



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 Sheriff

Daryl Wheeler, Republican (incumbent)



Age: 62

Birthplace: California

How many years lived in Bonner County?:
22 years

Government service: Continuous since 1981.

Profession: Elected Bonner County Sheriff, three terms.

Education: Law Enforcement (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisor, Management and Executive P.O.S.T. Certificates)

Family: Married 40 years. Four children, six grandchildren.

Fun fact: I like to sing. Some people call me the singing sheriff!

1. Many in the community are concerned about the price tag for the lawsuit against the city of Sandpoint, which the judge ultimately ruled the county had no standing to bring to the court. What would you say to those with monetary concerns?

There would have been no suit if the City of Sandpoint would have followed the law.

1a. Do you plan to continue pursuing the issue in the judicial system?

No.

2. Also regarding the lawsuit against the city — in your declarations in the case, you repeatedly asserted that an armed protest was “imminent” should the judge fail to rule on the issue. Judge Haynes did not seem convinced of this argument. What was your reaction to his ruling?

I don't count it a loss for me. The judge addressed my question about my ministerial duties in managing the jail. Judge Haynes did rule that I have a full range of discretion. I will use my discretion. I count that as a win!

3. You have described yourself as a “constitutional sheriff.” What does that mean and what does that mean for the functioning of your department?

The bylaws of our nation are contained in Constitution of the United States. I follow those bylaws.

4. What role, if any, do armed private citizens play as a useful law-keeping force?

Most people understand that the Second Amendment to the Constitution recognizes the God-given right of every individual to protect themselves. Below is a sample of what the Founders had to say about an armed citizenry:

“To disarm the people...[i]s the most effectual way to enslave them.”
— *Father of the Bill of Rights*
George Mason, referencing advice given to the British Parliament by Pennsylvania Governor Sir William Keith, The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, June 14, 1788.

“The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of

the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them.”

— *Chief Justice Joseph Story, Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States, 1833.*

“For it is a truth, which the experience of ages has attested, that the people are always most in danger when the means of injuring their rights are in the possession of those of whom they entertain the least suspicion.”

— *Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 25, Dec. 21, 1787.*

5. In more than a decade as Bonner County Sheriff, what have you learned about your constituents and community?

I am blessed to work with such highly dedicated and professional first responders and live in such a beautiful county with people who love and support law enforcement.



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Bonner County Sheriff

Cindy Marx, Democrat (write-in)



Age: 63

Birthplace and residence: Born in New Kensington PA Resident of Bonner County since 1990.

How many years lived in Bonner County?: 30

Government service: West Side Fire Commissioner Former volunteer EMT, Emergency Planning Committee member and chair and Search and Rescue.

Profession: Executive Director nonprofit.

Education: Bachelor of Science Sports Fitness & Leisure Studies with minors in biology and business from Salem State University Salem MA.

Family: Husband, cat and two dogs.

Fun fact: I like mountain biking and kayaking.

1. Why are you running for sheriff?

To restore trust and faith in the office.

1a. What would you say to those concerned you don't have enough the right experience to hold the position?

The office is an administrative position. The highly trained members of the departments overseen by the office will continue their work with better opportunities for training and the tools they need to do the job. My experience in human resources, budgeting and business management will help make the business side of the office more efficient.

2. What role do you see the sheriff's office playing in local politics?

The sheriff works for the people of Bonner County. The office should not be playing in local politics or state politics.

3. As sheriff, how would you improve Bonner County? Name your top three issues.

- Provide training for all department personnel, integrating local mental health providers where and when possible.

- Provide needed equipment rather than tell the media what the department lacks.

- Figure out why we have such long lines in licensing and get the personnel or tools to solve the problem.

4. What role, if any, do armed private citizens play as a useful law-keeping force?

The second amendment states: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." To me well regulated would mean that the local law enforcement agencies are familiar with the individuals and have faith in the ability of these citizens to assist rather than escalating dangerous situations. Without training with the local agencies and some article of clothing or other means of identification I don't know how they expect to be distinguished from the "bad guys" if something

goes wrong and law enforcement has to step in.

5. How do you envision your relationship with your constituents if elected?

I would want every citizen to feel that the departments overseen by the office of sheriff are there to serve them. I would also want the citizens to understand that the personnel of the departments have a lot of training to do a diverse number of things but we can't expect them to know how to do everything. Every time a deputy goes on a call they put their life at risk. The citizens need to understand that too.

5a. How would you make yourself available to them?

I would have regular office hours where people could call or come to the office to talk and would be happy to come out to events to answer questions or talk about neighborhood issues that the department might be able to help with.