



Arts, entertainment, bluster and some news

Reader

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**Candidate
Questionnaire
in this edition**

Happy Earth Day

Bonner County Sheriff

1. Why are you running for sheriff?
2. What do you think are the three most important issues to your constituents?
3. What sets you apart from your opponent?
4. What do you see as the top challenge facing the county, and how do you propose to address it?
5. There have been undeniable tensions between the BOCC and the Sheriff's Office in recent years. How would you diagnose the reasons for those tensions and how would you ease them going forward?

Steven Bradshaw, R



Age: 69

Birthplace and residence:

Born in Pasadena, Texas; moved to Bonner County in 1988

Years lived in Bonner County: 36

Past/current government service (if applicable): Elected as a Bonner County commissioner in 2018 and finishing my second term (six years)

Profession: Self-employed as a commercial and residential contractor for 45 years

Education: DID NOT RESPOND

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1. I am running for Bonner County Sheriff because I have watched good deputies leave our sheriff's department over the years, all the while being told by the current sheriff "they left because of the pay." The last five-and-a-half years I have worked with the previous board and brought our deputies pay up considerably, even with budget restraints. That being said, I have lived here 36 years and I haven't talked to a single deputy that left in the last 15 years be-

cause of the money. I have known most of them. Something is seriously wrong.

2. The current S.O. organizational chart resembles a funnel standing on its point. If it were a ship, it would capsize and sink. At its current state it is not sustainable and desperately needs to be restructured. We need more deputies on the street and less office deputies. In my five-and-a-half years, we have built two EMS stations with one in the planning stage for the Blanchard area — the second being completed this year, which will also house many county departments with room for future needs as growth continues for years to come, and at no increase to the taxpayer.

3. The office of sheriff is an administrative position and does not require law enforcement experience, but right and wrong combined with common sense and the ability to manage. The current S.O. budget is a disaster. I can correct that and help our deputies at the same time. I will be an honest servant to the people of Bonner County while also being a leader of what I consider to be some of the best law enforcement personnel in the Northwest.

4. Moving from the current EMS station in downtown Sandpoint will save the county approximately \$10,000 per month and moving DMV from the Bonner Mall in the future will save \$1,350, lowering the county's cost by \$136,000 annually. We also lowered the county property insurance by \$200,000 with better and more

detailed coverage at a \$10,000 deductible instead of \$100,000 deductible. I have proven my fiscal and managerial abilities.

5. We need an honest person for sheriff. Vote Steven Bradshaw for Bonner County sheriff.

Daryl Wheeler, R (incumbent)



Age: 66

Birthplace and residence:

California, Bonner County

Years lived in Bonner Co.: 25

Past/current government service (if applicable): 38 years in law enforcement

Profession: Bonner County sheriff, 15 years

Education: All possible Idaho certifications: see website wheeler4sheriff.com

Contact info: wheeler4sheriff.com, P.O. Box 795, Ponderay, ID 83852

1. To continue to keep Bonner County a safe place to live, work, learn and play.

- a. Liberty;
- b. Safety;
- c. Fiscal management.

3. I have 38 years of law enforcement experience, with 15 of those years as your sheriff. My opponent has no law enforcement experience.

4. After the lockdown, the price of housing soared and has become unaffordable. Kootenai County pays their deputies \$10 more an hour than Bonner County deputies. It is the responsibility of the county commissioners to make sure that wages are competitive. We invest around \$100,000 in each deputy. We throw away that money each time we lose one of our deputies. It is short-sighted to ignore this reality.

5. Over the last few years there have been several dysfunctional boards in North Idaho. All have exhibited a similar structure: board members who were intolerant of other members, the public and elected officials; members engaging in obvious decision making outside of board meetings and keeping the main stakeholders outside the decision-making process; behavior that encourages lawsuits. The only solution to the *Jerry Springer Show* in Bonner County will happen when the two male members are replaced at the ballot box. Hopefully we will get new commissioners who are fiscally responsible, practice lawful land use and are favorable to law enforcement.

Idaho Legislative District 1 candidate questionnaire will appear in the April 25 edition of the *Reader*.

Election day is May 21, 2024 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.