



# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

We believe strongly in informing the community about candidates running for public office. As part of our commitment to this effort, we present this questionnaire for candidates running for office. In this week's edition, we focus on local candidates. Next week we will publish candidate information for state and national races. SandpointOnline.com is also a great resource for election information, as well as the Bonner County Elections Page. Finally, don't forget to vote Tuesday, Nov. 3 if you haven't voted by mail already. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Bonner County Commissioner District 1

#### Steve Johnson, Democrat



**Age:** I have loved our home here in Bonner County for 62 years.

**Birthplace and residence:** Marguerite and I raised our four children on our family farm in Sagle and plan to live here on the farm for many years to come. We have enjoyed immensely all the 4-H activities, building our own log home, keeping our 80 acres of woods and fields in good shape and our combined 60+ years of being educators here in Bonner County. Some of our proudest moments are seeing our students lead productive, happy and successful lives. I was very proud to be on the East Bonner County Library Board of Trustees when the new libraries were built in Sandpoint and Clark Fork.

**Education:** I received my bachelor's degree in education from the University of Idaho in 1972. I earned my master's and specialist degrees in administration in 1982 and 1986 from the University of Idaho.

**Fun fact:** I attended Southside Elementary School in Cocolalla from 1957 to 1964 and it was then I decided I wanted to be an educator. Years later my dream was fulfilled when I was able to return to Southside as a teacher and the principal.

**1. What Bonner County issues are most important to you? How would you improve the county, given the opportunity as county commissioner?**

*The most important issues to me are:*

*1) Return unity and cooperation to our Bonner County community. All individuals and groups deserve respect. No more divisive frivolous taxpayer funded lawsuits.*

*2) Respect and follow the medical advice of Panhandle Health District and our local health care professionals.*

*3) Maintain the rural character of Bonner County. Encourage and provide for public input in every decision on land use. No industry in rural or residential areas.*

*4) Respect and support our well-trained and accountable law enforcement. They can handle whatever problems come up. There is no need to request assistance from any other group.*

*5) Support our local established businesses and recruit new businesses. The need for high-quality education is a major factor in the economy and well-being of our Bonner County community.*

**2. The board is currently facing criticism for pursuing a lawsuit against the city of Sandpoint regarding The Festival at Sandpoint's weapons policy, a suit which the judge deemed they had no standing to bring forth and which also cost taxpayers in the county and city more than \$200K.**

**What is your opinion of this ongoing issue?**

*The lawsuit that has cost Bonner County taxpayers over \$200,000 should never have been filed. If the two commissioners who voted for it felt that strongly they should've filed it as individuals using their own money, not taxpayer money.*

**3. There are growing tensions between the county's planning department/planning and zoning commission and the general public, especially regarding a few specific projects (i.e. the Sagle asphalt plant, the Selle Valley SpaceX site). Why do you think things have become so contentious? What would you do, as a county commissioner, to help sooth these tensions?**

*Every land use decision must include a great deal of public input. We live here because we love it here and any changes must be approved by the general public. No industry in rural or residential areas.*

**4. What sets you apart from your opponent? What is your vision for Bonner County growth?**

*My vision for the future of Bonner County includes sharing our little piece of paradise with others who are looking for a community that respects everyone, maintains a rural character and provides a clean environment and*

*a thriving economy. My vision includes high quality education, well-maintained county roads, industry in designated areas only and an attitude that reflects and supports one of my favorite sayings, "We are all in this together."*

#### Steven Bradshaw, Republican (incumbent)



## DID NOT PARTICIPATE

*Publisher's note: Incumbent Steven Bradshaw was sent questions by the Sandpoint Reader, but responded that he is declining to participate in this candidate questionnaire.*