



STEVE JOHNSON for COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Common Sense Leadership

Position Statement and Biographical Sketch

I believe in planned growth, conservative fiscal policy and a strong work ethic. I'm a proven good listener and I pledge to treat everyone with respect.

As a 60+ year resident of Bonner County, I have been part of and lived through a lot of changes, growth and challenges here in north Idaho. Through that experience, I have developed a number of common sense ideas about how we can move our county forward in a unified, safe and open manner.

Some of these are:

- expanding and improving educational opportunities that will attract business and provide good-paying jobs,
- improving (and in some areas starting) recycling programs,
- revisiting planning and zoning programs and growth concerns,
- doing something positive about housing affordability.

However, because of what has been happening in our county, I will focus on three immediate and vital issues.

Eliminate waste of taxpayers' money

My number-one issue is the waste of taxpayer money and the unnecessary conflict created by commissioners Steve Bradshaw and Dan McDonald. I find it reprehensible and inexcusable that these two have filed a lawsuit against the City of Sandpoint and The Festival at Sandpoint. Instead, that \$200,000 of wasted taxpayer money is needed desperately for roads and bridges and critical maintenance.

Bring unity to the county

As a County Commissioner, my main responsibility will be to help bring unity to our county and demonstrate that "we're all in this together" as a

healthy community. The commissioners' job is to manage the County infrastructure, not squander time and money on ideological battles.

Support public agencies and organizations that are protecting our health and safety

My second priority is to respect all citizens and their input, especially regarding safety and health concerns. One of my first actions as Commissioner will be to publicly support, thank and acknowledge the public institutions that are in good faith doing their best to protect us from the corona virus. These public servants include Panhandle Health District, public libraries, our hospitals and professional medical community; our first responders and law-enforcement, and our state government under the leadership of Governor Little. I will also publicly acknowledge and thank the many business owners who have taken positive steps to follow safety protocols helping to keep us all safe and well during this pandemic.

Bring transparency to county government, encourage public input

My third priority will be to stop the proposed land zone changes for asphalt plants, mining and other industrial activities until there is a thorough review with a great deal of public input. Industrial activities do not belong in residential or rural areas. Population growth in our beautiful county is inevitable. **Let's plan for it and let citizens, not business friends of the current commissioners, guide that growth to the benefit of all.**

I've spent my life in Bonner County – my home!

Bonner County has been my home since 1957. I was a student at Southside Elementary in Cocolalla and a 1968 graduate of Sandpoint High. I earned both a bachelors' degree and a masters' degree in education and administration from the University of Idaho.

I taught ten years at Southside elementary, spent another ten years as principal at Sagle Elementary, as well as 22 years at Lake Pend Oreille Alternative High School.

I'm also a past member of the Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce and the East Bonner County Library Board of Directors.

Marguerite and I raised our four children here and we are currently enjoying our grandchildren living close by. We have operated our family farm for 40 years with cattle, horses, sheep, goats and critters galore.

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