to be data-driven and we have adhered to this request, requiring solid data and reports from our educated and knowledgeable staff, as well as those with years of experience and expertise in specific topics.

4. I feel we have gotten off track. We still have a strong-mayor form of government. It is the mayor's responsibility to be the face of the community, speak with the residents, make hard decisions and be out in the public, whether for city business, events or just casually. This is the missing piece. As the mayor, everything is your job. I feel tensions can be relieved through more effective communication. I will institute monthly community conversations, public forums in print or in person, and continue individual conversations. We are all feeling the pressures of seemingly endless growth and development.