



2018 LOCAL ELECTION VOTERS' GUIDE



JACKSON HOLE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

LETTER from Alliance Executive Director

Dear neighbors,

In 2016, we knocked on 1100 doors around Jackson and Teton County and found that over 90% of our community members consider themselves to be conservationists. While conservation has a unique meaning for everyone, we believe that “conservationist” is a badge of honor worn by those who steward our community and environment in their awareness, attitude, and actions. Being a conservationist is a year-round role: showing up, speaking up, and – every couple years – voting to protect our ecosystem.

Our local elected representatives have the power to shape the future of our wildlife, wild places, and community character. At the Alliance, we believe that our local government works best when voters are fully informed and educated about the views of our candidates and elected representatives. As Thomas Jefferson once said, “An enlightened citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic. Self-government is not possible unless the citizens are educated sufficiently to enable them to exercise oversight.”

The goal of Vote Conservation is to empower community members to be fully informed. By sharing educational resources like this voters’ guide and holding “get out the vote” events, we hope to help residents consider how their democratic right and responsibility of voting can support the conservation and community issues they care about. Our goal is to make voting accessible, fun, and easy for everyone. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we can’t and don’t support, endorse, or oppose candidates either directly or indirectly, but we can and do work to ensure our neighbors have the nonpartisan and impartial information they need to cast well-informed ballots.

We hope your civic engagement doesn’t stop with the election on November 6 but instead is a year-round effort to make our community better. Please educate yourself this election cycle, cast a ballot, and then keep showing up as our new elected representatives shape the future of our community. We’d love to involve you in our work – drop me a line or stop by anytime.

Happy voting,



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On the following pages, you will find answers on various questions from candidates for Jackson Town Council, Teton County Board of County Commissioners, Wyoming State House Districts 16, 22, 23, Wyoming State Senate District 17, and Teton Conservation District. We did not edit content or fix typos in any responses. Please note we limited responses due to space restrictions, so at times an answer will not be printed in its entirety.

You can find the remainder to those answers online at jhalliance.org/voteconservation.

Meet the JACKSON TOWN COUNCIL Candidates

Please introduce yourself

DON FRANK:

Donald Frank Town Council Member and Concerned Citizen

ARNE JORGENSEN:

I am a Jackson native and an Architect and have worked in Jackson since 1989 which gives me a unique outlook on the opportunities and challenges facing our community. I have also served on multiple public and non-profit boards including the JH Community Housing Trust as a founding board and current emeritus member; the Wyoming Community Foundation as a board member for over 20 years and currently as an emeritus board member; the Wyoming Board of Architects and Landscape Architects as a Governor-appointed member; as well as multiple committees of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Each of these experiences have prepared me to be a highly effective member of the Council by building my understanding of both the intent and implementation of regulations and allowing me to work with diverse groups of public and private stakeholders to efficiently shape appropriate policy.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

For 25+ years, my professional life has focused on studying and helping Jackson

Hole. I'm running because I now want to give back in a different way.

I have two specific motivations. First, Jackson is heading into a critical period. Second, during this period the Jackson Town Council will be the most important governmental body in the region.

My platform is Economy, Environment, Experience.

Jackson Hole's economy can never be healthier than its environment. We cannot take either for granted. Economically, we need to begin preparing for the inevitable recession. Environmentally, as we grow, we need to be great stewards of our ecosystem.

Experience has two legs. First, decades of studying Jackson gives me a singular depth and breadth of knowledge. Second, I served eight years as an elected trustee of St. John's Medical Center. Combined, these experiences will allow me to quickly become an effective town council member.

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

I'm running for Town Council because if we sell this place out to the highest bidders and push our workforce out; if we do not have a Jackson full of committed and present community members, there will be no one to care for and protect our treasured environment and place. Not everyone has the privilege that many of us have to enjoy our environment because there are many people who are a blink away from some kind of disaster with their housing, job, or otherwise—conservation and stewardship often come last out of necessity for some. We need to ensure that all people who live here are protected and cared alongside our wildlife and environment; we are all part of the ecosystem. Committed and non-transient community members care for and protect our natural environment. Protecting the environment and protecting the people that live within it are not mutually exclusive. They go hand in hand.

The Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan's vision is to "Preserve and protect the area's ecosystem in order to ensure a healthy environment, community and economy for current and future generations." What does "preserve and protect the area's ecosystem" mean to you, and what are three specific actions you

think our community should take in the next four years to work toward this vision?

DON FRANK:

Expand multi modal alternatives. Protect animals using lower vehicle speeds by policy and via citizen awareness. We are role models for our guests. Improve water management through best practices.

ARNE JORGENSEN:

I have long thought about what makes our community different from other gateway or resort communities and firmly believe that it is our ecosystem and the actions taken by the visionaries of our past to protect our valley, it is our legacy of conservation. We frankly need to all be doing more as a community, and individually, than three actions but I would suggest as a start: 1) Increase efforts to provide opportunities for visitors and residents to appropriately engage and learn about what makes this community unique, 2) Increased opportunities for committed community members to live and work in Jackson and Teton County, and 3) Very simply and immediately, the Town's strategic goals and vision should be posted in the Town Chambers.

* Read more to this answer online...

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

The Vision Statement is audaciously powerful, recognizing that preserving and protecting our ecosystem requires thinking beyond both the current generation and local political boundaries.

Arguably, the Vision Statement is so powerful and audacious that it has paralyzed local government from taking similarly powerful and audacious actions to support it – creating a road map for something that's never been done before is a daunting task. To break this logjam, steps I advocate include:

- a) Increasing the resources local government puts into supporting the vision;
- b) Creating an Ecosystem Commission, analogous to the Planning Commission;
- c) Using the government's bully pulpit to bring together the ecosystem's many stakeholders to create a roadmap; and
- d) Actively developing a baseline understanding of our ecosystem's health, without which we have no way of assessing

our progress (ideally, this will build on related efforts my Charture Institute has initiated over the last several years).

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

Preserving and protecting the area's ecosystem means that we must care for and protect the entire ecosystem including the people who inhabit it alongside the valley's flora and fauna.

Specific actions we should take:

1. Implement the suggestions noted in the Wildlife Crossing Master Plan.
2. Ensure that the expansion of Snow King is not at the cost of the ecosystem.
3. Focus on implementing the Integrated Transportation Plan to get cars off of the road, as a means prevent harmful human-wildlife interactions, and for the environment in general. If we want to care for this place we need to find residents and visitors alternative modes of safe and effective transportation.

The County recently adopted the Wildlife Crossings Master Plan, which identifies wildlife-vehicle collision hot spots and offers suggestions for mitigation measures, like overpasses and underpasses. What do you see as the next steps for this Plan and how would you prioritize implementing wildlife crossings among our community priorities?

DON FRANK:

Build cooperating agency and landowner "buy in". This will require significant funding and consensus building.

ARNE JORGENSEN:

The Wildlife Crossings Master Plan is just that - a plan. Part of taking responsibility for our actions is to act when problems are identified, we have a clearly identified problem. As with all of our priorities, solutions will take funding and individual action. I feel we should address all of our priorities of wildlife, transportation and housing as they are interconnected. While implementation may be phased due to funding or readiness, this should not suggest that we should not have real discussions about all of these priorities. Given the larger infrastructure required behind many of the wildlife crossing solutions, they will take more time. This

fact should be used to reinforce how each of us can today adjust our individual behavior to reduce conflict, including taking fewer vehicle trips, slowing down, getting off our cell phones (including hands free), and modeling better behavior relative to interacting with wildlife.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

Six thoughts.

- a) If we are serious about the Comp Plan's vision, we need to put more thought and resources into preserving and protecting our environment.
- b) The region's growth is clearly affecting wildlife. Traffic-related issues are one symptom of this; so are concerns such as habitat degradation.
- c) Global warming will likely cause disproportionate harm to the area's ecosystem in general, particularly wildlife.
- d) Elected officials can't know everything. They can, however, use government's bully pulpit to gather together environmental experts and stakeholders of all sorts, and ask them to develop a comprehensive, systematic plan for preserving and protecting the area's ecosystem.
- e) Based on this plan, elected officials can allocate public resources to the most important and efficacious measures.
- f) I assume wildlife crossings will rank high. If other, more cost-effective measures produce similar results, though, they should be considered. Outcomes are what matter.

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

Prioritizing the implementation of the Wildlife Crossing Master Plan is a no-brainer. We have the solutions and it is a matter of getting to work politically, jointly with the Commissioners, and figuring out funding sources. It should be coupled with getting cars off the road!

Our community established a goal through the Comprehensive Plan of housing at least 65% of our workforce locally. The recent Housing Action Plan identified a need of 800 units over 10 years just to "catch up" with the existing workforce housing deficit, and 2000 more to "keep up" with employment growth. How would you use tools including mitigation, zoning, and incentives to balance commercial growth with workforce housing?

DON FRANK:

Continue to illuminate our understanding of community wide benefits found in housing critical services, diversity and inclusion.

Identify job creation sources beyond physical development alone.

We are not accounting for many newly created jobs in the service and digital marketplaces.

Develop a more equitable, broader based participation in housing supply contributions

Incentivize private landowners and capital by zoning on available parcels.

Land costs can only be diluted though density.

We either capitulate, grow tall or we sprawl.

ARNE JORGENSEN:

There is no silver bullet. For nearly 30 years, my efforts with affordable housing have been based on four unwavering guiding principles, these principles are applicable at a community scale: 1) Provide opportunities to those who are committed to our community; 2) Develop and support efforts that deliver housing security and stability; 3) Protection of the public and community investment that ensures the levels of affordability, and 4) Be respectful. I strongly support the three-pronged policy approach our community is currently pursuing: 1) Shift density to appropriate locations; 2) Mitigate for impacts of our development actions; and 3) Wide public and private community-based funding efforts. While I support this policy direction, I have caveats with each that our elected officials should address to improve the fairness and effectiveness of these efforts. Our priorities of resource protection, transportation and housing should all be addressed as they are interconnected.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

Housing cannot be considered independently of traffic, the environment, etc. In the 2016 Jackson Hole Compass, I outlined my approach to this complicated web:

a) Identify key wildlife habitats and migration corridors. Protect them from development.

b) Evaluate our transportation infrastructure's capacity. Develop a

community consensus regarding acceptable traffic levels. Combine to determine how much traffic we can handle.

c) Use this information to determine how many people we can comfortably fit into the remaining private land; i.e., develop a sense of our ultimate build-out.

d) Determine commercial needs etc. of this population.

e) Examine these results in light of property rights, legal limits, common sense, financing, etc. Adjust as necessary.

f) Build-out target in hand, ask the private sector to build as much affordable/workforce housing as possible.

Finally, Jackson Hole is special, but not unique: Every nice place has an affordable housing problem. What can we learn from them?

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

Housing our workforce is essential to protecting our wildlife and environment for a multitude of reasons, not to mention it being good for human inhabitants.

Mitigation, zoning, incentives, and decreasing parking requirements for new development must be used in concert with one another to be truly effective.

Mitigation for commercial growth is very important, one to curb the increase of jobs which presently outpaced housing development, and secondly, to at least prevent a backslide of the ratio of jobs to housing.

Zoning needs to be augmented to address the need for denser housing (for rental units especially) in areas that are appropriate and to lessen conflict between humans and wildlife.

Incentives don't seem to be very effective overall but coupled with other tools perhaps they can potentially encourage folks to build more workforce housing, but it often results in the status quo.

It has been six years since the completion and adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, and we have since hit the 6% growth trigger that signals the need for its review. What would your goals be with a review and would you consider any changes to the Plan? If so, what?

DON FRANK:

All planning and policy visions set

priorities and goals.

Policy review must comprehend and manage for change, change being the only constant.

The growth of our human colony brings both opportunity and challenge.

We will thoughtfully tailor our impacts and constraints toward respect for our irreplaceable environment and the sensitive accommodation of human lives.

ARNE JORGENSEN:

As the primary reflection of community goals, the Comprehensive Plan should be updated as necessary to remain relevant. While many of the goals and policies remain pertinent, there are two areas that could be improved: 1) Restructure the discussion to more accurately reflect the interconnectedness of the issues facing the community. The current structure, by issue, tends to suggest that these issues are independent each other and 2) More clearly define what makes this community unique: A legacy of conservation and an awareness that there is a common good that supports our individual success.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

To honor the Comp Plan's integrity, we need to act on its built-in trigger (even if that process might be painful).

My goal for a review is simple: develop a thoughtful process for assessing how well the plan is working, focusing on its strengths and shortcomings. The process should include developing recommendations for bolstering that which is working, and fixing that which is not.

Clearly we'll need to address the parts of the plan that are not working well. Absent a comprehensive review, though, it is wildly premature to say what those are. Equally problematic is suggesting changes without considering how one proposed change might affect other, related elements of the plan. The first word in the plan's title is "Comprehensive" – no one piece of it stands alone.

The most successful approach will be thoughtful and deliberative, drawing upon the experience and expertise of the entire community.

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

To have a review of job creation in the valley and its effect on our ecosystem

so we can say with confidence how we need to tackle our community issues with housing and transportation and protect our local ecosystem. These seem to be the most important issues to implement the Comp Plan and we need better, more concrete guidance.

Snow King recently released a new development proposal to expand the resort boundaries, build new chairlifts outside the existing footprint, and add new amenities and additional condos. What do you envision for the future of our Town Hill, and what role should the Town Council/Board of County Commissioners play in achieving that vision?

DON FRANK:

The Town Council is facilitating stakeholder engagement and will conduct broad based review of potential impacts on public land and facilities.

Snow King is a competitor in the regional, gravity game marketplace.

Because it is an urban peripheral location, we can contemplate long term success at our doorstep while we reduce vehicle travel.

I will be keeping a close eye on agreements that are "fair to all parties".

"Shop locally for world class mountain amenity."

ARNE JORGENSEN:

I feel that many of the current proposals are premature. In the mid '90s, the Snow King Resort zone was created and in the early '00s, the Snow King Master Plan was approved. Both of these actions were based on a recognition that the public benefit reflected by the ski area requires ongoing financial support. Unfortunately, several of the economic entities at the base were separated from the ski area management. There are opportunities for the Town to play a larger role in reconnecting the Hotel and Condominiums with direct support of the Town Hill. This reconnection of the stakeholders should take place before the update to the Master Plan is completed. As these discussions play out, I do recognize that the ski area will look different in the future.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

Three thoughts.

a) I hope this race will focus on issues facing the next Town Council. Snow King's expansion is not such an issue, because it is scheduled for a vote in 2018. The only way my opinion will matter is if the vote is delayed until 2019. Ditto the other non-incumbents.

b) If it is delayed, I won't want to vote on it until I am comfortable with the proposal's details, especially the inevitable changes. This is a complicated issue, and it does a disservice to everyone who cares about Snow King's future to pass judgement without a full understanding. I don't have that understanding now, but will have it should I ever vote on the issue.

c) If I do vote on it, I will use the Comp Plan's vision as my filter: How does this proposal affect preserving and protecting the area's ecosystem?

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

Expanding chairlift access outside of the current footprint is a big 'no.' Expanding resort boundaries is extremely questionable and must be examined with the utmost care. The recent expansions has had negative impacts on the wildlife on the eastern side of the mountain.

NO on condos. We need workforce housing. And the "Town Hill" is a perfect location for housing for the working people of Jackson, who use the hill the most!

The future of the Town Hill should be balanced with the needs of the community and the needs of the wildlife and delicate ecosystem, and it should help the community thrive and consider the towns needs in the same spirit as the town did with its incredible price for Snow King to lease the land it was built upon.

The County is in the process of updating our Natural Resource Protections, and Town will update theirs in 2019 – this includes new Natural Resource Tiers, regulations to prevent bears from getting into garbage, and protections for rivers and streams. What would you like to see included in this update?

DON FRANK:

Obtain and consult peer reviewed scientific data.

Make rational decisions to minimize injury to natural resources.

Educate children, neighbors and guests about best environmental safeguards.

Our footprint within the human colony can be softer and more accountable.

Our expanding footprint in the backcountry should be recognized and minimized through "leave no trace" and "less is more" citizen behavior choices.

RE: Bears. Clean your plate.

ARNE JORGENSEN:

We as a community can do better about stewarding the natural resources that serve at the core of what makes this place so incredible. I believe that the current County discussions are including the appropriate issues. As this discussion moves into Town, some of the issues will look different. These differences should include management of trash and composting, creation of stormwater districts, barriers to wildlife movement such as privacy fences, speed limits and enforcements, wildlife crossing solutions becoming more intimate, and household pet impacts.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

Two foundational thoughts.

First, we should filter any policies, regulations, and the like through the Comp Plan's vision: preserve and protect the area's ecosystem.

Second, I am not an expert in this area. No non-incumbent is, and it's likely that not even the incumbents know enough right now to make specific recommendations.

What I can say is that, if elected, I will approach new natural resources protections the same way I have approached learning about other facets of the community for the past 25+ years: reaching out to experts and involved citizens; learning from them; then using my best judgement to decide how to proceed. This approach has served me well in my research and writing, as well as in the many efforts I've initiated and led to help Jackson Hole address its challenges and seize its opportunities. I believe it will also serve me well as a council member.

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

Greater guidance on human-wildlife interactions and/or development and wildlife-habitat interactions and/or conflicts.

How to address agreements made between individuals or parties that were made before current understandings of

the needs of habitat and wildlife, as is potentially the case with Karns Meadow or even the Snow King Master Plan.

Our community has also established the goal of residents and visitors being able to safely, efficiently, and economically move within our community and throughout the region on foot, bike, and transit. What specific projects, programs, and policies from the Integrated Transportation Plan should we prioritize over the next four years to continue on our journey toward this goal?

DON FRANK:

Optimize the START program and expand facilities, rolling stock and route systems.

We have just adopted an E-bike policy allowing more folks of varied needs and circumstances to more safely and time efficiently commute and recreate.

Actualize "Hub and Spoke" transit centers, in town, south of town, West Bank and explore flexible private - public parking solutions.

Fund mass transit through cooperative business and civic contributions.

ARNE JORGENSEN:

The Integrated Transportation Plan is just that - a plan. Part of taking responsibility for our actions is to act when problems are identified - and we have a clearly identified problem. As with all of our priorities, solutions will take funding and individual action. We should address all of our priorities of resource protection, transportation and housing as they are truly interconnected. Our road and parking infrastructure have essentially remained unchanged for decades but it is being used by a much larger number of people. Possibly more so than other challenges facing our town, we can all make an impact on traffic congestion with our personal choices. As a community, we should consider the ways in which we incentivize fewer single occupancy vehicles, utilize the roadway width we have, expand START options, expand alternative means of transportation, and address redundancy (particularly related to public safety).

**Read more to this answer online...*

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

Effective governance is not about having the answers, but about hiring a knowledgeable, highly-competent staff, asking the right questions, and charging them with getting the job done.

I don't know enough about transportation to prioritize our next steps.

I do know three things:

- a) We have big city transportation problems, but a small town population and budget;
- b) We have a strong Integrated Transportation Plan;
- c) We have a lot of smart people working hard to execute that plan.

If elected, I will do all I can to support out community's plan and our team of transportation experts.

I also will ask the community two fundamental questions:

- a) How much traffic congestion are we willing to bear?
- b) How much are we willing to pay to address our transportation issues?

Absent a consensus on these two questions, successfully addressing our transportation issues will be even more challenging.

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

Expanding public transportation within the county, such as service to South Park and Rafter J.

Improving the fleet of busses and their maintenance.

Expanding and supporting pathways.

I hate to say expanding service to other communities beyond Star Valley as it seems to be counterproductive to keeping the workforce local, but I do understand the need, but I don't want to encourage it.

What is your vision for the future of our Teton County federal lands, and what is your perspective on the ongoing region-wide effort to transfer control of our federal public lands to the states?

DON FRANK:

I am a stalwart advocate of keeping public lands public.

Federal land management is accountable to ALL US citizens and should be protected for future generations.

State controlled lands are often more

vulnerable to shorter term thinking.

"You never know what you have got until it is gone"

ARNE JORGENSEN:

Quite simply, Federal public lands are public and should remain so. Federal management of these lands is absolutely critical to preserving the core of the Yellowstone ecosystem and to our community.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER:

Our public lands belong to the public. Period.

Our federal land agency employees are exceptionally high-caliber. We are lucky to have them.

For a variety of reasons, it is madness to transfer federal lands to the states. Chief among them: States don't have the resources to properly steward public lands. As a result, if the state ever does take control of local federal lands, our economic health will be jeopardized.

In creating our parks, forests, refuges, wilderness areas, and other public lands, America entered into an eternal contract, promising future generations they would be able to experience these lands the way our forebears found them. We have a legal and moral obligation to honor both the letter and spirit of those contracts. This means not just keeping public lands in public hands, but funding them adequately so they remain both intact and healthy for future generations.

JESSICA CHAMBERS:

Keep public lands in public hands! My perspective on the ongoing region-wide effort to transfer control of our federal public lands is to fight like hell to prevent it! And, I call upon all of us, regardless of political affiliation, to lobby both our statewide representatives, such as Rep. Marti Halverson, and our national politicians, to object to this land-grab attempt by Republicans to turn a profit on our public lands. Public lands must remain in public hands.

Please share your priorities or comments on any other issues not covered in the previous questions.

DON FRANK:

I have witnessed disturbing political behaviors in recent years, nationally and even locally.

I caution against the labeling discouragement of an open market place of ideas.

I will set an example for focusing on interests based outcomes rather than positional agendas

We are an interdependent species who thrive when the needs of the many are placed before more narrow ones.

A civil and objective public process informs the to search for the "selfless" over the "self serving".

There is no them, only us. Let's be good neighbors to each other.

ARNE JORGENSEN:

The discussions raised by these questions ignore a significant question that is absolutely necessary if we are going to address any of these priorities: How do we fund our priorities? In addition to core government services, we can afford to make real progress on our goals and dreams. I feel that the missing element is a lack of credibility many of the voters have with our elected officials. There are a number of actions that could be taken by the elected officials to build credibility, leading to more predictable resources required to do the things we say we want to do. These actions range from providing more predictability with the SPET process, reevaluating the spending on the Lodging Tax, and not exempting government from requirements that the private sector is required to do.

I am Arne Jorgensen and would appreciate your vote for Jackson Town Council – Thank you.

JONATHAN SCHECHTER: -**JESSICA CHAMBERS:**

If we allow this place to be bought out, or become a resort town, our environment and the protection of it will be cast aside for profit. If we push our workforce out, if we do not have a Jackson full of committed and present community members, there will be no one to care for and protect our treasured environment and place. As we all know, our issues span subjects. However, they're interconnected: Housing, childcare

and food costs, wages, discrimination, transportation, social services, the lodging tax, the future of Snow King, and the environment and conservation, etc — are ALL linked. How we address them can either strengthen our community or weaken it. I see housing as the crux of all of these issues but, I don't want to gloss over the environment—I recognize the overwhelming importance of protecting this place that we all, and I mean ALL, love. Protecting our people goes hand in hand with conservation and stewardship. It's all protection of our delicate ecosystem.

Meet the TETON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Candidates:

Please introduce yourself

MARK NEWCOMB:

I grew up in Teton County, attended Carleton College, worked sundry jobs to help pay for college. I guided for Exum Mtn Guides for 20 years, taught avalanche courses and guided skiing in Alaska. I studied Mandarin in college and leveraged that ability and knowledge of China to lead expeditions to mountains and regions of China that had not previously been visited by foreigners. In 2004 I volunteered as a County Planning Commissioner. In 2006 I returned to university at the University of Wyoming, graduating four years later with a Masters in Economics and Finance. In 2014 I was elected a Teton County Commissioner. I've served as the chair of the commission for the last two years. It has been a great honor to serve a community as passionate and unique as Teton County's, and I would love to serve for another four years.

ANDREW BYRON:

I'm Andrew Byron and I am running for Teton County Commissioner. Jackson Hole has been home for 33 wonderful years; I attended Wilson School, Jackson Hole Middle School, Jackson Hole High School, and earned a BS in Political Science from the University of Wyoming. My Jackson

roots have made me the passionate conservationist, river enthusiast, active and proud community member, volunteer firefighter, high school ski coach, and small business owner I am today.

Being engaged in different aspects in Teton County has shown me the importance of sustainability in our beautiful environment and individual lives. Teton County needs to continue the hard work of preserving our county for future generations, while being realistic of the day-to-day needs and livelihoods of our community members. I will be thoughtful of the future while working hard to make the difficult decision today.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

I'm Seadar Rose Davis and I live in Hoback with my husband and our dog, Scout.

One of the gifts of being the daughter of a single mom was spending my afternoons with my grandfather. A survivor of not one, but five heart attacks, my grandfather knew the fragility of life. Every day, I watched him thrive and give his passions his all. He instilled in me the importance of giving back to your community and of standing up for what you believe in. And that in the process, you should always be curious, be kind and be resilient.

Be curious, be kind, be resilient. I have carried these virtues with me since those childhood afternoons and they continue to fuel my journey. *

[Read more to this answer online...](#)

LUTHER PROPST:

I have worked over 30 years to advance conservation and sustainable planning throughout the North American West. I started my conservation career with World Wildlife Fund, where I helped communities protect wildlife habitat as they grew.

In 1991, I established the Sonoran Institute and ran it for 21 years. Sonoran used collaborative, community-based approaches to help communities realize their vision for the future. I have a law degree and a master's in regional planning.

I also have long experience in Teton County. In 1989, the Jackson Alliance for Responsible Planning invited me to help organize and lead a community dialogue on growth and planning. Since then, I have visited many times for work and fun. In 2008, I moved here part-time and

quickly made it my full-time home. I have served on the boards of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and Center for Jackson Hole (i.e. SHIFTjh). [*Read more to this answer online...](#)

MARK BARRON:

My name is Mark Barron and since I came to Jackson in the mid-70's I've had a passion for our community. We raised our children here, and in turn, Jackson Hole has provided my family with countless blessings. Over the years we've been reminded time and again of our deep appreciation for the people of this community. It's with that sincere gratitude that I want to again serve the good people of this valley.

MARY M. MARTIN:

I am running for Teton County Commissioner because I have a 40-year history of service and successful accomplishments which have helped to create the fabric of our community and include:

- Create and work with collaborations to generate programs, services and agencies - important assets to Teton County;
- Mediation and facilitation services in which I am certified;
- Conduct economic analyses;
- Small business counselor.

I bring a unique skill set that will be a tremendous asset to the County Commission. My definition of community is formed from research and approaches community from the community capitals framework. I care deeply about Teton County being an amazing place to call home. I work with families, youth and businesses in our community, and desire that we seriously create a reality that our youth can live and work in their hometown.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

SANDY RESS:

I am Sandy Ress. I've lived in the Valley full-time since 2000 and have been a very strong advocate for drastically reducing (notice, I did not say eliminating) population growth and tourism and for doing all we can to protect wildlife and our environment. I believe the fact that almost all of our estate will go to wildlife habitat preservation demonstrates our commitment to this cause.

WES GARDNER:

My name is Wes Gardner. Drawn by the surrounding mountains, I arrived in Teton County as a teenager 22 years ago. When opportunity knocked and drawing on my twelve years of retail experience, I opened Teton Toys in 2010. From my first visit at the age of eleven, I wanted to live here, and I feel amazingly blessed all these years later to call Teton County my home. I've always responded to the calls of nature, and I recognize that our greatest asset in this community is the wilderness in which we live. From mountaineering to car camping, I've explored many of the county's wild lands. They are what brought me here, and they are why I never want to leave.

The Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan's vision is to "Preserve and protect the area's ecosystem in order to ensure a healthy environment, community and economy for current and future generations." What does "preserve and protect the area's ecosystem" mean to you, and what are three specific actions you think our community should take in the next four years to work toward this vision?

MARK NEWCOMB:

Preserve and Protect the area's ecosystem means ensuring an ecosystem that is as vibrant and healthy as the one we have now. A healthy ecosystem has value to every individual that lives here and every individual that visits here. Clean air and water are vital for human health as well as ecosystem health; wildlife is a public good and healthy wildlife populations benefit everyone—hunters, viewers and as proof that the ecosystem is healthy. Impacts to the ecosystem caused by human activity can hurt and/or take something away from, other humans, even if only incrementally. Sometimes, as in a wildlife-vehicle collision, human actions can have a catastrophic impact on individuals. Growth—new development—should acknowledge and pay for this cost, even if only incremental. New commercial should pay housing mitigation; new development should avoid habitat and mitigate for impacts where it can't avoid habitat; new development should accept that it shouldn't be allowed everywhere and adapt to zoning that incentives moving

new development into areas where that minimize its impacts to the ecosystem.

ANDREW BYRON:

Preserving and protecting the area's ecosystem is vital to every aspect of our community. We need to be vigilant conservationists and continue to support our rivers, parks, wildlife, and land. It is a priority of mine to reduce wildlife vs vehicle accidents. We need to work with WYDOT to build wildlife crossings and underpasses and continue to work towards healthy rivers and clean water for everyone to enjoy. We need to work with landowners to educate and improve the entire Snake River watershed. We need to responsibly promote Jackson Hole so we can have a healthy economy.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

To me, this comes down to our responsibility as stewards of the land and maintaining quality of life for us all - wildlife, lands and humans. This also includes smart growth - making sure that development is focused in the right areas (complete neighborhoods with infrastructure and amenities) and out of areas of habitat. We should be acting in a way that protects our natural resources for current and future generations. Specific actions we should take include:

- Finish updates to our Natural Resources Land Development Regulations.
- Pursue funding, begin design and build wildlife crossings (as prioritized in the Wildlife Crossings Master Plan).
- Address and improve water quality issues in Fish Creek, Flat Creek and surrounding waterways.

LUTHER PROPST:

Three specific priorities to protect the area's ecosystem include:

1. A Conservation Action Plan would engage the public to evaluate and set priorities among a wide range of conservation challenges.
2. Sustainable Transportation. Building new roads and expanding current roads would create negative and irreversible impacts on our community, while only increases demand for more automobile traffic and relocating, rather than reducing, congestion. Before doing so, we should

exhaust other options to improve mobility.

3. Public Lands. Teton County includes vast acreage of the Bridger-Teton National Forest (which constitutes about half of the land in the county), Grand Teton National Park, almost half of Yellowstone National Park, and the National Elk Refuge. These federal public lands are essential to the quality of life and economic prosperity in Teton County and they constitute globally significant and relatively intact refuge for wildlife. These public lands, and the wildlife and waters that these lands protect, are facing unprecedented assault.

**Read more to this answer online...*

MARK BARRON:

This means that every action I take to balance the needs of people and the environment must be well considered, listening to all viewpoints. With less than 1% of Teton County entire land available to development we should recognize that much has been done in this regard. On behalf of the Jackson Town Council, I signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2007 in which 12 guiding points speak to this very issue and more. Please read it. I believe that protecting wildlife habitat and connectivity, open space and our natural resources requires land use regulations that add density in complete neighborhoods and the Town, particularly above businesses in our general business developed zones outside of our historic town square. The agricultural industry in county 22 has not been a huge money maker over their many years, but we can be thankful to our ranching families for their protection of wide open spaces, their decades of working with wildlife migration and feeding, for their desire to protect their ranchlands for future generations with conservation easements.

**Read more to this answer online...*

MARY M. MARTIN:

The Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan's vision is to "Preserve and protect the area's ecosystem in order to ensure a healthy environment, community and economy for current and future generations." What does "preserve and protect the area's ecosystem" mean to you and what are three specific actions you think our community should take in the next four years to work toward this

vision? I, as did dozens of other residents, expended much effort and time to participate in creating the Comprehensive Plan. Wisdom tells us that without a vision the people perish. Ensuring a healthy environment, community and economy for current and future generations requires thoughtful decision making, good data, astute analysis and good stewardship of our resources. I believe that if we take care of the land, the land will take care of us. A healthy sustainable environment is foundational to why we choose to live and work here. A healthy economy requires us to study the data, stay ahead of the inevitable changes in our world and choose to be good stewards of the myriad of resources which make Teton County uniquely wonderful.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

SANDY RESS:

We have an incredibly valuable, relatively pristine eco-system and it is critical to protect it by controlling the impacts that population growth and tourism have on it. What three things would I do: (1) Encourage the Bridger-Teton Forest to resist oil and gas extraction, logging, amusement parks, etc. (2) Either keep the Palisades a Wilderness Study Area or just designate it as wilderness. (3) Stop allowing developments that adversely effects public lands and wildlife populations. And I can't resist adding (4) focus on water quality!

WES GARDNER:

Our community is full of residents (and many visitors) who long to be "part of the solution," but who are trapped in a system that forces them to be "part of the problem." Three specific actions come to mind: creating Park and Ride opportunities at Stilson and JHHS to service the Town of Jackson, adjusting the bus schedules to prioritize areas of density, and developing an option to remove plastics from our waste stream before they end up in a landfill.

My own anecdotal survey found that around one in seven vehicles around the valley carry just one person. Many of these drivers (including myself) would embrace a public transportation system if there was better access and more informed scheduling. I would work to utilize available assets (the Stilson and JHHS lots and over

a dozen idle buses during the summer) in ways to create a more functional transit network for the residents and employees of Teton County and beyond. Additionally, I would work toward creating a solution for keeping our plastics out of the landfill. In this critical ecological moment, I find it essential that our local government develop real opportunities for our residents (and visitors) to be "part of the solution" instead of "part of the problem."

The County recently adopted the Wildlife Crossings Master Plan, which identifies wildlife-vehicle collision hot spots and offers suggestions for mitigation measures, like overpasses and underpasses. What do you see as the next steps for this Plan and how would you prioritize implementing wildlife crossings among our community priorities?

MARK NEWCOMB:

I definitely prioritize wildlife crossings. The commission should keep wildlife crossings on our capital improvement plan and ensure that a staff person (likely in engineering) is prepared to engage with WYDOT, landowners and other stakeholders at the first opportunity. I believe the first likely opportunity is a crossing beneath highway 22 when WYDOT replaces the Snake River Bridge. If this underpass needs funding, it should go on the next Specific Purpose Excise Ballot floated to the public. Public awareness needs to be sustained. Public-private partnerships between groups with expertise such as the JHCA and JH Wildlife Foundation should be nurtured so that as much expertise, publicity, and fund-raising capacity can be mobilized for both specific crossings and the broader effort.

ANDREW BYRON:

We need to take action on this as soon as possible. Similar crossings are very successful in neighboring communities. They need to be considered and implemented in the planning of all new roads and redesign of old ones.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

I support the recommendations of the Wildlife Crossings Master Plan and commend all who were involved in bringing it to fruition. I believe the next steps should

be to:

- 1 - design the wildlife crossings,
- 2 - bring private landowners and public agencies together to coordinate efforts,
- 3 - secure funding, and
- 4 - build overpasses/underpasses.

Fundraising for these crossings will be essential and could include partnerships with private and public sectors. I would also support adding these measures to a future SPET ballot. The implementation of our wildlife crossings should be made in conjunction with other transportation efforts (START, traffic calming measures, reduced speeds in certain areas) to help reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

LUTHER PROPST:

John Muir wrote: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." With this thought in mind, I would both advance wildlife crossings and put into context of other conservation priorities. Our community needs to address a wide range of conservation priorities simultaneously and vigorously, striking a balance among competing needs and priorities. To this end, I would engage the public in creating a Conservation Action Plan (CAP), which will determine priorities among the full spectrum of conservation challenges (see website supplement for several potential priorities). Based upon the CAP, I would provide voters with the opportunity to determine whether to fund conservation measures through a conservation SPET measure. Furthermore, having spent almost 30 years raising funds for many community and conservation causes, I would also assist with community efforts to raise philanthropic funds to supplement SPET funds.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

MARK BARRON:

Wildlife Crossings are coming but we should recognize that these will not be the panacea for the safety of wildlife and wildlife crossings will come with unintended consequences to our amazing viewsheds. It will be years before SPET money or other revenue streams are passed, sites are approved and construction is complete before wildlife enjoy the benefits of a single overpass. I will work toward these solutions.

However, I would hope that our county

commissioners would be willing to tackle the “low hanging fruit” measures that will serve protect wildlife immediately. Speed control with Speed Feedback signs are effective tools that, when used, will slow traffic and give drivers more time to see wildlife. Technological advances in lighting have produced non-night-sky polluting lights that can be used in high incident locations around the valley, such as, HWY 390, the intersection of HWY’s 390 & 22, at historic wildlife / vehicle incidents along 22, South Park Loop Rd, and Snake River Canyon.

*Read more to this answer online...

MARY M. MARTIN:

I suggest we begin with the end in mind. How will we measure effectiveness of the mitigation measures to ensure that the choices we make are truly making a difference? The report rightly suggests that “the exact location, length or number, or type and dimensions of the mitigation measures is dependent upon public support, agreements with private landowners and land management agencies and the availability of funding”.

Our next steps should begin with:

- *Identify the stakeholders (the landowners, land management agencies, WGF, WYDOT and possible funders) to develop a scope of public support;
- *Request a recommendation from the stakeholder group as how and where we should begin this effort;
- *Request creative options for how the mitigation effort(s) can be funded, assessed and evaluated.

The importance of this effort could garner both philanthropic and nonprofit interest along with federal and state grant sources to ensure that we can accomplish these mitigation efforts.

SANDY RESS:

I support the use of overpasses and underpasses but we cannot put them everywhere. Having identified wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, we must find solutions for places where passes are not feasible. Options include fences, reduced speeds, reflective elk and moose alongside the roads, warning signs, flashing lights, etc. However, I would want to know way more about what has been tried elsewhere, and what has/has not worked, before I rank alternatives.

I don’t think we have our community priorities right: My emphasis would be on human services like medical; assisting the least fortunate among us with food, housing, education, jobs and training; and helping families that are being displaced by the cost of living here. Stopping the “Aspenization” of Jackson Hole. Wildlife and the environment come next. Pathways, pets (and I own a pet store), street-art, etc. are down the list.

WES GARDNER:

I live in Game Creek, so I have personally witnessed the carnage that results from vehicle-wildlife collisions. We must do whatever we reasonably can to reduce the toll our vehicles have on wildlife. Wildlife crossings are an important tool we must utilize if we expect to see changes, but they are not the only tool. Again, if we can find ways to convert some percentage of our single-occupancy vehicles to bus riders, we could actually reduce the number of vehicles on our roads. Depending on the costs, I would consider adding wildlife crossings to each of the seven sections that were part of the Master Plan.

Our community established a goal through the Comprehensive Plan of housing at least 65% of our workforce locally. The recent Housing Action Plan identified a need of 800 units over 10 years just to “catch up” with the existing workforce housing deficit, and 2000 more to “keep up” with employment growth. How would you use tools including mitigation, zoning, and incentives to balance commercial growth with workforce housing?

MARK NEWCOMB:

I support requirements that new commercial development should reasonably mitigate its housing impacts. I posit that’s about a 55% requirement for new jobs paying less than 200% of Area Median Income. Incentives, such as reduced parking requirements and workforce bonuses should be used too. That said, in the county, we should be cautious about up-zoning. The two-lane Moose-Wilson road that has no designated wildlife crossings and no good options for such crossings (south of John Dodge anyway) already has a suburban density. I don’t believe we should

be adding density there. Hog Island, along a 5-lane highway with wildlife crossings makes more sense for modest, work-force specific additional housing arranged so that it minimizes impacts on neighbors and wildlife. Out of necessity, our priority for housing does need to be on core services broadly defined: public safety, health, education, and community welfare workers. But hitting that goal still means bringing a lot of resources to bear, including public tax dollars.

*Read more to this answer online...

ANDREW BYRON:

The recently passed mitigation rate is too high. While I appreciate the goal of housing at least 65% of our workforce locally, it is hard to figure out how that goal will be reached with these mitigation rates. The county, without significant help from private partners, will never come close to “catching up” with employment growth. In working towards a true 65%, the BCC needs to take a hard look at zoning and make changes where needed to allow for the private sector to step in. If we allow the private sector to assist in our workforce housing goals, we will be making strides towards our 65% goal while also supporting the small businesses and entrepreneurs that make Teton County great.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

I think the key to hitting these targets will be to make sure we are using a mix of all of these tools. I am hopeful that new mitigation rates recently passed by the county will result in more workforce residential development. We need to make sure we are monitoring the outcome of these new rates and adjust them if they are not producing the outcome we want. It will take the effort of both the public and private sectors to get to our goal, and it is essential that developers and employers take part in this responsibility. I support focusing our efforts on rental units within complete neighborhoods, with more dense units in town. The health of our community is dependent on a vibrant workforce, so we need to do everything we can to ensure our workforce can live in Teton County.

LUTHER PROPST:

I will work to maintain a substantial

resident workforce and the social and economic diversity that has long characterized Jackson Hole. Workforce housing keeps our economy functioning, provides volunteers for non-profit organizations, and sustains quality of life for the middle class. The numerical goal of 65% provides a point of reference, admittedly somewhat arbitrary, but that allows us to measure progress. This complex challenge of providing workforce housing and a balanced community vexes popular destinations across the country and throughout the world. There are no silver bullets. We must encourage creative ideas and respond rapidly to fast-moving opportunities; to this end, my priorities include three elements:

1. Focus on both workforce housing supply and demand. We just can't accommodate everyone who may want to move here, especially with a rapidly changing climate that is already changing the winter snowscape in the Western United States and with technology increasingly allowing people to live and work virtually anywhere.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

MARK BARRON:

The goal of 65% workforce housing continues to elude Teton County. The recently passed mitigation rates, prescription housing and financial expense were set intentionally high to ensure that NO workforce housing can be created. As mayor in 2008, I encouraged the town council to move the affordable and employee mitigation from 15% to 25%. This was not a 10% increase but a 66% increase in the mitigation rate. We met pushback from developers and businesses but ultimately it was possible to meet the new 25% rate and create quality housing. Mixed use commercial / housing projects were able to be developed through the Planned Mixed Used Development tool which gave higher density for community benefits, such as an increase over 25% in workforce housing, underground parking, and energy efficiency measures. In these cases, an increase in zoning density enabled an increase in Built workforce housing.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

MARY M. MARTIN:

First of all, if I'm reading the question

correctly, you are indicating that we will need to build 10,000 additional housing units to keep up. I understand the current scenario as --the county has 800 affordable units, we need to develop 280 additional units a year over the next 10 years to catch up...which is a total of 3600 units. If the average number of residents per unit is 2.8 people, that equates to an additional 7,840 people residing in the Town of Jackson. The impact would result in many new people on our existing roadways, pathways, using our social services, schools, day care, etc. If it is a foregone conclusion that the Town of Jackson is the sole recipient of this density, I believe a review of the Comp Plan will be necessary.

It is common sense that everyone who wants to live in Teton County cannot live here.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

SANDY RESS:

The goal of housing 65% of our workforce locally is totally unrealistic, has been rejected by most segments of our Community, and I don't support it. Although I'm ok with some growth (St. John's or the school district adding a new wing, facility or employee housing), I'm completely against unfettered residential and commercial growth. And if we do have growth, it should be residential - not commercial. Those who want to make money by starting a business should create housing for their employees. What else would I do: no more (1) re-zones from residential to commercial, and where possible, the property should revert back to residential, (2) variances. One of my first proposals to the Board would be to adopt a rule-change requiring any significant variance to require a 4-1 or 5-0 vote, (3) density bonuses, (5) "Coney Islanding" of our Valley. Finally, (5) limiting annual property tax increases.

WES GARDNER:

For starters, housing 65% of our local workforce is a nice ideal, but we should not measure success or failure by it. Working towards this goal requires that we utilize all tools at our disposal to develop and promote the development of workforce housing, including mitigation. I also recognize that when our local officials dabble with mitigation rates they dramatically impact the marketplace. When

we effectively triple existing mitigation rates for commercial development, I suggest that we are doing more harm than good for our community.

While not ignoring the 65% goal, I would like to see us do a better job of using our bus assets to service the hundreds of employees who commute from Alpine and Victor and beyond. At the moment, most of the riders who commute from Victor arrive at the areas of employment density either from 7:02-7:06AM or 8:02-8:06AM, meaning that they are either 2-6 minutes late or 50+ minutes early for work.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

It has been six years since the completion and adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, and we have since hit the 6% growth trigger that signals the need for its review. What would your goals be with a review and would you consider any changes to the Plan? If so, what?

MARK NEWCOMB:

Sadly there are two aspects of the plan that merit review: one is the goal to house 65% of the workforce. We likely do not have sufficient funding to ensure we meet that goal. Housing built through mitigation requirements and fees in lieu will not get us there alone. And the public may be unwilling to commit much more in the way of tax dollars. Citizens voted down a sixth penny of sales tax targeting housing and transportation and have even been hesitant to approve a sixth penny of SPET targeting town and county employee housing. Private organizations such as the Housing Trust and Habitat will continue to bring private philanthropy to the table. Hopefully the public sector will follow their lead and be a supportive partner where we can. Opening the supply pipeline to try and grow our way out of the problem risks that new development will likely be out of reach of most workers.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

ANDREW BYRON:

The Comprehensive plan needs to be a working document and something that the BCC reviews biannually. With a working document, we can continue to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan fits our evolving county and no time becomes stale

or outdated.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

As a community, we need to take a step back and look at the broader picture of what we want the community to look like in 10/20/30 years. Have we followed through with the vision that was set forth by our commissioners in 2012? In a thriving economy, growth is inevitable, and a positive for many of our local businesses. But there's always a tradeoff. What does this mean for our infrastructure? Are we keeping up with traffic flow mitigation and wildlife protection? Can our social services meet current and future demands? I would consider revisions to the Plan based on the real growth that we've experienced in the last six years versus how that has played out.

LUTHER PROBST:

Some 20 years ago, I co-authored a book entitled *Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities* (Island Press). White dated, this book still articulates pretty well my overall principles for managing growth in Teton County and similar communities. If you would like a copy, the library has a copy for loan or give me a call. In short, the key is to balance competing priorities: wildlife, community character, housing, and prosperity. The key take-away is the importance of striking a balance among competing priorities: protecting wildlife and community character, providing opportunities for workforce housing, and promoting a dynamic and prosperous economy.

A Conservation Action Plan would engage the public to evaluate and set priorities among a wide range of conservation challenges:

- commuter bus routes and transit centers,
- energy efficiency and renewable energy,
- purchase (and retirement) of development rights (PDR),
- solid waste management,
- stewardship leases,
- transfer of development rights (TDR) and a TDR bank,
- water quality and river health,
- wildlife vehicle collisions (WVCs) and the Wildlife Crossing Master Plan.

MARK BARRON:

There are some 4,000 platted lots outside the Town of Jackson in Teton

County. These are all permitted to build residentially. The zoning changes required by the Comprehensive Masterplan have moved at glacial speeds. Local Government has created layers of new town & county employees, bureaucracy at every level, studying away and growing, growing, growing government employees. However, the recently passed mitigation rates and measures on the business community will stop development and associated workforce housing. Let's see where that takes us. Also, I will examine the growing budget and workforce of Teton County and be prepared to recommend cuts to both in hopes of increasing efficacy and decreasing this growing government labor pool.

MARY M. MARTIN:

I am interested in an assessment of the efficiency of how citizens are able to work their way through the Comprehensive Plan. Is it a workable plan? What are realistic time lines for our citizens to experience? Citizens are telling me their experience tends to indicate that the comp plan's purpose was to stop growth. I don't believe that was our purpose, and if that is what the plan is being used to accomplish, we need a correction in policy. A conversation about realistic time lines and a better understanding of what to expect when working with our planning and building departments is needed. Waiting months and even years to get approval through a planning process is not acceptable.

A planning document is intended to help design and create a plan for a future, not stop it. It should be a living document.

**Read more to this answer online...*

SANDY RESS:

It is clear the Comp Plan doesn't and won't control the growth we have witnessed and does not do nearly enough to protect our wildlife, forests, parks, etc. In revisiting the Plan, our goal should be to only allow minimal growth while fostering an economically sustainable community. And in the process, we should quit paying lip-service to the idea we're protecting wildlife when we aren't doing nearly as much as we could be doing.

WES GARDNER:

The Comp Plan weighs in at just under

400 pages. We need to be careful not to throw any babies out with the bath water. In our review of the Plan, we should exercise restraint, respecting the intentions of those who drew it up a mere six years ago. We should also consider that much of the 6% growth is an effect of the heat of the general economy which is likely unsustainable. In other words, just because we hit a trigger does not mean that the Plan is not a success. I further argue that until we feel the effects of the new zoning changes and mitigation rates, any amendments to the Comp Plan would be premature. These recent policy changes are dramatic and will have significant impacts in our community. We should wait for the dust to settle before embarking on any significant changes to our Comp Plan.

Snow King recently released a new development proposal to expand the resort boundaries, build new chairlifts outside the existing footprint, and add new amenities and additional condos. What do you envision for the future of our Town Hill, and what role should the Town Council/Board of County Commissioners play in achieving that vision?

MARK NEWCOMB:

The county should be a cooperating agency. The commission needs to discuss our vision as a whole in order to provide comment. Personally, I interpret the community's commitment made during the crafting of the Comprehensive Plan to not expand resorts to mean that the boundaries should not be expanded. The final say is up to the Forest Service on that issue. I believe the land development regulations take a wholistic view of resorts: they allow resorts to utilize a natural amenity for economic development in return for public benefit. Snow King's plans should strive for that balance.

ANDREW BYRON:

The BCC needs to protect county resources throughout the development at Snow King. Protecting private property rights, while working with the developers on properties we share, is important to all involved. I learned to ski at Snow King in 1988 and am so proud that I still have the opportunity to coach on that hill today. We

need to do a better job working with the owners/developers, as it is an asset that is critical to the success of many in town and the county.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

Snow King's expansion should reflect a balance between what stockholders feel is necessary to succeed and what the community's vision is of an in-town resort within our national forest. Additional lifts are often times necessary for a ski resort to compete with other resorts, and Snow King (like JHMR) has decades of investment on which to build upon and upgrade towards modern standards. But plans for expansion need to be in line with our Comprehensive Plan.

There are many questions to be sorted out ... How will this affect public access to the national forest and public land beyond the existing footprint? What is the impact on the wildlife in the area? Will these amenities make JH a destination for amusement park type activities? How will an increased demand on our town hill affect traffic and transportation needs in the area? The process for Snow King's expansion needs to be transparent and include the input of all stakeholders and the community.

LUTHER PROPST:

I will make it a priority for Teton County to work with Snow King management, Town of Jackson, Bridger Teton National Forest, conservation and recreation non-profit organizations, and other partners to identify and pursue creative approaches and partnerships for ensuring that Snow King Mountain remains our "town hill" while protecting the area's wildlife and community character.

MARK BARRON:

So far, I see no on mountain improvement that doesn't enhance the visitor and local mountain experience. I would examine the SKRMA association to see if it fulfills its responsibilities within the Snow King Resort Masterplan.

MARY M. MARTIN:

My vision for our Town Hill is that it continues to be just that--the Town Hill. I realize that as a resort, we share our resources with our visitors; however,

I hope any future development does not price the availability and use of the Town Hill from our local population. The community has supported the development of the amenities on Snow King with the intention and understanding that these are community amenities. Ownership may change; however, the community's contribution to Snow King should not be negotiated away with change of ownership. We who live in the shadow of Snow King should have access to the what she provides.

Conversations about how our community character is impacted are taking place. We need to be mindful about our history when a few families collaborated to install a tow rope on Snow King, so our community members could have an accessible place to ski.

**Read more to this answer online...*

SANDY RESS:

I'm appalled at what the Town and County seem to have thus far offered to Snow King. In my mind, Snow King should be given a choice: either operate as the Town Hill we all knew and loved and you'll receive our help or decide to be a big business and figure out how to do it on your own without our money, tax breaks, land grabs and giveaways. The Town and County must learn to say "NO," not just to Snow King, but to other developers who want to do things like tear down Cafe Genevieve, replace it with a large hotel and save a few old buildings in exchange for an extra floor. Does that sound like a fair trade? Not to me! How about all the variances the Classic Academy will request. Just Say No! And that's what our electeds should have done so many times before.

WES GARDNER:

As your County Commissioner, I will consider the Snow King Expansion Project granularly. I view the argument that Snow King must expand or die as highly suspect. The Town and County officials should negotiate from a position of strength, ensuring that all expansions be subject to hefty mitigation requirements. We should not actively promote further short-term rental development along the base of Snow King without requiring development of extensive workforce housing. Previous local officials have certainly provided us

with a blueprint for how not to do things, as the development at the base of the hill on Cache St, was built to service short-term rentals with very little mitigation for development of workforce housing. We must ensure that our future officials will not suffer the same lack of judgement.

The County is in the process of updating our Natural Resource Protections, and Town will update theirs in 2019 – this includes new Natural Resource Tiers, regulations to prevent bears from getting into garbage, and protections for rivers and streams. What would you like to see included in this update?

MARK NEWCOMB:

Private property rights should be acknowledged—new regs shouldn't take away development rights. But natural resource protections should ask new development to avoid impacting important habitat, minimize impacts to important habitat and mitigate impacts when they are created. I tend to favor mitigation fees going into a mitigation bank over on-site mitigation. Banked impact fees, deployed in partnership with the private sector, may create the most effective, durable, contiguous mitigation projects where it matters the most. Water quality protections are vital, and hopefully the new pond regulations will address issues around ponds.

ANDREW BYRON:

Each animal we save, whether it be a bear from human trash or a deer from a bumper, is a win for everyone. Continued work on wildlife crossings/underpasses, as well as bear education in all of Teton County, is critical to taking steps towards natural resource protections. Flat Creek has also started to get increasing attention from non profits and interested community members. It spans a large portion of our county, so improvement and protection of Flat Creek needs to be priority for the BCC in the immediate future.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

I am particularly concerned with the degradation of our waterways and how we will address these issues with new regulations and development. I would

like to see smaller, currently unprotected streams added to these protections, as their health impacts the overall quality of our waterways and habitat function. It's important that these updates protect our natural resources with clearer and more predictable regulations for property owners. As a community, we have a responsibility to steward our public lands and protect our natural resources. These protections are one of the ways we do that, but I am also continually amazed by our community's willingness to voluntarily conserve land and enhance wildlife habitat and resources on private property.

LUTHER PROBST:

With respect to updating the county's Natural Resource Protections, rather than to suggest my top substantive priorities, my first step would be to advocate for establishing a Teton County conservation commission or advisory board to advise the county commission and the broad community on: (a) land use planning, transportation, and community development; (b) public lands, rivers, and wildlife; and (c) implementation of the Conservation Action Plan. I would also propose that the county reorganize departments to create a conservation department with scientific expertise to provide professional support for the conservation commission and the county commission. Ideally, this new department and commission would be a joint effort with the Town of Jackson and perhaps other governmental agencies.

MARK BARRON:

I would not support any mandating of Natural Resource Overlay measures in the Town of Jackson or in any Complete Neighborhood in Teton County. Appropriate education of these issues made available to specifically troubled neighborhoods should give homeowners the tools with which they may reduce wildlife interactions.

MARY M. MARTIN:

Water quality is an issue that I believe should be a priority. We have so many components of our lives affecting our streams, creeks and rivers - snow run off, stormwater run-off, wildfires, manmade water features, the ever-

increasing commercialization of our water ways, residual pharmaceuticals, and unfortunately fecal matter from wildlife, pets, and most distressingly, people.

Our forests are ripe for a fire incident. Low intensity fires have less negative effect on water sheds than high intensity fires. Wildlands fire mitigation should be a county priority. We, as residents of this community, need to understand and value how each of us can do our part to eliminate wildlife/human incidents. Years ago, I received a call in my office from a resident in the village who had had a bear get into his home. Seriously, any of us would be very distressed about awaking to a bear rummaging through our kitchen.

[Read more to this answer online...](#)

SANDY RESS:

The most important thing we can do is enforce the rules we already have in place. There is no point in creating new rules if we simply wink at violations. So, let's start there. Next, more protection for wildlife. If I am right, 40% of all new development can occur in wildlife areas. WHY? That is way too much if we truly value wildlife habitat. I would lower that percentage significantly if it can be done legally. Let's eliminate density bonuses that effect wildlife. Tear down more fencing that obstructs wildlife movement. There's no end to the things we could do if we really had the will.

WES GARDNER:

We must find a balance between protecting critical habitat and allowing private property owners to develop their lands as they wish. While I appreciate the nuance behind the "tiered protections," I suggest that these tiers are based on the wrong criteria. Instead of basing tiers solely on development types, we should consider the "boots on the ground, site specific" analyses to create additional guidelines for what development is responsible for a particular project. Further, I'm concerned about a couple of the exceptions for certain development types. Why, for example should agricultural operations, which I imagine contribute a much greater share of water pollution than any other development type, be exempt from county approved protection standards? As critical as they may be, why should emergency public works be exempted?

If we all agree that protecting natural environments is so important, why should any entity be exempted?

Our community has also established the goal of residents and visitors being able to safely, efficiently, and economically move within our community and throughout the region on foot, bike, and transit. What specific projects, programs, and policies from the Integrated Transportation Plan should we prioritize over the next four years to continue on our journey toward this goal?

MARK NEWCOMB:

Immediate efforts to address non-vehicle travel should focus on peak hours of congestion. This means adding commuter runs where there is demand such as over Teton Pass. Medium measures should include making Stilson a more effective transit center, continued commitment to pathways where they are most effective (completing the Highway 22 project east of Wilson), managed parking and building a maintenance and bus storage facility. Longer term we need to focus on how we manage growth in terms of how much new residential development and where. Arranging new housing development so that it is near basic services at a minimum is critical in allowing people to conveniently take care of their daily needs without getting in a car on the road. Finally, we need to keep an eye on the future, whether that includes including driverless car infrastructure as we upgrade roads or adapting to better utilize ride-sharing, hitch-hiking and various e-transportation technologies (e-bikes, etc).

ANDREW BYRON:

We always need to be working with START and supporting them in the hard work they do. START continues to see record ridership, yet I still have many friends and colleagues who don't ever use START. Grassroots support of this incredible county resource is critical. Utilizing and expanding pathways is also vital as different pedal options for biking become more accessible to everyone. We need to complete Tribal Trails while working with the Tribal Trails Stakeholder Advisory Group, among others, to most efficiently and

thoughtfully move forward with this project.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

Public transportation (START) is a large piece of this puzzle. I support expanding our commuter routes, increasing summer service from Stilson to Teton Village, and adding routes to areas in the county not currently serviced by START. In order to make expansion a reality, we will need to finish building the maintenance facility and secure a dedicated funding source for START. We should be adding more outreach to visitors before their trip to highlight all of the alternative modes of transportation available to them, including our transit system, pathways and START Bike. We can also continue to look at ways to improve our infrastructure with more effective intersections, reduced speeds on certain roads, sidewalk improvements and traffic calming solutions. With that said, I believe the most pressing need right now is hiring a Transportation Planner to help us move forward with implementing the goals outlined in the ITP.

LUTHER PROPST:

"If you plan cities for cars and traffic, you get cars and traffic. If you plan for people and places, you get people and places."

– Fred Kent.

Many studies document that new road construction only unleashes latent demand for driving: more road capacity leads to more traffic because driving becomes faster, easier and cheaper. In our valley, new and wider roads also are more likely to relocate, rather than remediate, traffic congestion.

Increasing the percentage of commuters and residents who choose to ride the bus is:

- More economical than building new road capacity,
- Most consistent with protecting our community and neighborhoods,
- Most friendly to wildlife, and
- Most likely to reduce (rather than merely relocate) congestion.

Transit centers can significantly improve the convenience and utilization of commuter bus service, with community amenities such as day care, Zipcar type car rental, ski and bicycle lockers, secure parking for crew trucks, an all-weather waiting area.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

MARK BARRON:

I provided needed leadership as mayor, working with the town council, county commissioners, staff and other agencies that resulted in a huge increase in START ridership and significantly increased the miles of detached paved pathways across the valley and into GTNP. These measures required federal dollars and meeting with our Wyoming congressional delegation to help secure these funds. Specifically, START rolling stock should invest in natural gas fueled busses at a marginal increase to the cost of diesel busses. This rolling stock will reduce our carbon footprint while providing the additional busses to increase commuter service, more summer frequency to Stilson and Teton Village, and expand service to Rafter J, Melody Ranch and possibly Hoback Jct.

I would support working with Teton Village Association, JH Mountain Resort and TC School Board, to masterplan Stilson as a year-round transit hub, a site for a new school and athletic fields for West Bank youth. A dedicated bus line to the West Bank and Teton Village is not possible until and unless HWY 22 is provided additional lanes and additional lanes are provided over the Snake River. I would then support a roundabout at the junction of the Teton Village Rd.

MARY M. MARTIN:

"The mission of Teton County, Wyoming government is to support the well-being of its residents by providing responsive and efficient services; providing programs that contribute to public health, safety, and welfare...". "Safety" is the key word – providing safety on our roads, pathways, and walkways is paramount. Whether this means widening our roads to create separate bus lanes, building more roads to create redundancy or improve traffic flow, creating more sidewalks that are safer for our senior citizens, or building a north bridge across the Snake River – we should prioritize all these projects and begin work on our top priority.

We have created an enviable system of pathways, and I would like a priority in developing plans for how we maintain what we have.

With ridership on START reaching 1

million this past year, the START board, and staff are to be applauded.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

SANDY RESS:

Here are my views on transportation: (1) Although I am an avid road-bike rider, to me, pathways are primarily (not entirely) about recreation and should occupy a much lower priority than they do. We certainly should not be diverting funds to bike paths that could be used for human services. (2) START is a black hole and we must reevaluate where it does and does not make sense to operate buses, how much government should contribute toward it, what part of the cost-per-rider riders should pay, especially those using buses in Town (we should be subsidizing workers who come here from outlying areas), and whether we should subsidize the Mountain Resort and Teton Village Association who want to get skiers to the Village. But if we simply stopped increasing tourism and our population, this question would probably not be in this questionnaire.

WES GARDNER:

Having developed bike paths around the valley, we must complete a comprehensive set of routes through town so that the system functions as a whole. I would consider removing street parking from certain streets in order to better accommodate bikers and walkers. More importantly, we MUST develop a more robust and functional bus system. The parking lot at Stilson is empty all summer, even as hundreds of employees stream over Teton Pass and into the downtown area every day for work. Meanwhile in the summer, up to a dozen buses sit idle in our new bus barn. Further, many routes are dysfunctional simply because they are not built to serve the areas of greatest density. Our system is desperately underutilized. By developing a Park and Ride option at Stilson for travel to downtown, by utilizing the parking lot at JHHS in the summer as another Park and Ride..

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

What is your vision for the future of our Teton County federal lands, and what is your perspective on the ongoing region-wide effort to transfer control of our

federal public lands to the states?

MARK NEWCOMB:

I envision a well-funded Park Service, Forest Service and BLM that has the capacity to develop management plans in a timely manner, enforce management and maintain infrastructure and access. This will help ensure healthy and vibrant public lands that are healthy and resilient.

ANDREW BYRON:

Teton County federal lands need to stay in the same ownership they currently are in. There are many reasons to keep federal lands in federal hands. One glaring reason is neither the state, nor the county, could ever take ownership as the cost would be economically unfeasible.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

Federal public lands belong to all Americans and as such should remain in public hands. It's imperative that these lands and national parks be protected for current and future generations, and these are best managed at the federal level. These lands are our natural heritage and should be protected for the enjoyment of us all.

LUTHER PROPST:

Teton County is 97% public lands. These lands are the foundation for our economy and quality of life, as well as for our regional wildlife, fisheries, and the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. These public lands must remain in public hands. With so much at stake locally, Teton County should play an active role in resisting efforts to:

- transfer public lands or management of these lands to states or directly to private enterprise,
- repeal or eviscerate our nation's bedrock conservation laws,
- defund the Land and Water Conservation Fund,
- undermine morale among public land managers, and
- underfund the agencies that manage and protect our public lands.

Approximately half of Teton County is on the Bridger Teton National Forest. The BT plans to launch a new forest plan this year. Teton County should play an active role as a cooperating agency with the Forest Service in developing this new forest plan.

[Read more to this answer online...](#)

MARK BARRON:

Teton County is reportedly 97% federal lands and as long as multiple use is not compromised on any federal lands where it is now allowed, I see no problems.

MARY M. MARTIN:

I am confident that we have experts who can assist in the conversations necessary to allow for informed decisions. A major concern I have is privatizing federal lands could cause us to lose our tax base. Our federal lands provide the impetus for tourism, the major contributor of sales tax, which funds our county and town governments.

Our local concern should be to apply pressure to our federal elected officials to get more money for our Federal Land Management Agencies. The Teton County Commission should be a reliable partner to our federal agencies.

An issue that the Teton County Commission should provide leadership to regards fire-wise landscapes that protect our surrounding forests from a fire disaster. I am interested in creating a collaborative plan with our county and federal agencies regarding fire. A priority of our County Commission should be to ensure our preparedness with the goal that our community survives a natural fire incident rather than becomes victim of a fire disaster.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

SANDY RESS:

I am opposed to relinquishing Federal lands to the States. And I want to ensure we preserve our eco-systems. But I am troubled by locals (on both sides of every conservation issue) who think they should have control of local lands and be able to dictate to the Park, Forest Service, BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, etc. how those agencies should manage their lands. Unless an agency is not following the law, I prefer to let them do their job and I generally trust them to do it conscientiously and well.

WES GARDNER:

Fearing that some states (including ours) may be neglectful of environmental impacts when in possession of these lands, I am generally against the recent

pushes to transfer federal lands to the states. However, as this decision is far beyond any of our control, we must develop plans for what to do with our lands if they are granted to us. While the stakeholder process did not produce the desired outcome (three separate proposals emerged instead of one), the County Commissioners have little room for complaint, as the process was thorough, and all three plans worthy of consideration. If I was a Commissioner, I would work to strike a compromise between the MAWG plan and the Multi-Use Proposal. Essentially, I find the MAWG plan to strike a fair balance between use and protection, but when it comes to the Palisades area, I think that it is important to consider what our neighbors in Lincoln County are supporting...

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

Please share your priorities or comments on any other issues not covered in the previous questions.

MARK NEWCOMB:

We should pay attention to including public open space and green space in all new development so that people can readily access the outdoors for health and recreation purposes.

ANDREW BYRON:

It is our duty as stewards of Wyoming to continue to protect wildlife and waterways, preserve open space, support working agriculture, all while respecting our heritage and fostering responsible growth.

SEADAR ROSE DAVIS:

One of my top priorities is creating a healthy Teton County, with access to affordable and accessible health care and child care for all. This means supporting our health and human services programs in offering quality care while also focusing on preventative care. Our residents should have clear resources to help them navigate services for their physical, mental and social well-being. I believe the overall health of Teton County lies within our responsibility to our lands, wildlife and the well being of our residents.

LUTHER PROPST: -

MARK BARRON:

It was amply demonstrated when I came to this fiercely independent and proudly self-sufficient place in the mid-70's that we are respectful to others – even when we disagree, we act neighborly to our visitors and that living here requires hard work. We take care of our own, we help those in need and we do so as generously as our resources allow. We help with our hands, our heads and our wallets. If elected, I will work hard to financially support the human service agencies and non-profits who lift up those who need their help, professional expertise and support. Because of these dedicated organizations, Jackson Hole is a better place for all of us.

MARY M. MARTIN:

"You can create a better future for Jackson Hole" is the prominent message that appears on the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance's home page of their website. At the bottom of that page it states, "Protecting the wildlife, wild places and community character of Jackson Hole...". This brings to mind the importance of conserving and being good stewards of Teton County's arts for all of us who are part of this unique place where "art" is part of our community character. The arts play an important role in Teton County's assets and prosperity – whether it's our performing arts, artworks by painters, sculptors, musicians, etc. Our residents possess terrific talents that are shared through nonprofit and for profit performing arts organizations. Conserving the arts in our community is important to me. I served on the board which developed the Fall Arts Festival. I directed several seasons of community musical theater productions to support our community's efforts to raise funds for Fine Art scholarships for our youth and to provide community support to the development of the Walk Festival Hall.

*Read more to this answer online...

SANDY RESS:

My priorities are to stop impactful growth. No more hotels. Especially if they don't provide housing for their employees. I wouldn't accept an historic building in exchange for another floor on a hotel. Instead, I would explore downzoning the property back to what it

was so that hotel couldn't be built. I don't want a huge school in South Park, and with the exception of Tribal Trails, which is already platted, no additional roads. I don't want a gazillion homes on the Bar-J and wouldn't have voted for the Raptor Center's variance. No more subsidized housing for non-essential workers. No more amusement parks. Enforce the rules we already adopted like short-term rentals and order the Sporting Club to undo their diversion of the Snake River. Do most everything we can for wildlife and to preserve open space. Keep our Valley as unspoiled as it was when we arrived. Thank you!

WES GARDNER:

I do my best to inhabit the middle ground on most issues. All candidates are for protecting the critical habitats in Teton County. We all recognize the needs of nature. But I also recognize the rights of property owners and the reality that to achieve the 65% goal of housing our workforce locally, we should not impede development with unnecessarily expensive environmental impact studies and prohibitive mitigation fees (especially if we are willing to exempt key pollutant contributors like agriculture). We need to strike a balance between development and protecting our greatest resource- Nature. My strategy is to identify parcels that exist outside of critical wildlife habitats and corridors and allow responsible development of such properties. There are already thousands of acres of Teton County under permanent conservation easement. We need to be careful that we aren't creating similar sets of standards for property held by the private sector.

Meet the TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT Candidates:

The mission of the Teton Conservation District (TCD) is to promote the conservation and stewardship of the natural resources throughout the Conservation District area. Through

community education, collaborative projects, strategic partnerships, and outreach, TCD works to provide for "the conservation of soil and water resources, assist in watershed protection, protect public lands, preserve tax base and to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people."

Four TCD board positions are up for election: three rural, four-year term seats and one at-large, two-year term. Dave Adams, Bob Lucas, and Steve MacDonald are running for the rural seats. Unfortunately, we did not receive responses from "Dave, Bob, or Steve for this guide. Below, however, you can find the responses from Pietro Castelli and Nate Fuller, the two candidates running for the single at-large seat.

The mission of the TCD is "to promote conservation and management of natural resources - air, land, water, vegetation, and wildlife..." What does this mean to you and what are three specific actions you think the Conservation District should take in the next two or four years (depending on term) to work toward this vision?

PIETRO CASTELLI:

The greater meaning and purpose of TCD is, to me, promoting harmony between the humans that live and recreate in this area with the wild areas in which they do so. I think that in the next four years TCD should increase it's wildfire awareness programs, work with local landowners and ranchers to use wildlife-friendly fencing so that animals can safely migrate through this important corridor unharmed, and incentivize the installation of wind turbines and solar panels.

NATE FULLER:

The conservation of natural resources is extremely important on every scale. I am running to help with this conservation effort on the very small but still important local scale. To me it means we have the control over our local natural resources and we should be responsible stewards of our natural resources. Specifically, we need to protect them from abuse and when they are used they are used in a way that is of minimal impact to the resource itself as well

as other natural resources. For example, (and one of my three specific actions) I would like to take a close look at the use of pesticides and herbicides by Teton County Weed and Pest. Perhaps we can phase out or lessen their use in favor of mechanical control options so as to preserve air and water quality while still managing the vegetation aspect.

**Read more to this answer online...*

The Town of Jackson/Teton County Comp Plan's vision is to "Preserve and protect the area's ecosystem in order to ensure a healthy environment, community and economy for current and future generations." How do you envision the TCD working with the Town and County to meet shared objectives?

PIETRO CASTELLI:

I see the town, county, and TCD working together most effectively by mitigating the damage that our important tourism industry can cause to the natural areas in Teton County. This can be started by increasing tourist awareness of local conservation issues such as wildlife crossing areas and seasonal closures of wilderness areas. Furthermore, TCD can work with the town and county to ensure visitors to the area are ready to safely take in the wild areas of Wyoming by being bear-aware, knowing local regulations, and being fully prepared to be in the backcountry.

NATE FULLER:

The Conservation District is a voice for conservation and protection. By bringing that voice to the county with a focus on conservation with regard to growth and development we should strive to build a town that supports walking through increased density in the existing urban(ish) areas. Conservation is trying to protect the air by reducing traffic by increasing affordable housing and rentals in the places people work. A dense community is a close community and can interface well with open space if well planned.

What is your vision for the future of our Teton County federal lands, and how do you see the Conservation District

partnering with our land managers to conserve natural resources on these lands?

PIETRO CASTELLI:

Most importantly these lands should remain in federal hands. I think the second most important priority in preserving these lands is by ensuring that actions taken on private land don't affect public land. For example, water use on private land shouldn't affect public water quality or quantity. Third, we need to make sure we are balancing the desires of recreationists with the conservation of wilderness and wildlife through the study of effects various types of recreation can have on land, water, and animals.

NATE FULLER:

Teton County's single biggest resource is our public lands. Protection of these is paramount especially given the current state of our federal government. The role of the Teton Conservation District is to ensure they are treated with the utmost respect. These lands are owned by all of us and the conservation district should support well thought through fuels reduction, while being careful of any large scale extraction. Even the level of access is something to consider. I would like the Conservation District to work with the federal land managers to keep the Wilderness Study areas as they are or even seek full Wilderness designation.

We live in a wild place where interactions with wildlife are not infrequent. What actions should the Conservation District prioritize to reduce conflicts with wildlife moving through our neighborhoods?

PIETRO CASTELLI:

The replacement of traditional fences with wildlife-friendly varieties can do a tremendous amount of good towards allowing wildlife to move through neighborhoods quickly and without conflict. Additionally, the construction of wildlife crossings over busy roads and highways will not only save animal lives but human lives as well. Citizens being aware of bear attractants in their own backyards will reduce the amount of conflicts that we have with black and grizzly bears and make our neighborhoods safer overall.

NATE FULLER:

Again, I come to the prioritization of development in a way that creates dense nodes for people to live and work in. If we can prioritize dense affordable housing with a distinct boundary to open space we can reduce neighborhood conflicts as well as traffic and all of the associated problems for wildlife.

Meet the STATE HOUSE AND SENATE Candidates:

HOUSE DISTRICT 16:

Please introduce yourself.

Who are you, and what would be your top three priorities if elected?

MIKE YIN:

I'm Mike Yin. By trade, I'm a software developer. I grew up in a suburb of Atlanta as the child of two immigrants. In Jackson, I'm a member of your START board, sitting at a pottery wheel at the Art Association, or occasionally being in one of the plays being performed by Riot Act. I've been through the JHCA's CLI program and used that training to be an advocate for our town's recently passed Non-Discrimination Ordinance, and for the Plastic Bag Ban currently being considered by the town council to make sure we can be a sustainable example for all the tourists that pass through our town.

I've also been the Teton County Democrats Vice Chair for the last two years and traveled the state over that time to participate in the state party and using those opportunities to meet Wyomingites outside of Jackson and fall in love with the state as a whole.

**Read more to this answer online...*

BARBARA ALLEN:

Barbara Allen is a 23 year resident of Jackson Hole who moved here in 1995 out of college. "I pulled into town with everything I owned in my car, \$300 and \$25,000 in school loans; I had three jobs the first few years I was in here. "I've been very fortunate to make it work in Teton

County, and I've always sought to give back to this place I love." stated Allen.

Barbara brings a strong knowledge of the mechanisms of local government and a long record of environmental stewardship and community service. She previously served as a Teton County Commissioner from 2013-2017, finishing her tenure on the board as chair. Before that, Allen was appointed to six years on the town planning commission and was involved in all 6 years of the Comprehensive Plan. She served on the Wyoming County Commissioner's Association Legislative Bill Review Committee and was Co-chair of the State Land Use and Elections committee. She is a past Womentum mentor and past girl's softball coach and the past president of Jackson Hole Trout Unlimited.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

What is the right relationship between local town and county governments and the state? Specifically, how much independence should local governments have on issues like wildlife-friendly fencing or housing requirements, and how would you advance your perspective in Cheyenne?

MIKE YIN:

I want more local control for our municipalities. I think our problems can best be solved by those closest to the community, and the problems we have in our community are not always the same in Jackson as they are in Casper or in Gillette. By increasing the number of tools in the toolbox for municipalities, we can best address the concerns of those that we represent. In Cheyenne, this will mean sitting down with legislators and other communities to understand their needs and communicate our needs so we can all achieve the goals for our specific communities with new options. It also means fighting against bills that hurt that local control (like the one in the last session that almost took away our ability to enact housing mitigation requirements).

BARBARA ALLEN:

I believe that government closest to the people governs best and that local governments best reflect the needs of their constituents particularly in a state as spread out as ours. As it relates to the

wildlife friendly fencing question, I was an advocate for wildlife friendly fencing while on the Teton County Commission and believe that recognizing the differences between residential fencing and ag fencing is important as is working in a spirit of cooperation to get the best end results in the ranching community. There are many of our land stewards who have been very sensitive to this issue.

I believe that the best way to advocate a perspective in Cheyenne is by partnering with organizations and people who have strong backgrounds and experience in the respective subject matter.

HOUSE DISTRICT 22:

Please introduce yourself.

Who are you, and what would be your top three priorities if elected?

MARTI HALVERSON:

I am Marti Halverson and I am seeking re-election to House District 22. I live in Lincoln County, but represent precincts in Teton County, Sublette County as well.

My top three priorities:

1. Continue the desperately-needed funding restorations to our mental health and substance abuse treatment providers. Seven years ago, Governor Mead ordered deep cuts to these programs. It has taken several years, but we managed to first, lessen the cuts, then, bring spending levels close to where they need to be. Still more work to do before every Wyoming resident has access to the crisis and long-term care they need.

2. Finish the reforms to the state's asset seizure and forfeiture laws. Governor Mead vetoed our first reform bill. He and his Attorney General came back with a much weaker reform bill which needs more work to bring it to where we - Wyoming citizens and travelers through our state - need it to be. [*Read more to this answer online...](#)

JIM ROSCOE:

Hello I'm Jim Roscoe. I came to Wilson when I was 19, when the population sign on the edge of town said "36". I worked as a carpenter & and as a ski patrol during the winters. I began Roscoe Company construction which is still in business today in both Teton and Sublette Counties. I was fortunate to be able to raise two sons, Will & Wyatt, in this fantastic corner of WY. We

spent their youth climbing & kayaking. In 1993 I bought a remote ranch in Sublette County to escape the Teton County crowd and put a conservation easement on it, before it was profitable or fashionable to do so.

I served in the Wyoming House of Representatives for two terms from 2008 till 2012. I decided not to run again so I could concentrate on my business in order to get my sons through college and support my two crews.

[*Read more to this answer online...](#)

What is the right relationship between local town and county governments and the state? Specifically, how much independence should local governments have on issues like wildlife-friendly fencing or housing requirements, and how would you advance your perspective in Cheyenne?

MARTI HALVERSON:

The "right" relationship is, generally, whatever the town and county want it to be, not what the state wants it to be. This is a local control question and I support most governance taking place in the towns, then the counties. Wyoming has very few pre-emption laws on the books, and I have worked to keep it that way. Local fencing and housing requirements? Not a state issue.

That being said, this puts towns and counties on the front lines of protecting the private property rights of their residents. The right to use and enjoy one's private property is foundational. Local authorities must carefully consider the impacts of their actions on private property.

HOUSE DISTRICT 23:

Please introduce yourself.

Who are you, and what would be your top three priorities if elected?

ANDY SCHWARTZ:

I am Andy Schwartz. I have lived in Jackson for over 40 years, starting out as a worker/ski bum. With my wife I raised 2 children here and owned local retail businesses for 30 years. For the last four years I have represented HD23 for Teton County. Prior to that I served 12 years as a County Commissioner and 2 years on the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council.

My priorities for the next 2 years are:

As a member of the Joint Appropriations Committee my first responsibility is overseeing the State budget. As part of that task I am working to simplify the budget process, the allocation of revenue streams and the fiscal reporting so that the public (and the Legislature) will have a clearer understanding of how and why our money is being spent.

Wyoming has relied on mineral extraction (coal, gas and oil but also trona uranium etc.) as the primary source of revenue.

**Read more to this answer online...*

ALEX MUROMCEW:

I'm an investor, community supporter, and philanthropist living in South Park with my wife and 4 children – a 17 year old son and 14 year old triplet daughters. Professionally, I have worked in global finance for over 25 years. Most recently, I managed over \$2b in retirement funds for TIAA, a non-profit financial services firm that serves teachers, firefighters and other non-profit professionals. I serve on the boards of the Jackson Hole Land Trust and Silicon Couloir, and am a volunteer ski patroller at Snow King. I also am on an advisory board for the Teton Regional Land Trust, and my family and I have been long time supporters of Sheriff's Meadow (a local land trust) on Martha's Vineyard. I was raised in Washington, DC and have a BA from Dartmouth College and an MBA from Stanford University. I have lived on both coasts and in Tokyo but am happy to call Jackson my home.

What is the right relationship between local town and county governments and the state? Specifically, how much independence should local governments have on issues like wildlife-friendly fencing or housing requirements, and how would you advance your perspective in Cheyenne?

ANDY SCHWARTZ:

I have been a consistent advocate for local government during my 4 years in the legislature and the bills I have sponsored reflect that position. I have also worked closely with WAM and WCCA to promote their positions, particularly on the funding model for local governments. In the last session, working with Rep Gierau,

we were able to prevent bills related to wildlife friendly fencing and exactions for affordable housing from being passed. Moving forward, I fully expect to see other attempts to constrain the authority of local governments and I will oppose such efforts. I will also work with the representatives of local government to help them have a better understanding of the legislative process and the realistic expectations they can have for outcomes in Cheyenne.

ALEX MUROMCEW:

I strongly believe that for local issues, authority should be delegated to local government who understand the issues the best. One of my goals in Cheyenne will be to whenever possible include language in legislation that shifts more power to county government from the state. In terms of housing, I think the issues are so large, however, that counties will need state assistance in developing solutions.

SENATE DISTRICT 17:

Please introduce yourself.

Who are you, and what would be your top three priorities if elected?

MIKE GIERAU:

I served for four years on the Jackson Town Council and six years as a Teton County Commissioner. I have been fortunate enough to be a business owner here in Jackson Hole for 37 years. These experiences have given me a good overall perspective on the issues that our community faces. However, marrying my wife Paty almost five years ago and raising two children together has given me the chance to see Jackson and Wyoming through new eyes.

Having a family has given me an even deeper appreciation for life in Teton County. My family has also reaffirmed my belief in the importance of good government and civility. This is why I hope to bring common sense and our community's values to Cheyenne.

I know that the bedrock of this community is the environment around us. While this is a local election, in a county that is a national treasure, our local issues can - and do - affect the nation.

**Read more to this answer online...*

JIM ROSCOE:

Under the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, all powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the states and the people. For the most part I feel decisions are best made close to home. Cooperation between counties & state agencies such as The WY Game & Fish and WYDOT is beneficial to both because those state agencies have a lot of expertise in their respective areas. Additionally, cooperative ventures between county and state agencies help shoulder the cost while benefitting local roads, wildlife and ecotourism. There was a resurgence of renewed energy and autonomy in state and local governments beginning the 1990's. This rebirth of local control helped to fulfill the expectation that local government are 'laboratories for democracy': closer to the people and small enough to experiment with new and innovative practices. I support this belief. There are obvious differences in attitudes in the different counties in WY.

**Read more to this answer online...*

What is the right relationship between local town and county governments and the state? Specifically, how much independence should local governments have on issues like wildlife-friendly fencing or housing requirements, and how would you advance your perspective in Cheyenne?

MIKE GIERAU:

As for the relationship between the Town, County, and State we must build better relationships.

The State can benefit from lessons we have learned in the tourism industry. We can be well served by building on the values we share. Our mutual love for the land and open spaces.

The State should look upon our efforts with Wildlife/ human interface with same open minded attitude they have in other areas. The Housing and Wildlife Fencing Bills last session were a product of misunderstanding and miscommunication. I'm running for the Wyoming State Senate to help bridge that gap. Together we have forged relationships on both sides of the isle that I'm proud of and want to continue.

With your support I will be honored to continue that service.

SAMPLE BALLOT

The previous pages will help inform your vote on some candidates and ballot measures, but that is not all you will find on your ballot. We encourage you to take a peek at a sample ballot for **your** precinct and do your own research on those candidates and issues not highlighted here before you cast your ballot.

Below, you will see a sample ballot for Precinct 01-08, which is in town. Find a sample ballot for your precinct on the Teton County Clerk's page: TETONCOUNTYWY.GOV/1713/2018-GENERAL-SAMPLE-BALLOTS.

And remember to flip your ballot and vote FOR the Teton Conservation District!

SAMPLE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

TETON COUNTY, STATE OF WYOMING 01-08 East Jackson
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER:

- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, completely DARKEN THE OVAL immediately to the left of the person for whom you desire to vote for.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, WRITE IN THE NAME in the blank space provided for write-ins and DARKEN THE OVAL immediately to the left of the person's name.
- If you make an error, return your ballot to a precinct official and obtain a new one.
- Use a black ball point pen only.

FEDERAL	STATE	COUNTY
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> GREG HUNTER DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> LIZ CHENEY REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> RICHARD BRUBAKER LIBERTARIAN <input type="radio"/> DANIEL CLYDE CUMMINGS CONSTITUTION <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	STATE AUDITOR 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> JEFF DOCKTER DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> KRISTI RACINES REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	COUNTY COMMISSIONER 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 <input type="radio"/> MARK NEWCOMB DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> LUTHER PROBST DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> SEADAR ROSE DAVIS DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> ANDREW P. BYRON REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> MARY M. MARTIN REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> MARK BARRON REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> WES GARDNER INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/> SANDY RESS INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
UNITED STATES SENATOR 6 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> GARY TRAUNER DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> JOHN BARRASSO REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> JOSEPH PORAMBO LIBERTARIAN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	STATE TREASURER 2 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> CHRIS LOWRY DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> CURT MEIER REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	COUNTY CORONER 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> BRENT "DOC" BLUE DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
GOVERNOR 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> MARY A. THRONE DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> MARK GORDON REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> LAWRENCE GERARD STRUEMPF LIBERTARIAN <input type="radio"/> REX "T-REX" RAMMEL L CONSTITUTION <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	STATE SENATOR SENATE DISTRICT 17 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> MIKE GIERAU DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> KATE MEAD REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	COUNTY ATTORNEY 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> ERIN WEISMAN DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
SECRETARY OF STATE 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> JAMES W. BYRD DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> EDWARD BUCHANAN REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> KIT CARSON II LIBERTARIAN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	STATE REPRESENTATIVE HOUSE DISTRICT 18 2 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> MIKE YIN DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> BARBARA ALLEN REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	COUNTY SHERIFF 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> MATT CARR DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/> MICHELLE A. WEBER REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/> SLADE ROSS INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
TURN OVER TO CONTINUE VOTING		
01-08 East Jackson	Typ01 Seq:0008 Spl:01	01-08

NON-PARTISAN	NON-PARTISAN
TOWN COUNCIL TOWN OF JACKSON 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2 <input type="radio"/> JESSICA SELL CHAMBERS <input type="radio"/> DONALD FRANK <input type="radio"/> ARNE OLAVS JORGENSEN <input type="radio"/> JONATHAN SCHECHTER <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR RURAL 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 <input type="radio"/> STEVE McDONALD <input type="radio"/> BOB LUCAS <input type="radio"/> DAVID C. ADAMS <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
TETON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 TRUSTEE 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 <input type="radio"/> KEITH GINGERY <input type="radio"/> NANCY PORTHAN <input type="radio"/> JANINE BAY TESKE <input type="radio"/> HOLLY H. BALOGH <input type="radio"/> ALAN BRUMSTED <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ATLARGE 8 YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM VOTE FOR ONE <input type="radio"/> NATE FULLER <input type="radio"/> PIETRO CASTELLI <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL DISTRICT TRUSTEE 4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 4 <input type="radio"/> CHRISTOPHER P. SCHROEDER <input type="radio"/> GEOFF SKENE <input type="radio"/> MICHAEL TENNICAN <input type="radio"/> JOE ALBRIGHT <input type="radio"/> LINDA AURELIO <input type="radio"/> JOSHUA D. BECK <input type="radio"/> KYLE BURSON <input type="radio"/> SUSAN CROSSER <input type="radio"/> JOYCE FRYE <input type="radio"/> ELIZABETH MASEK <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TAX Shall the Teton Conservation District continue to be funded for the next four years by collecting the Conservation District Tax for the purpose of providing soil, water, wildlife, and other conservation programs as directed by the locally elected Teton Conservation District Board of Supervisors not to exceed (1) mill on each one dollar (\$1.00) of assessed valuation on all property within Teton County? <input type="radio"/> FOR THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TAX <input type="radio"/> AGAINST THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TAX
	PROPOSED LODGING TAX Shall Teton County, Wyoming be authorized to continue to collect a two percent (2%) lodging tax to be used in the following manner: Sixty percent (60%) for local travel and tourism promotion; thirty percent (30%) for visitor impact services, which includes, but is not limited to, provision of vehicle parking, public transportation, public restrooms, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, museums and other displays and public safety; and ten percent (10%) to the general funds of Teton County and the Town of Jackson? <input type="radio"/> FOR THE COUNTY LODGING TAX <input type="radio"/> AGAINST THE COUNTY LODGING TAX
END OF BALLOT	

LODGING TAX: SHOULD THE VOTERS RE-AUTHORIZE THE LODGING TAX? WHY OR WHY NOT?

NO

By Bill Phelps

The lodging tax spends tax funds to promote more tourists. Tourist growth rates internationally are over 6%. Jackson Hole's visitation growth rate is closer to 9%. Six million visitors per year are in our very near future. Tourist destinations around the world are being irreversibly degraded by over-tourism. Hotels are lining up to build here in spite of six pages of help wanted ads and no worker housing.

We are in the crosshairs of an exploding tourism market. Tax subsidized promotion? If the lodging tax is renewed, four years lost and 15 million tax dollars for promotion will be the knock out blow for Jackson Hole. Now is the last call. We vote Jackson Hole's future Nov. 6.

Promotion advocates who benefit from the status quo offer distractions. A tax you don't pay? Tourists pay the lodging tax, we all pay the costs of promotion. The irreversible impacts to lifestyle, community, traffic, social services, wildlife, wildness and the lost opportunity to spend wasted promotion dollars on compounding impacts are costs we do pay.

Distractions about EMS, START, Pathways and events are overblown. The 40% is about 2% of town and county budgets. These needs can easily be funded while the lodging tax is changed. Winter depends on snow, not advertising. Fall and Spring are filling with spillover from sold out summers. The 60% promotion now super charged with internet power is the issue.

We can only support a lodging tax if 100% goes to local needs including tourism services and impacts - No promotion.

We must reject the promotion lodging tax to change it. If we renew it, we send the wrong message to Wyoming Legislators. Why would they change a law that voters just passed? Only if we reject it, we will motivate politicians to change it. Vote No.

Bill Phelps is the chairman of the Enough is Enough political action committee, a group of local citizens committed to saving Jackson Hole from the effects of out-of-control growth in tourism. He has been opposing lodging tax funded promotion for 30 years.

YES

By Tim Harland

Yes. A vote for renewal of the Lodging Tax means that visitors will continue to pay to mitigate their impacts on our community. Visitors pay and the community benefits in the way of resources for infrastructure to address visitor impacts and funding for emergency services, parks and recreation, youth sports, community events and other local priorities. The Lodging Tax is the only tool Teton County has right now that ensures visitors are paying for their impact on local services.

Last year alone the Lodging Tax generated over \$7.3 million in funds for our community. Over \$2.9 million of that was used to fund Town and County services including Fire/EMS, the Police Department, START Bus, parks and pathways. \$2.6 million was used for community events, promoting sustainability, visitor services and a host of other programs that support our communities and businesses. This money is used to support shared community value items like sustainability, arts, culture and events like the Eco-Fair, Old West Days, Ultimate Towner, World Championship Snowmobile Hill Climb, Special Olympics Winter Games and the Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium.

Only 24% of the funds generated by the Lodging Tax are used for targeted marketing for Fall, Winter and Spring ONLY. No Lodging Tax dollars can be used to promote summer visitation. Period. Instead, the funds are used to support a thriving fall, winter and spring economy that preserves our natural capital and enhances the well-being of our community.

The bottom line is this: Teton County can't afford to lose the lodging tax. Nobody likes taxes, but worse is having no solution to mitigate visitor impacts. If we don't vote to renew the lodging tax, we won't have less visitors in Teton County, we will just have less tools and resources to manage their impact.

Tim Harland is a 25-year resident of Teton County, a volunteer firefighter, engaged Rotarian, and currently chairs the Lodging Tax PAC Residents for a Sustainable Community.

HOW CAN YOU VOTE CONSERVATION THIS ELECTION CYCLE?

1

COMMIT TO VOTE LOCAL!

Our local elected representatives have enormous power to shape the future of our wildlife, wild places, and community character. Register and commit to vote in Teton County (it's easy – learn how on our website, www.jhalliance.org/voteconservation) and vote in all the local races, not just the national elections.

2

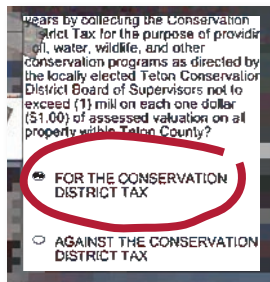
FIND OUT WHERE CANDIDATES STAND ON CONSERVATION ISSUES.

Read their answers in this Voters' Guide, talk with candidates, and vote for the ones that best reflect your conservation priorities. The Alliance doesn't endorse or oppose candidates, or rate candidates on who is most favorable to our issues; instead, we want you to have impartial and nonpartisan information so you can cast a better-informed vote.

3

VOTE FOR THE TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT!

Through history and for many today, living in the West means living off the land. When we do it right, we make way for successful agriculture while maintaining resources and protecting ecosystems. When we do it wrong, it's not good for the land or for us. Back in the 1930s, years of unsustainable practices came to a head as the Dust Bowl swept the country and destroyed landscapes and livelihoods. This led to a national wake-up call – Congress and states created a system of conservation



districts to ensure effective resource stewardship, including the Teton Conservation District (TCD). The community may look different today, but TCD continues to work with local landowners, land managers, and the community to ensure effective stewardship and conservation of the precious land, water, and resources that make up the Greater Yellowstone-Teton ecosystem.

Every 4 years, our community gets to re-authorize the Conservation District Tax to fund this important work by voting on a ballot measure. The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Board of Directors and staff have enthusiastically endorsed voting FOR reauthorization.

So, when you cast your ballot on November 6 (or before!), don't forget to flip it over and fill in the bubble in support of the Conservation District.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.JHALLIANCE.ORG/VOTECONSERVATION