

READER

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, BLUSTER AND SOME NEWS

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**ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE WITH
SANDPOINT CITY COUNCIL AND
DOVER CITY COUNCIL AND
MAYORAL CANDIDATES**

**LOCAL PAIR COMPLETES
THRU-HIKE TO RAISE MONEY FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2021 ELECTION Sandpoint and Dover city races

Ahead of the Tuesday, Nov. 2 election, the *Reader* presents a limited series of election guides featuring questions and answers with candidates for a range of local offices. This week focuses on candidates for three open seats on the Sandpoint City Council, as well as two open seats on the Dover City Council and two candidates for mayor. To read more about the candidates for a contested seat on the Lake Pend Oreille School District Board of Trustees go to sandpointreader.com. For more information on candidates running unopposed, visit Election Central on sandpointonline.com (sandpointonline.com/news/elections.shtml). For all other election-related information, visit Bonner County Elections at bonnercountyid.gov. The *Reader* hosted a candidates' forum Oct. 19 at the Sandpoint branch of the East Bonner County Library, video of which is available at krfy.org.

Dover City Council race

Questions:

- 1. Why are you running for Dover City Council?
- 2. What are your top three priorities if elected?
- 3. Lack of affordable housing is a growing issue in Idaho — particularly in Bonner County. What role do you think Dover could play in finding solutions to this issue?
- 4. What forms of economic development would you like to see in Dover?

Kim Bledsoe



Age: 50
Birthplace and residence: Born in Boise; lifelong Idahoan, currently living in Dover for the past five years
Years in Bonner County: 26
Government service: 10 years in health care, five years in public education, five years as a small business owner, two years in human resources
Profession: Sandpoint Women's Health, clinic manager
Education: B.S. communications, University of Idaho
Family: husband, Ben Porietis, daughter Emily, sons Aubrey and Oliver, and Violet (best dog ever)

1. I love Idaho, and I really appreciate the community of

Dover and the surrounding areas. I want to do my part to ensure that the history, character and natural resources of Dover are protected; our Comprehensive Plan is upheld; and that the fast-paced growth is managed in a way that allows the good people of Bonner County to live here and enjoy our lake, river and mountains. Being on council is a gift of service, and I look forward to serving the citizens of Dover. I feel my background in management, health care, education and as a small business owner has given me a wide range of experience to pull from in conducting the duties of a city council representative.

2. My main priority would be to be a good steward of our taxpayer dollars. I think fiscal responsibility is imperative, along with transparency. I would commit to showing up, doing the homework and listening to our citizens' input. My second priority would be to promote sustainable growth while protecting Dover's character, history and natural resources. Growth is inevitable, so let's get the community involved and steer the way forward. I would promote growth that benefits the citizens of Bonner County, not outside investors. I think it's important to protect the lake and wetlands that surround Dover. Finally, I would look for ways to increase

involvement in city government as we navigate decisions involving growth, emergency preparedness, pedestrian and bicycle safety, street improvements and our water/sewer system. This could be done by utilizing surveys, social media, the Dover City website, and having town hall and other events.

3. I'm really excited at some of the ideas and steps being taken to address the affordable and accessible housing issues in our area, such as reverse engineering building as proposed in the Culver's Crossing development. I think Dover can play an important role in working with residents and developers to promote these ideas and clear a path forward for more innovation. I think there is much to learn from other communities that have experienced what Bonner County is grappling with — especially from their mistakes. It's not too late to try to get in front of the issue and I would be open to all ideas to make it happen. People deserve homes with a yard for their children and pets, not be relegated to only apartment-style, government-subsidized housing.

4. I'm excited to hear that the large commercial building vacated by Thorne Research will be used as a shipping facility, providing a few new jobs to our area. I'd like to see

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our little coffee shop up and running again, as well as other smaller cottage industry-type businesses. There are opportunities for more recreation and tourism, a huge need for child care and, with the upgrade in fiber network for internet, more options for home-based work. Dover's footprint really doesn't lend itself to larger commercial development, nor does it jive with the Comprehensive Plan.

Merlin Glass



Age: 70

Birthplace and residence: Los Angeles, Calif.; resident of Dover since 2018

Years in Bonner County: (did not answer)

Government service and profession: veteran of the Air Force, over four decades in the Fire Service as fire officer, instructor and planning specialist for FEMA deploying to national disasters

Education: college, two fire academies, federal certified instructor for Emergency Management

Family: wife Dodie, two daughters Sarah and Jaime, two sons Grayson and Gabriel

1. If all politics are local then this is in my backyard. Citizenship requires being involved in your community.

2. Sustainable growth, public safety and citizenship.

3. Dover is really a bedroom community to the greater Sandpoint area. We have very little in the way of what might be called light industrial but more in the way of recreational development. This makes watching Sandpoint and other areas so important for the residents and making sure services are maintained.

4. I would like to see more development of the agricultural nature

that is in balance with the recreational needs and avoid the urban sprawl that can plague a community. We are a small community that can still maintain its rural feel.

Amy Lizotte



Age: 46

Birthplace and residence: born and raised in Hope and currently living in Dover

Years in Bonner County: 30

Government service: Attending the city council meetings. I believe witnessing the issues and process has been important and relative to this position

Profession: I run a private practice as a massage therapist

Education: I attended the University of Idaho; massage school in Nevada City, Calif. and Eugene, Ore.; photography school; and herbal medicine

Family: I have a 22-year-old daughter, Ahlya, as well as family in Hope

1. I am running for Dover City Council as a voice for the local residents. I also want to help preserve the unique environment and history in Dover. I feel growing up in Hope, witnessing my dad serve 35 years on the council, has inspired me to step up and invest my time in this community. I have been attending the council meetings since moving into Dover and feel up to date on the current issues and the process of holding a seat.

2. a. I want to ensure the concerns around pedestrian safety are being addressed, including adopting a current Emergency Operations Plan;

b. The current issue the new mayor and council will take over is updating the water intake, which is a large long-term investment;

c. I would like to preserve and highlight the historic nature of the community. Example of such is as the new post office is built there could be opportunity of constructing a historical plaque.

3. I believe this is a tricky issue in Dover since the value of land is so high. Dover really is a bedroom community to Sandpoint since it lacks the infrastructure of schools, law enforcement, shopping, fuel and so on. Dover is a small residential community that needs to maintain its identity as such. The biggest issue for Dover is to adhere to the new Comprehensive Plan and subdivision plans to keep future growth managed responsibly.

4. I see economic development in a larger context than just money. Economic development is also about quality of life. I believe most people living and moving to Dover love the lifestyle it provides. Dover has miles of hiking, biking and walking trails that are paved and rugged single track (Syringa trail system); river access; peaceful open space; and easy access to amenities in Sandpoint and Ponderay. Dover has also just received cable from Ting, allowing faster reliable internet and creating opportunities for viable home businesses. Thus I would love to work on continued connectivity and preservation of open space.

Mark Sauter



Age: 63

Birthplace and residence: Downey, Calif.; Cedar Ridge Road in Dover

Years in Bonner County: 9

Government service: fire chief for eight years with a municipal fire department (30-year career); two years deputy city manager;

president, Bonner County Fire Chiefs Association (since 2019)

Profession: retired fire chief; part-time fire marshal with Selkirk Fire Department (2016-current)

Education: B.A. Cal-State Los Angeles, MPA University of Southern California

Family: 31-year-old daughter, deputy prosecutor; 27-year-old son, Navy pilot

1. Having a career in the Fire Service taught me the importance of service to my community. It's part of the fabric of our country. I consider a city council position to be one of the highest forms of community service. I have considerable background with small government/public safety operations. I believe my experience will add value to the Dover council's decisions.

2. a. Dover has limited administrative capacity to complete the important work of the city. Dover needs five dedicated, working, elected officials. I have a history of contributing my professional efforts to working with others. The Dover Urban Renewal Agency will be ending in approximately six years, and the Dover Bay development property tax system will change. The transition will require planning and implementation work;

b. Water system improvements, a new post office and street work all need to be completed. All these projects need to be managed, followed up on and kept within budget. I have the interest, time and the drive to complete these types of activities;

c. Keeping decision-making focused on what's best for the community. I want to be the voice for all of Dover, focusing on what's important for the entire town. The projects noted above benefit all of Dover. Comprehensive and infrastructure plans need to be continuously updated and applied, and balanced with the day-to-day (and emergency) needs of the city.

3. Affordable housing is a national problem. The Dover Comprehensive Plan covers housing. The council should consider re-evaluating the plan as housing and workplace conditions in our county have changed considerably since the plan was adopted in 2018. Dover should be

continuously collaborating with the county and other cities. The city council has two vacancies that need to be filled so Dover can participate and have a voice in the housing discussions. We should consider whatever government and grant funds we find available for application to our Dover needs. Mixed-use development (residential units over neighborhood commercial space) may work in some of the Dover areas with commercial zoning. Such an option may help as a buffer from the highway as well.

4. Dover needs to continue to guide development with the Comprehensive Plan in mind. As mentioned above, we should be open to amending the Comp Plan to accommodate changes in our community needs and interests. There is room for development of the corridor from the highway into historic Dover and other areas. We should be actively working with our county-wide economic development group to be sure new businesses are fully informed and supported as they evaluate their options of starting a business in Dover. New and existing business needs dependable infrastructure to thrive. The Dover Ting program is moving along. Completing our water system improvements will help with this, too. We also need to continually evaluate our Dover development and permit procedures so they are efficient and timely.

ELECTION DAY
is Nov. 2, 2021

Polls are open
8 a.m.-8 p.m.

To listen to the
Oct. 19 candi-
dates' forum,
visit:

bit.ly/ReaderForum

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race continued
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Dover mayoral race

Questions:

1. Why are you running for Dover mayor?
2. What are your top three priorities if elected?
3. Lack of affordable housing is a growing issue in Idaho — particularly in Bonner County. What role do you think Dover could play in finding solutions to this issue?
4. What forms of economic development would you like to see in Dover?

George Eskridge



Age: (no answer)

Birthplace and residence: I was born in Bonners Ferry and raised in Dover; Dover is my residence now and has been all my life except for the time I was attending college and pursuing my career away from Dover

Years in Bonner County: (no answer)

Government service: power requirements officer for the Rural Electrification Administration, senior community relations officer for Bonneville Power Administration and most significant (to me) U.S. Navy and Vietnam veteran. Lastly: Member of the Idaho House of Representatives representing Idaho District 1 from 2000-2014

Profession: retired

Education: graduate of Sandpoint High School and B.A. in business administration from University of Montana

Family: Married to Jenise I. Stilwell, two sons Perry and Jimmy and daughters-in-law KrisAnn and Koryn

1. Because of water infrastructure issues and issues between Old Dover and the Dover Bay development, our community of

Dover is experiencing division and disagreement among citizens of Dover. We have lawsuits challenging agreements between Dover Bay homeowners and the city of Dover. My priority is to resolve these issues and bring Dover together as one town with one purpose; ie: to come together as one community working together to solve our issues and working together to ensure Dover's bright future for generations to come.

2. My three priorities are: 1. to preserve our access to recreation amenities within our city; 2. to improve our town's transportation infrastructure including walking and biking paths, streets and safety entering and exiting Highway 2; and 3. fiscal responsibility so our town's limited financial resources are spent wisely without the need to increase local taxes.

3. This is a very difficult discussion for Dover. We are restricted in available land to pursue any meaningful affordable housing program. What vacant lots or land we have available sells for \$350,000 and more, making it difficult to construct housing to meet affordable housing goals. Dover's best role would be to encourage adjacent jurisdictions such as Sandpoint to revise their permit requirements, lot sizes and multiple housing units to make housing less expensive to build and thus more affordable for low-income families to purchase housing.

4. The result of past planning efforts is that Dover is limited to commercial development operating in support of the city's status as a resort community. Dover businesses will likely be small, individual concerns including restaurants, recreation support, public and private event support, and pop-up stands such as a

farmer's market supporting local agriculture close to Dover. Dover is now and continues to be a great place to form home-based businesses. The function of the city is to ensure ample opportunities in those areas marked for commercial development and to provide a clear, straight-forward path to ensure entrepreneurs can exercise their creativity.

Ryan Wells



Age: 53

Birthplace and residence: Loma Linda, Calif.; 25-year resident of North Idaho, Dover currently

Years in Bonner County: 20

Government service: extensive local community service

Profession: business manager (30+ years)

Education: high school and community college

Family: Andrea, wife. Sarah and Josh, adult children, attended and graduated from LPOSD schools K-12

1. I enjoy helping others and making a difference, and with Dover losing many of its elected officers over the past year, I saw a need that I could fill with my energy and community-minded leadership. My experience as a business manager, local leadership on multiple boards and local community connections give me the tools to effectively and efficiently run the city of Dover.

2. With the Dover City Council, I would review current city

procedures, processes and plans to ensure that they are transparent, streamlined and that the city is responsive and accountable to the members of the community it serves. Work to engage residents from Pine Street to the Pend Oreille — get neighbors connecting with neighbors working together to do what is best for the city of Dover. Quickly work to end costly litigation, ensure that the council was in sync with the people of Dover to avoid further expenditures of taxpayer money.

3. Dover is not likely the first place that affordable housing could be started. Working with our neighbors would be a quicker way to facilitate more immediate projects. But with that said we

have some interesting opportunities with larger landowners in the city to discuss what could be done if they were planning future developments.

4. Dover is currently more of a bedroom and resort community. I believe that many of our residents like the quiet North Idaho lifestyle that our city provides. We have economic opportunities very near to us. In the near future I do not see significant economic development for the city. Smart growth in the next five to 10 years might allow for some small-scale, service-based business, but it would really need to match the needs of our residents as a first priority.

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