

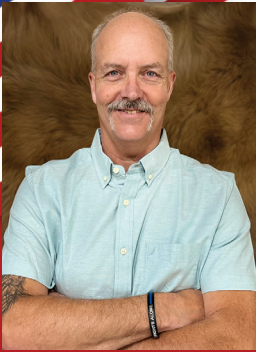
GENERAL
ELECTION
GUIDE
2024

The Anaconda
Leader



Anaconda Deer Lodge County Voter Guide

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RETHINK EVERETT WHERE ARE YOUR TAX DOLLARS

One thing is for sure;
Your property taxes
have increased
almost every year
Bill has been in
office.

ISSUES TO PONDER

? FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY	- Financial transparency of government and non-profits require audits. Has an third party audit been done on ADLC finances in the past five years? - What is the result of the audits and has the commission approved them? - Was the CFO position created by proper amendment to the ADLC Administration code? What role does this person play? - Why did a county commissioner take the chief Financial Officers job and leave it almost immediately? Where are our taxes going?
? GRANT SPENDING	The county received over six million dollars in America Recovery Act Funds. Was the proper procedure followed to spend those dollars? Was a local committee formed to give input? Were the commissioners fully informed on their expenditure? What was it used for?
? ENTERPRISE FUNDS	Water, sewer, lighting and solid waste are enterprise funds-have they been built up for maintenance and replacement? - How much money is in each reserve fund today in comparison to five years go? - How have all government reserves been spent over the past five years? - Have enterprise funds been allocated to things that didn't line up with what was billed to property owners?
? GRANT SPENDING	- State funds were available to rebuild the Anaconda Deer Lodge County communication system. Why were those funds rejected and why isn't ADLC on the statewide communication system? - We have a great new splash park. Where did the money come from to purchase it? What was the cost overrun and how much will taxpayers have to pay a year to maintain it? Was there consideration to enclose the current swimming pool.
? STAFF MANAGEMENT	It often seems we are losing quality personnel in our county, in the Fire Department, Law Enforcement, Clerk and Recorder office etc... Have we just become training grounds for other counties and agencies, even after pay raises county employees say they are just tired of how things are managed. What is Bill going to do to change that?
? HOUSING	We have an affordable housing crisis in the community. We have developers who will not build in Deer Lodge County because of certain county officials. Why is that? How has money granted for housing in ADLC been spent? The county has invested large amounts of money extending infrastructure to new subdivisions. Have those developers reimbursed the county as the lots have been developed? It seems Bill is making private developers rich and we are not getting affordable housing?!?
? EMERGENCY SERVICES	Why has the cost to expand the fire department building risen so high and why were the plans not acted on seven & a half years ago when financing would have been much less costly? Why didn't Mr. Everett complete the fire hall project when he took office. It appears as if he was planning to create a volunteer Fire Department and now people living the Anaconda Fire District are faced with a 4.7 million dollar bond issue when the fire hall could have been completed before skyrocketing prices and within the existing budget at the time.
? DEVELOPMENT	- It's clear that new the intersection near Murdoch's and Barclay II is a problem... Why haven't we fixed it? Are we waiting until someone gets hurt? - Why has the county spent so much money attracting business to East Anaconda that seem duplicative? Some of these businesses have hurt existing businesses and our downtown, this indirectly affects other businesses as a result.
? HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT	- What does the county plan to do about the neighborhoods that have been bought by slum lords who now charge high rents yet do not put money into upkeep? - Why did Mr. Everett or his staff tell West Valley residents they did not have to hook up to county infrastructure when the project was for health and safety to protect drinking water? What happened to the CDBG grant funds to help low income folk hook up to the West Valley Sewer and the NSP funds to assist low income housing construction projects?
? CONFLICT OF INTEREST	- It's a conflict of interest if the County CEO is financially established in a business that includes acquiring land and may be going through county processes! - Is the current CEO personally involved in any of the new developments? - Mr. Everett claims to be a deal maker and/or a developer but the basis of local government is to provide services. Mr. Everett claims to be a money guy. Please explain these financial questions to We The People.

Vote Greg Bahr for CEO
I will bring honesty, integrity and fairness to the office of CEO.

ADLC Commission District 3



Kevin A. Hart

Age: 62 years old

Residency (how long in Anaconda):

Born & raised in Anaconda, 4th generation resident of Anaconda and the last 31 consecutive years in Commission District #3

Occupation: Current ADLC Commissioner for District #3; Current Supervisor for Montana Correctional Enterprises at Montana State Prison; Former Housing unit Sergeant at Montana State Prison for 16 years; Former ADLC Justice of the Peace and deputy County Coroner; Former Licensed Mortician in Montana and Arizona having worked at Longfellow-Finnegan and KT Riddle Funeral Homes.

Family: Wife of 37 years: Stacey Guindon Hart (4th generation Anaconda native); Two sons and their families: Eric Hart with 3 children, Emma, Alayna & Joe; Devin & Ashley Hart with 6 children, Cassidy, Michael, Tayton, Caliber, Bryler & Oaklen

Education: Graduated from Anaconda High School in 1980. Graduated from San Francisco College of Mortuary Science 1981. Two years at Montana Tech. Received Montana State Morticians license in 1984. Advanced Coroner training 1997. Received Commissioner Certification from the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) in 2013

Military service: None

Previous Community Service/ political office: I have served the people of Anaconda in all three branches of government: Executive, Legislative

and Judicial; Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Justice of the Peace 1995 to 2003; Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Deputy Coroner 1997; ADLC Study Commission 2005 & 2015; Served on the ADLC Police Commission from 2007 to 2013. Former State Registered Process/levying Officer; Appointed by Gov. Racicot to the Interim Court Funding and Structure committee in 1999 that resulted in the State funding of District courts and public Defenders program; Current member of the ADLC Parks & Recreation board and Economic Development board.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission, and what is your vision for both your district and for ADLC over the next four years and beyond?

I am serving my twelfth year as ADLC Commissioner for District #3, and I have been very dedicated to this position that the residents have entrusted me with. I have gained a wealth of knowledge about government, especially the ADLC Charter form of government. I am keenly aware of the issues facing Anaconda from Economic Development, streets, and capital improvements to our county buildings, infrastructure and blight. All of these issues are being dealt with on an ongoing basis and they will continue to be well into the future. My heart and soul is vested in Anaconda's success, and I have no ulterior motives or hidden agendas except to see Anaconda prosper. I have stated since first being elected to the Commission that I believe Anaconda's future is bright, and I want to continue being that voice for you in making this happen. We will continue to pursue all viable business ventures that want Anaconda to be their home. In Anaconda's best days, our population was much higher, so we know that we can sustain the growth of our community. Infrastructure will remain a top priority for me, because as we continue to make improvements to our community, positive growth and tourism will continue as well. We need to continue our street, water & sewer improvements that have to be done a little at a time. There have already been a lot of new businesses that have come to ADLC, and some

existing business that are ready to expand. With an increase in tourism and area recreation, our business community will benefit greatly. When our business do well, that means more jobs. We must promote ADLC, not just regionally, but statewide and nationally.

Question 2: One issue that continues to come up amidst ADLC's growth is housing. How will you work with other elected officials and agencies at all levels of government, as well as developers, businesses and the community, to develop a plan to address our community's housing needs?

I feel that I have an exceptional working relationship with the Commission, the CEO, all of the department heads and all of the ADLC employees based on a mutual respect for them as a person and the job they have. That working relationship is most evident by what we, as a government, have accomplished over the past decade. No county employee works alone, we

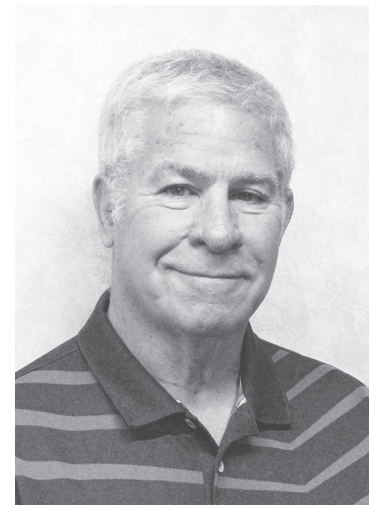
are a team providing a service to the residents. However, there are some boundaries as established in State Law, our Charter and Administrative Code, and these boundaries are actually what makes our government work so well. No Commissioner can tell any ADLC employee what they need to do, they are under the Executive branch of the government and as such are supervised by the CEO. However, having a good working relationship with the Executive branch departments is paramount to ADLC's success. Communication with the department

See HART on page 4

Dave Galle

Dave Galle is running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission District 3. The Anaconda Leader did not receive a response to our questionnaire from this candidate.

ELECT EDWARD G "ED" BEAUDETTE DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER



Experienced

Independent

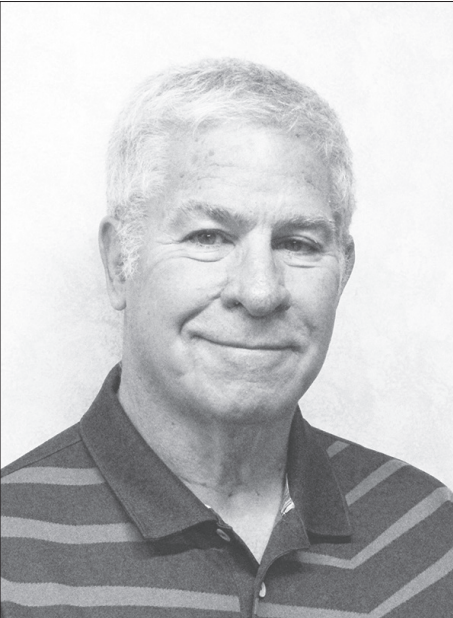
Qualified

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Paid for by Ed Beaudette for District 5 County Commissioner,
Ed Beaudette Treasurer

PO Box 1026 Anaconda, MT 59711

ADLC Commission District 5



Edward G. "Ed" Beaudette

Age: 71 years old
Length of residency in Anaconda: 71 years
Born and raised where: Anaconda, Montana
Occupation: Semi-retired Attorney
Family: Single; Maryanne Brugman,

Sister; Duane Brugman, Brother-in-law.

Education: Anaconda Central High School, 1971; University of Montana, BA 1976; University of Montana School of Law, JD 1980.

Military Service: None

Previous Political Offices Held: ADLC County Attorney 1993-96; ADLC District 5 Commissioner

Membership in Community Professional Organizations: Professional: Admitted to Practice District and Supreme Courts of Montana; Admitted to Practice Federal District Court; Admitted to Practice 9th Circuit Court of Appeals; Admitted to Practice U.S. Court of Claims; State Bar of Montana; MACO Roads and Planning Committees; Community: Copper Village Museum and Art Center (Past President 3 terms); Anaconda AOH Division No. 1; Old Works Golf Course Authority; BPOE Lodge 239; Past Memberships:

See BEAUDETTE on page 5



Con J. Malee

Age: 71
Length of residency in Anaconda: 46 years as a full-time resident
Born and raised where: April 21, 1953, Glendive, Montana
Occupation/Career: Thirty years of experience in a variety of

positions working for Montana Dakota Utilities, Montana Power Company, Energy West Resources, and Utility Services, Inc.; Auditor, State of Montana, Workers' Compensation Division; Vice president sales, Sterling Bank Services; President, Utilities Services Inc.; Vice president sales, Pacific Pharmacy Consultants; Small-business owner; Currently, managing partner, Anavista Group.

Family: Wife Susan, and four adult sons – Dale, Brian, Kevin, and Marcus – who live in Phoenix, Las Vegas, Bozeman, and Kalispell respectively with their families including our five grandchildren.

Education: Carroll College, Helena, Montana, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in economics, 1975. Additional course work: Boeing Computer Services, Harvard Business School; American

See MALEE on page 6

HART from page 3

heads is extremely important. I will continue to promote and encourage any housing development that will be a benefit to ADLC, and we currently have home being built in several developments. However, affordability is a different concern and that is directly related to the following question and answer. I will always support positive development for ADLC. The businesses in ADLC need the community to grow, because that growth means more customers to their business.

Question 3: Related to growth and housing is the issue of property taxes. Realizing that property tax rates are set by the state, what will your approach be to working with the executive branch in developing a plan for ADLC to lessen the impact of property taxes on residents and small business owners

over the coming years?

I find that the recent property reappraisals by the State of Montana is one of the biggest issues for not only the residents of Commission district #3, which I currently represent, but for the entire County and State. With the higher values came higher mortgage costs, cost of rent, and higher taxes. In ADLC the Charter directs that the CEO prepares the annual budget, presents that budget to the Commission for approval, and then the CEO executes the adopted budget. There is maximum mills (tax) set by State law that municipalities can assess and that dictates what their maximum budget can be. With responsible fiscal management ADLC has been able to treat our county employees fairly, while improving our infrastructure and paying off our debts. The best part is that this was done at the same time as CEO Everett was able to include a tax

break (reduction from the maximum tax) to taxpayers so that the State increase wasn't felt as bad as it could have been. This reduction has been done every year that CEO Everett has been in office, but this last year was the biggest cut. The Commission has routinely approved these responsible budgets. When the State did a reappraisal that caused home values to skyrocket, the did a great injustice to the people of Montana. It made mortgages skyrocket, rent to be unaffordable, and property taxes to grow to historic levels. Now, buying a home, or building a home has become unattainable for many. In addition, many landlords have mortgages on their rental properties, so they have been forced to increase the amount they charge for rent. Local governments, like ADLC, have been forced to operate with less tax dollars in order to mitigate the effects for their residents.

Question 4: Finally, as our legislative branch of government, the Commission is tasked with casting many routine votes but also some difficult votes that may not be popular either way the vote goes. Realizing every decision and issue is its own, describe how you will work

with the community and your fellow Commissioners to ensure that issues are resolved in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

Every vote of the Commission is important to someone in Anaconda. Some votes may only affect a few people, while other votes can be meaningful to a large number of citizens. I do not believe that any decision should be made based on "personal feelings". Rather, I believe that every decision a commissioner makes should be made based on the facts of the issue. Transparency is government is the best way to do business, and having open discussion at the commission work sessions and business meetings is very informative. Having the public comment on each item that the commission is considering is a foundation of our government. There have been many issues before the commission that I have personally known the people on both sides. My heart and soul is vested in Anaconda's success, and I have no ulterior motives or hidden agenda. We may not always agree, but my decisions will always be made with knowledge, integrity, honesty and most importantly experience for Anaconda's future.

Tom Lee
for
Study Commission

paid for by Tom Lee, 604 E 4th St, Anaconda, MT 59711

BEAUDETTE from page 4

Anaconda Kiwanis (Past President 2 terms); Anaconda “Speakeasys” Toastmasters Club (President 2 terms); AWARE, Inc. Board of Directors; Old Works Golf Course Authority (as originally constituted)

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission, and what skills do you bring to the table as Commissioner?

I am running for District 5 Commissioner to complete the term to which I was appointed. To follow through on the projects in which I have become involved and to work to solve new and existing issues facing our local government. Currently, these include the Urban Wildlife Taskforce, OW Authority Board, Mill Creek Road Project, West Valley Sewer Project, Volunteer Fire issues, etc.

During my professional life I have been a private practice attorney. As a result, I have had to learn to persuade, negotiate, and facilitate compromise for parties with diverse interests. I was also a member of the Arrowhead Foundation, Inc. which was the citizen precursor to the Old Works Golf Course Authority which initiated the concept of constructing a golf course as part of the Superfund remediation effort to create a new economic opportunity for ADLC.

As ADLC County Attorney, I represented the County in all civil and criminal matters. In particular the negotiations on behalf of ADLC in the initial stages of the Superfund clean-up effort. This included formally establishing the Anaconda Water Department, preserving Hearst Lake as a Class A Watershed, creating the initial Development Permit System and most other pressing governmental issue of the time.

I was a Staff Attorney for the Montana Department of Transportation. In that capacity, I was imbedded in the operation and function of a large governmental agency. I was involved in all phases of highway construction including environmental issues, planning, land acquisition and litigation, contract negotiation and claims, prevailing wage, fuel tax and MCS law enforcement. I also drafted and reviewed legislation, testified and lobbied on issues relevant to MDT’s business.

All of these past experiences have

given me a broad base of knowledge and understanding of governmental operations and administration of ADLC.

My vision for ADLC and District 5 is to work to continue the transformation of our hometown into a better place. Central to that is to ensure that decisions being made are based on sound planning and the needs of our citizens. For example, just as new development important to our future, it is essential that we work to maintain our downtown core and existing businesses that maintained our town through years of adversity.

I also believe that ADLC needs to work smarter to be more efficient by better organization and planning on major infrastructure issues. For example, I absolutely support the repair and maintenance of our roads and streets. However, this work needs to be planned and let to bid in a manner that allows for more efficient and economical work for bidding contractors. Similarly, any improvements should look to address the future needs of development. Most importantly, we need to finalize existing projects such as the West Valley Sewer Project and plan more for the development that is coming to the ADLC.

ADLC needs to address its budgetary issues. The 2023-24 budget resulted in a net loss of \$1,759,262.00. The projected budget for 2024-25 shows a net loss of \$4,446,140.00. We simply cannot go forward spending down our reserves and using accounting practices to hide the realities of our fiscal situation.

Question 2: Question 2: One issue that continues to come up amidst ADLC’s growth is housing. How will you work with other elected officials and agencies at all levels of government, as well as developers, businesses and the community, to develop a plan to address our community’s housing needs?

I think that we need to determine who in Anaconda have unmet housing needs and what they need to address the same. There appears to be relatively robust growth in higher-end housing as reflected by the development currently going on Pennsylvania Ave and between Pizzini Way and Goosetown Road. Similarly, there is quite a bit of development in the area west of Anaconda with several large tracts purchased for development.

For these situations, ADLC needs

to be clear and efficient in applying its development standards and the permitting process as well as providing private developers with appropriate governmental services. I have been working extensively on the completion of the West Valley Sewer connection project. Getting the existing unconnected parcels hooked up is a priority as our municipal water supply is in danger. Further, due to some issues with the current system ADLC needs to look at a new project to allow connection of existing and future homes on areas south of Highway 1.

Finally, Anaconda has a large amount of subsidized housing and we also have a significant amount of under-utilized existing housing that can and should be pursued for rehabilitation to provide for middle income folks and families starting out. ADLC can identify owners of these properties and work toward a reasonable development.

What we don’t need are long protracted battles between ADLC and a landowner and substantial employer who was trying to provide housing for his needed workers. That process was a huge waste of time, resources and energy that could have been used toward a constructive solution.

Question 3: Related to growth and housing is the issue of property taxes. Realizing that property tax rates are set by the state, what will your approach be to working with the executive branch in developing a plan for ADLC to lessen the impact of property taxes on residents and small business owners over the coming years?

While, it appears that property taxes will have to rise due to increased valuations and the failure of the Legislature to make customary adjustments to the rate of taxation allowable, ADLC is limited by the number of mills it is able to levy. The only practical solution is to work more efficiently with the funds available. In the year I have been on the Commission, I have seen many situations which were being approached in a poorly organized and inefficient manner. This must be addressed to allow ADLC to get more “bang for its buck” and still live within its means. ADLC has done a remarkable job in creating a larger tax base, particularly in the commercial/ industrial areas. However, there is a clear need to aggressively work to rehabilitate and revitalize our core

downtown and existing residential areas to more effectively and efficiently expand the tax base and spread the overall burden of necessary services over the widest possible base of taxpayers.

Question 4: Finally, as our legislative branch of government, the Commission is tasked with casting many routine votes but also some difficult votes that may not be popular either way the vote goes. Realizing every decision and issue is its own, describe how you will work with the community and your fellow Commissioners to ensure that issues are resolved in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

Yes, there are many mundane issues of governance that regularly need to be addressed and they are generally handled quickly and efficiently.

The issue is that all Commissioners need to be as well informed as possible on the issues so that decisions can be made in the best interests of everyone concerned. To make decisions that move the community as a whole forward. I have discovered that several initiatives established by the Commission have not been followed up on and some which have simply been ignored for a sufficiently long time to allow them to go by the wayside and essentially forgotten. This is not good governing policy and needs to be addressed. The Commission needs to be more actively involved in certain aspects of the day-to-day operations of the government (within the bounds of public disclosure) to avoid problems that have developed due to personality conflicts and real or perceived favoritisms or bias.

The Commission needs to be provided with information on these issues much earlier in the process and in some cases with more information provided. Currently, important issues come before the Commission with relatively short time and limited critical information necessary to make good informed decisions.

In making these types of decisions, there is hardly ever going to be unanimity amongst those affected. It is the responsibility of our elected officials to listen to all applicable commentary, be well informed on the scope and possible extent of the effect of decisions and primarily decide what is in the interests of the greatest good public and the least private injury under each circumstance.

MALEE from page 4

Management Association – executive training; PROSCI project management.

Military service, if any: None
Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations:

I have worked actively on many boards and committees dealing with economic development and growth as well as community enhancement including:

Member of the Montana Ambassadors, representing Montana products and services while soliciting economic development with the Montana governor;

Chairman of the ADLC Planning board reviewing and approving subdivisions at Georgetown Lake, west valley, and smaller subdivisions in the county;

Board member and chairman at Southwest Montana Community Federal Credit Union ;

Board member of Old Works Golf Course Authority Board and the Mill Creek TIFID Board;

Board member of AWARE Inc.; Forty-year member of the Anaconda AOH and the Anaconda Art Center and Museum;

Volunteer at the local food bank; Fifty-year member of the Anaconda Elks Club;

Thirty-year member of the Georgetown Lake Homeowners Association and the Rainbow Point Homeowners Association;

Initial president of the Anaconda Community Hospital Foundation;

Board member of the Carroll College Alumni Foundation;

Member of numerous Superfund advisory boards and committees.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission, and what is your vision for both your district and for ADLC over the next four years and beyond?

I am running for county commissioner because I believe I can help guide and encourage the positive and sustainable growth of our community like we have witnessed over the past several years. Since moving here in 1978, I have been passionate about wanting Anaconda to thrive. Yet, my wife and I had to commute out of town for decades to our jobs

and we saw our sons move away after high school seeking better career opportunities than what they could find locally. I am beyond happy to see so many young people move back here or never feel the need to leave because they see Anaconda becoming the place they want to live, play, and raise their families. I believe that my extensive experience in the economic development arena, specifically as it relates to Superfund, and my previous experience soliciting new business to Montana has provided me with a solid foundation to encourage and support ADLC's growth for years to come. One specific issue I have researched extensively and worked on with local county and industry leaders is to develop projects on Superfund contaminated acreage increasing our tax base (and potentially reducing property taxes) while taking advantage of non-productive land.

Question 2: How will you work with other elected officials and agencies at all levels of government, as well as developers, businesses and the community to develop a plan to address our community housing needs?

Resolving the housing crisis, which is a national problem as well as a local one, will take a multi-faceted, many-year approach. I believe we need to make it a top priority and escalate creation of a plan that considers the best practices from other cities across the country. The solution may or may not include developing a future subdivision that combines entry-level housing, town houses or smaller starter homes giving homeowners a chance to afford a home while building equity. It may also include opening doors for federal or state assistance and providing education for potential homeowners. It also could look for ways to build some multi-family dwellings or small apartments as well to rebuild existing neglected housing stock. Options are available, but they will take time and considerable work among the county, potential developers, and existing residents. I am willing to put in the work needed to address this severe problem.

Question 3: Realizing that property tax rates are set by the state, what will your approach be in working with the executive branch in developing a plan for ADLC to lessen the impact of property taxes on residents and small business owners over the coming years?

Rising property taxes are not just a problem for Anaconda Deer Lodge County but for all of Montana residential taxpayers. I am confident the issues will be addressed during Montana's next legislative session, and I will support any efforts by our county to ensure your concerns are heard during this review. Meanwhile, we must do our part to control our county expenses. A portion of our property taxes go to the state while the remainder is earmarked for schools and ADLC expenses. As we establish budgets for county property tax revenues, we must be vigilant with the county funds ensuring all county departments receive the financial support they need to operate in keeping with their goals and objectives. In the long term, I believe we must work to increase our tax base by soliciting and encouraging new light industrial and commercial businesses to locate in our county. Adding to our tax base through the addition of such taxpayers is key to reducing or at least maintaining our levels of taxable value in the county. As such, we must continue to pursue aggressively bringing these businesses to our county adding not only to the tax base but also to living-wage job opportunities.

Question 4: Realizing every decision and issue is its own, describe how you will work with

the community and our fellow commissioners to ensure that issues are resolved in a fair, equitable and transparent manner?

I believe in honest communication founded on transparency, trust, and respect for all stakeholders – whether they be a resident or a county employee. People know me as a person of integrity, a hard worker and an adept problem solver. I have experience in listening to all sides of an issue to determine and clarify it and then to work with all parties to arrive at and carry out a solution. I also believe in verifying hearsay or gossip to identify the root cause of the topic, before acting or reacting to it.

ADLC Commission Districts 1 & 2

Mike Beausoleil

Mike Beausoleil is running unopposed for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County District 1 Commissioner. The Anaconda Leader did not receive a response to our questionnaire from this candidate.

Steve Gates

Steve Gates is running unopposed for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County District 2 Commissioner. The Anaconda Leader did not receive a response to our questionnaire from this candidate.



Chief of Law Enforcement



Bill Sather

Age: 60

Length of Residency in Anaconda: 58 years

Born and Raised where: Born in Missoula, raised in Anaconda

Occupation: Chief of Police

Family: Parents Floyd and Linda, Brother Doug and wife Jesse, nephew Jake

Education: Attended MT tech and Western Montana College, I have Basic, Intermediate and Advance Certificates and over 1300 hours of accredited training.

Military service: Eight yrs Naval reserve

Previous offices held: Previous school board member, Chief of Police last four years, member of Montana Sheriffs and Peace officer Association

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Chief of Law Enforcement?

I have been a police officer in my hometown of Anaconda for almost 32 years, which is more than half of my life. I still wake up almost everyday looking forward to go to work. I love this town and love my job protecting and serving you. I still work nights, weekends and holidays without any extra pay because I really enjoy getting out there with the younger officers and talking to the citizens of Anaconda. In the past four years as Chief we have accomplished numerous things and gotten new equipment such vests, body cams and tazers, but there is always more to do. You

deserve a Chief that has a proven track record for getting things done, not a politician. I am someone you know, trust and always looking for you and will always do what's best for Deer Lodge County.

Question 2: Illegal drugs continue to be an epidemic in ADLC, and these drugs are often a factor in other types of crime. How will you work with the community to help address this epidemic?

Illegal drugs are not just a local problem, every town in America is facing this epidemic. Our entire department is 100% focused on curbing drug activity, especially the patrol officers. As Chief, I can only do so much but my priority has been to get them the tools and training to allow them to succeed in identifying and arresting individuals dealing or possessing dangerous drugs. In my tenure as Chief I have gotten our department a drug sniffing K-9 which has led to several arrests. We have purchased the Detago computer software program which basically clones arrested individuals cell phones which leads to evidence against them and ties other dealers to our investigations and Secure Warrant software, which speeds up the process of getting search warrants. In the past it would take several hours to obtain a warrant but now officers can do them in the field in less than an hour. I would like to get the position of drug detective back to pursue active drug cases. We once belonged to the Southwest Drug Task Force which cost us \$10,000 per year, but I got us out of it because they only came Anaconda to talk to people we arrested and asked them who they could buy drugs from in Butte. Our officers can do better work here. Since 2023 to the present our officer have made 191 drug related arrests which averages out to two a week. As for working with the community we definitely can't do this without you help. PLEASE, if you see something say something. Afterall we live here too and want our families to be safe.

Question 3: Going along with that, mental health is often a co-occurring

See SATHER on page 8



Kyle Staley

Age: 44

Length of Residency: 17 yrs.

Born and Raised: I was born in Minnesota, raised in Puyallup, WA and later in Hamilton, MT

Occupation: Lt. Detective with Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Law Enforcement

Family: Geri Staley(wife), children: Maverick, Annabelle, Layne, and Scout

Education: I hold Basic, Advanced, Intermediate, Supervisory, and Instructor certificates with the Public Safety Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T). I also have 1,113 hours of training in various subjects like: Crime scene processing, Drug Interdiction, Taser Instructor, Enhanced Tactical Medicine, Field Training Officer, and Instructor Development. I have been to the Law Enforcement Basic as well as the Detention /Corrections Basic.

Military Service: I served in the U.S. Army from 1998 to 2006. I served a 1-year deployment to Iraq in 2003 and was stationed just outside of Fallujah with the 1st Infantry Division which was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. I was awarded many awards and citations including the Combat Action Badge for being actively engaged in enemy combat.

Previous Political offices held and/or memberships in community / professional organizations: I have been a member of the Anaconda Police Protective Association for almost 17 years. Although

I am currently not part of any community organizations, I spend a lot of my free time volunteering to coach youth sports. I have also built floats for Anaconda Golden Gloves Boxing and The Anaconda Aislings for many years giving kids an opportunity to participate in parades.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Chief of Law Enforcement?

I love the community of Anaconda and the ADLC Law Enforcement Department. I take considerable pride in knowing that I take part in trying to create and maintain the best environment for the community. I am running because I want to make a positive change within the department and the community. I am a proactive leader who is committed to rebuilding trust within the community by creating an environment of transparency, accountability, honesty, and integrity. The relationship between the community and the department is crucial as it builds trust between the officers and community, which will lead to more effective crime prevention and resolution. I want to ensure that I am available and present for the department as well as the community to address any questions, concerns, or complaints to help build this relationship. From the very start of my career, I have been in leadership roles as shift commander, sergeant, lieutenant, field training officer, and training officer for the department. Through my training and experience, I have a vast knowledge and understanding of all law enforcement principles including investigative techniques, legal procedures, advanced technology, and community relations. I want to ensure our officers have the right equipment to do their job safely, effectively, and efficiently. It has been a common practice to purchase equipment without consulting with the officers, which often results in equipment that is ineffective or goes unused. The officers know what they need and have often researched and

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SATHER from page 7

issue with addiction. How will you work with mental health agencies and the community to get people in crisis the help they need?

This is a tough one. We are dealing with people who have mental health issues daily and trying to get these folks the help they need is not only a struggle for them and their families but for the police department also. The state hospital is full, our jails across the state are full and the agencies that help them are understaffed and over worked.

Currently, we have no provider that can come talk to these individuals that are in an immediate crisis after hours. They only work Monday-Friday 8-5. Our jail is not accredited to hold mentally ill patients and if we cannot get them into the state hospital they fall through the cracks. I wish I had all the answers. It seems the most vulnerable in our society get the least amount of help.

Question 4: Finally, as Anaconda has grown, so too has our traffic and road safety issues along with that.

What can law enforcement do to help curb the traffic safety issues that we are seeing more and more of?

Our community has grown and traffic has definitely increased. Our officers are out there trying to slow drivers down especially on West Park street and writing citations. I personally patrol around the schools daily during the times kids are being dropped off. On Halloween, myself and officers park in the middle of West Park with our top lights on to intentionally slow drivers down while most small children are trick or treating on the west end of town.



STALEY from page 7

tested various equipment, resulting in a vast knowledge of what works best. We need to avoid buying subpar equipment just to save a few dollars, especially when it comes to officers' personal protective equipment.

Question 2: Illegal drugs continue to be an epidemic in ADLC, and these drugs are often a factor in other types of crime. How will you work with the community to help address this epidemic?

I have been attending meetings with the Smelter City Prevention Project, which has been very proactive in educating the youth on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Anaconda needs more educational initiatives and positive interactions with the youth, and I intend on involving our police force in these efforts. I believe having a more approachable police presence will encourage our kids to ask questions and engage with our police force. As I have said before, in combatting the drug epidemic you need to be continuously working with outside agencies. Bridging the gap, building, and maintaining those relationships is vital in tackling and confronting the drug source within our community. Rejoining the Drug Task Force will open the door to begin sharing intelligence about drugs coming into our community. Our officers do an excellent job of removing drugs from our streets and overseeing the evidence room has shown me just how effective they are. However, when we trace the origins of these drugs, we often find they come from outside our county, which is where the Drug Task Force can play a crucial role.

The most common crime associated with drug use is theft. I have plans to begin a voluntary Neighborhood Watch Camera Co-op. This voluntary program, initiated by law enforcement, would aim to monitor security cameras such as Ring or Blink cameras in neighborhoods. If a theft or other crime take place, we would be able to pinpoint cameras in the area and reach out to their owners to ask them to check for any footage that would assist our investigations. This would be completely voluntary and there would be strict limitations

on the use of this list and a clear understanding that we could not access live feeds and only footage provided upon request and with the resident's consent. This will aid and speed up investigations. Similar programs have been implemented in other communities, and while it will require time and considerable effort, I believe the potential to apprehend and prosecute these suspects makes it worthwhile.

Question 3: Going along with that, mental health is often a co-occurring issue with addiction. How will you work with mental health agencies and the community to get people in crisis the help they need?

When it comes to law enforcement and mental health (addiction) the best approach we can have involves more training for the entire department. CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) should be mandatory training within the department for every employee. Being able to take a call or respond to incidents involving individuals in a crisis and knowing how to de-escalate a situation and provide support is essential.

Our community faces limitations, and I believe Montana needs more resources to help those who do suffer mental health and are fighting addiction. Over the years, I've met many individuals struggling with this issue, and as an officer, I often encounter them during their toughest times. It's rare to find someone who doesn't want assistance in overcoming their addiction. As Chief, effective communication with all available community resources will be essential. By collaborating, law enforcement and mental health agencies can develop a more effective response system that prioritizes the well-being of individuals in crisis.

Question 4: Finally, as Anaconda has grown, so too has our traffic and road safety issues along with that. What can law enforcement do to help curb the traffic safety issues that we are seeing more and more of?

We have a lot of miles of roads in our county. Officer presence will be the first step and that will include attempting to address the staffing levels. With the steady increase in population our staff has stayed the

same and at times even fell below the numbers we had over 10 years ago. We also have some well-known problem areas. Staffing will be important when it comes to the county roads. We often only have 2 officers on duty and trying to send one of them to the lake or the valley is difficult.

I plan on holding community forums regularly, possibly every other month, to make myself available to residents. These forums will allow the community to discuss various issues, including traffic concerns in specific areas, and provide a platform for concerns that may not require a call to dispatch. This will also give the Chief an opportunity to let the community know about the great things our department has been doing. Being approachable and available will be the key to narrowing down the traffic concerns of the community.

I am aware of some problematic areas in town, and strong leadership is essential for providing guidance and direction. The area around the high school will require collaboration between multiple county departments and the school district to develop a solution. For county roads like North Cable, we can work with residents to identify peak times of concern through proper communication.

Additionally, the Montana Highway Patrol would be more than willing to assist in areas that we lack the staffing to cover. It's also important to ensure our vehicles are properly equipped; some still lack functioning dash cams, which are increasingly becoming necessary for successful prosecution of traffic offenses in court.



Chief Executive



Bill T. Everett

Age: 54 years old

Length of residency: 17 years

resident, 4th generation Anaconda

Born and raised: Born and raised in Helena, MT

Occupation: CEO Anaconda Deer Lodge County

Education: Graduate From University of Montana, Bachelors of Business Administration, Emphasis in Accounting, Successfully passed CPA examination

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Chief Executive, and what is your vision for how this community will look over the next four years?

It is with great enthusiasm that I enter the election cycle to once again be considered CEO of Anaconda Deer County for my third term. When asked why I am seeking a third term?, it is simple : Unfinished Business.

The settlement of the Consent Decree with Atlantic Richfield was a major accomplishment for our community. It established the parameters of clean up, substantial financial settlement, and an obligation of ARCO for long term responsibility to our community. After over 40 years Anaconda is finally becoming whole again, and our community is beginning to thrive! Houses and yards are being remediated, parks and schools have been made safe for our youth, our hillsides are beginning to turn green, slag pile is starting to be

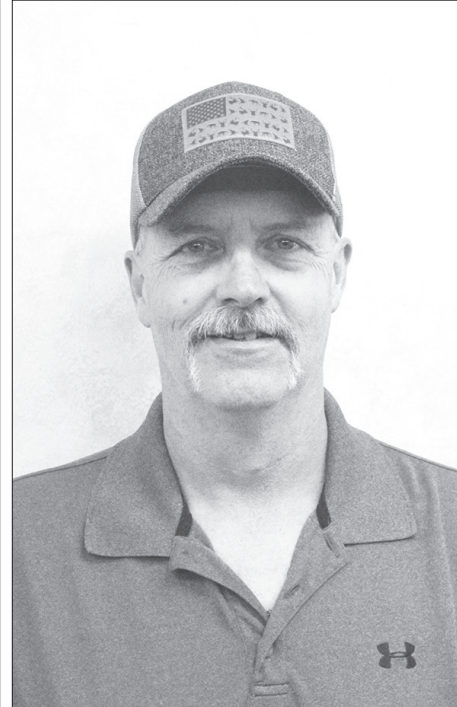
covered, the county is now Debt-free, and our Economy is becoming healthy again. Anaconda is off to a great start, but we are a long way from the finish line!

I ask Anaconda for four more years so together we can have the continuity to finish what we started. ARCO has a longways to go to fulfill their obligations to our community and the team we assembled has the knowledge and ability to ensure ARCO fulfills their obligations to Anaconda. Economic Development has brought forth new jobs, an expanded tax base, and amenities that Anaconda has been missing for a long time, but this is just the beginning. In the pipeline for Anaconda is a state-of-the-art carwash, home building center, manufacturing facility, office buildings, and restaurants. Anaconda has made huge strides with infrastructure including 118 street blocks repaved, new sidewalks, waterlines, streetlights, wastewater treatment plant, and building revitalization. I am proud of what we accomplished, but we still have much work to do, and I have the skillset and experience to make sure we reach our goals.

I bring with me a formal education in business and finance, and over 30 years of experience in the field. The business and government connections I have accumulated over this timeline allows Anaconda direct access to business opportunities, government leaders, and funding. These skills accompanied with 8 years of successfully doing the job as CEO of Anaconda, ensure I have the experience, knowledge and desire to continue to make Anaconda the city we can all be proud of.

Question 2: One of the issues that not only ADLC but all of Montana faces is property taxes. How will you work to minimize property taxes while ensuring that residents receive the highest quality of public services and while operating under a balanced budget?

Property taxes within the state of Montana have become the catch-all funding mechanism for government and property owners are left carrying the bag. Property taxes were originally implemented to provide a funding



Greg Bahr

Age: 57

Length of residency: 56

Born and raised: Anaconda

Occupation: Anaconda Deer Lodge County IRC Certified building inspector

Family: Father and stepmother Ken and Dale Bahr; Mother: Patricia Jorgensen; Children: Jordan Smith and husband Kramer, Dillan Bahr and wife Paige, Eddy Young and wife Erin, Laura Curnow, Savannah Shelton; Grandchildren: Bridger, Gunner, Grayli, Ty and Bentley

Education: Anaconda High, Wyoming Technical institute automotive program, multiple training courses and certifications in welding from Affco and various training in personnel management, budgeting, safety and health throughout my 25 year management career at Montana Resources .

Military service: None

Previous Community Service/ political office: President of Anaconda Snowmobile Club- 10 years, Member and president of Antelope Gulch Wranglers 4-H club, Anaconda Search and Rescue, Board member, board chairman and Airport Manager of Bowman Field Airport Anaconda.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Chief Executive, and what is your vision for how this community will look over the next four years?

I am running for Chief Executive

Officer of Anaconda Deer Lodge County because i see our community going down a fast-paced growth path without proper leadership of that growth. Growth without looking at all things that are affected by said growth leads to an accelerated decay and deferral that will result in knee jerk reactions and cost all taxpayers more to correct. I am very passionate about our community and seeing taxpayer funds and long-term planning being ignored prevented me from remaining silent. I want to see our community continue to grow but we are doing so without keeping the most important aspects in mind, such as all of our first responders. I will not ignore important issues or prolong projects to the point that it will cost taxpayers more or there is a threat of a lawsuit to get them completed. I will look at all issues and day to day operations of ADLC and also look towards the future and keep long-term planning an integral part of my day-to-day leadership role. I see the future of our great community continuing to grow and with my leadership all aspects of that growth will keep up with the pace. There is still a lot of areas that ARCO needs to address and with the long term goals in mind i will make certain we are left with a safe and healthy environment for our future generations.

Question 2: One of the issues that not only ADLC but all of Montana faces is property taxes. How will you work to minimize property taxes while ensuring that residents receive the highest quality of public services and while operating under a balanced budget?

Property taxes are the number one concern of everyone that i speak to. As CEO i will work hard to look at all avenues available to fund what is required to provide the services to our community. All of the grants received for attractions pays for them, but most do not pay for operation and maintenance, that will fall on the taxpayers. I like attractions as much as everyone but i will not put the burden on the taxpayers to operate and maintain them, I will seek out grants or other avenues of funding if

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mechanism for local operations such as law enforcement, emergency services, road construction, and local education. Unfortunately, big government continues to grow and they are partially funding this through our local property taxes.

Less than 45 percent of property taxes being paid now go to funding local government. Anaconda Deer Lodge County has continued to cut mills year after year to the fact ADLC cut over 100 mills for fiscal year 2024 and are running a budget of \$17,000 less than last year. The remaining roughly 55 percent that makes up your tax bill is unfortunately skyrocketing and beyond the control of local government. School funding for the State of Montana has continued to be picked apart and local property taxes are being used to pick up the shortfall. Anaconda Deer Lodge County taxpayers will feel an increase from \$3.75 million to over \$5.3 million for their share in local education in the coming year. The State of Montana will take another 101 Mills from your property taxes for additional needs.

Montana must change its formula for funding government. Residents of Montana who have owned their home for 30 plus years are being saddled with a burden that many of whom are on a fixed income can no longer afford. Montana must put a cap on property taxes, especially for long term homeowners, and our senior citizens.

Question 3: ADLC is growing, but housing costs are high while the availability of workforce housing is low. How will you work to ensure that this community will be able to house the workforce it will need to keep up with staffing demands?

Western Montana has become the new destination for out of state dollars. The huge influx has made the American dream of owning your own house extremely challenging and in many cases impossible. The four primary components of housing costs are driven by demand, financing costs, building materials, and skilled tradesman. This problem is bigger than just Anaconda, but we can and must continue to push for change. Interest rates have been cut minimally but more aggressive measures to provide lower mortgage rates are needed. To provide first time home affordability we must provide substantial first-time homeowner Tax credits on both a federal and state level. To assist in building costs the first question that needs to be addressed is why does Montana import wood products from other states and even foreign countries? Responsible utilization of Montana's own wood products would help alleviate skyrocketing lumber costs and provide good quality paying jobs in the process. Providing skilled tradesman to the workforce is something Anaconda has and will continue to be a substantial contributor through our Anaconda Job Corps. We all have been hearing politicians taking credit for saving the Job Corps, but I tell you first hand the two guys sitting in the room fighting from start to finish to save the Job Corps was Ray Ryan and myself. The Anaconda Job Corps provides quality training for our skilled tradesman

and is now more accessible than ever for Anaconda residents to take advantage of.

Question 4: Finally, related to all of that is the matter of infrastructure. What do you see as the biggest infrastructure needs for ADLC going forward and how will you work to address them?

Infrastructure is the backbone of the community, and Anaconda's original infrastructure is over one hundred and thirty years old. With the closing of the smelter in the late 70's Anaconda was placed in a tough position of no jobs, and a shrinking tax base therefore forcing Anaconda to defer improvements and maintenance of its infrastructure. It is with great pride that I can attest that Anaconda has rebounded and has taken great strides over the past 8 years in rebuilding its infrastructure.

Below the surface, Anaconda has replaced or relined miles of water lines, sewer mains, and wastewater lines. These lines will forever continue maintenance, but the majority of the heavy lifting has been accomplished. Anaconda wastewater treatment plant has just completed a \$4.5 million dollar overhaul in the past 6 years. This much needed overhaul was paid for entirely by ARCO as we were able to negotiate it into the 2018 Consent Decree.

The most noticeable and highly discussed portion of our infrastructure is our roads. Eight years ago the notion of new roads in our community was unfathomable, but now summer road construction is the new norm. Over the past 8 years Anaconda has seen the reconstruction or pavement of 118 street blocks, over 30,000 feet of road resurfacing, and over 300 new or retrofitted historical streetlights. I don't believe there is a community our size in the state of Montana that can come close to what we together have accomplished.

The biggest financial infrastructure hurdle Anaconda currently has is the Mill Creek highway. The highway was not built to modern standards and has deteriorated. From 2017 to 2023 our administration aggressively pursued Federal funding (Build Grant) to assist in the project and with assistance of both Senator Tester and Senator Daines Anaconda received over \$20 million to straighten the S curves and rebuild Mill Creek.

The steps Anaconda has taken towards its revitalization over the past 8 years has been substantial, but we are far from achieving our goals. As proud as I am of the new streets, sidewalks, streetlights, treatment plants and building repairs I am equally proud that this has been accomplished with fiscal responsibility. Anaconda has paid off its loans and bonds and is now basically debt free. Most communities in Montana are facing skyrocketing costs of services such as water and sewer fees but we are fortunate to have frozen any increase in the past 8 years, and actually have lowered sewer fees providing residents with some of the lowest rates in the state. It is in conjunction with aggressively cutting tax mills each year that we have been able to increase services, rebuild our infrastructure, increase county employees pay, and make Anaconda the city we are all so proud of.

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we are looking at adding more attractions to our community. I will do everything I can to keep taxes from rising yet still provide all of the services that a city/county government is required to provide. I will seek out businesses to locate to our community, that in turn will create more tax base and provide jobs to keep our families here.

Question 3: ADLC is growing, but housing costs are high while the availability of workforce housing is low. How will you work to ensure that this community will be able to house the workforce it will need to keep up with staffing demands?

Housing costs are very hard to control because of the cost of supplies and labor to build. I will reach out to developers that have shown interest in the past to build affordable housing but were met with roadblocks. I will offer incentives such as reduced prices on available property and tax deferrals for a limited time to entice them to build housing that will be affordable for an average family's income. A big problem we are also facing is VRBO's owned by out-of-town people or entities that charge exuberant prices. I would like to see our county government have more control over VRBO's and have them available for long term affordable rentals.

Question 4: Finally, related to all of that is the matter of infrastructure. What do you see as the biggest infrastructure needs for ADLC going forward and how will you work to address them?

When I think of infrastructure I think of it as everything that is needed to maintain and safely operate a city/county. To include water, sewer, roads, lighting, Police, Dispatch, Detention, Fire department/ Ems, Parks, Cemetery, all of the departments in the courthouse. The biggest needs I see right now are our first responders, the Fire department has been in desperate need of improvements for years and has been ignored. I will see that all of their needs are met in order for them to continue providing the amazing service that they do with less stress on how they will carry out their duties. I have communicated with all of the firemen and woman about my vision for them and in turn have been endorsed by the IAFF and our Local 100 Firefighters. Another very important need is the equipment and radios for our first responders, the police are buying their own protective gear because some of their gear has expired which is unacceptable and needs to be provided to them. Radio coverage is bad or nonexistent in some areas and needs to be improved. Dispatch and detention are operating understaffed and that needs to be addressed. I will also look at roads and street improvements not only in the city but also the dirt roads that are seeing increased traffic throughout the county. ADLC has a lot of potential going into the future and I will see that the potential is capitalized on and guided in a positive direction that is good for everyone not just the selected few.

House District 71



Scott DeMarois (D)

Age: 52

Length of residency in your district:

52 years

Born and raised where: Anaconda, MT

Occupation: I worked as a Fire Captain at the Anaconda Fire Department for 29 years. I retired in April of 2024 to pursue the House of Representatives.

Family: My wife Melani and I have been long-time homeowners together in Anaconda and have raised our blended family of five kids here. The oldest Jay Gray, 36, now lives in Eugene, Oregon as a high school math teacher, but graduated from MSU with his Masters in Physics. Quinn DeMarois, 23, currently resides in Frenchtown, MT, and attends the Frenchtown Fire Academy. Tommi DeMarois-Brodie, 21, lives in Missoula, MT, and is a Criminology/Pre Law student. Finally, my twin daughters, Madison DeMarois and Cara DeMarois. Madison lives in Anaconda and is a small business owner in Equine Horse Massage, and Cara lives in Butte and will be graduating from the University of Montana with a degree in Surgical Technology this December.

Education: I attended Anaconda Public Schools K-12 and graduated from Anaconda High in 1990. I then attended Montana Tech and studied Chemistry until I started at the Fire Department in 1995.

Military service, if any: No military service.

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: I am the current elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters, a position I have held for 4 years. Prior to this I held the elected position of 4th District DVP representing Anaconda, Butte, Bozeman, Central Valley, Big Sky, West Yellowstone and Livingston Fire Departments. This organization represents almost 900 career Union Fire Fighters in the State of Montana. I am also a member of the Anaconda Knights of Columbus.

Question 1: Why are you running for Montana House of Representatives?

I am running for the House of Representatives because I want to bring a voice back to Helena for the working people of this area.

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, which is home to Montana State Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor, and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

I will work with my fellow legislators, the governor, and the DPHHS to address the concerns of the workers at MSH about the facility by always taking a bipartisan approach. I will work diligently to stay engaged to correct issues such as the traveling employee population making more money than the locally trained and dedicated employees. I will work hard to end the utilization of "FOR PROFIT" out-of-state administration companies that are knowingly receiving millions of taxpayer dollars to run MSH. Further, I will work to bring those home-grown jobs back to MSH and provide adequate funding for both Labor and Patient alike.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party



H. Steiger (R)

Age: 24

Length of residency in your district:

24 years

Born and raised where: HD71

Occupation: Engineering Graduate Student

Family: 6th generation Montana Family

Education: Montana Tech - Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical Engineering, with Honors

Military service, if any: none

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: Montana Tech Graduate School Advisory Board; Tau Beta Pi – National Engineering Honor Society; SME - Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration

Question 1: Why are you running for Montana House of Representatives?

As a young person, I care deeply about the future of our state. When no one else stepped forward to run as the Republican candidate for this seat, I felt a responsibility to serve. I'm not aiming to be a career politician—my focus if elected will be as a citizen legislator, someone who prioritizes the well-being of the community over political ambition.

Throughout my life, I've seen the benefits of responsible governance, where freedom and security thrive. But I've also witnessed the harm caused by short-sighted, fiscally irresponsible decisions that have cost Montanans dearly. I love this state, and I want to do my part to ensure it remains a great place for all of us to live, work, and

raise our families.

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, which is home to Montana State Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

The Montana State Hospital (MSH) is an important source of jobs for the community and plays a vital role in providing mental health care, not only for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County but for the entire state. As a citizen legislator, my constituents' concerns are my own. If elected, I will reach out to stakeholders and employees to learn more about their concerns and discuss what can be done at the legislative level to address any issues.

The best way to help people with mental illness is ensuring that mental health resources are easily accessible so those seeking help don't delay treatment until their challenges become more severe. Funding these services is a worthy investment of tax dollars, as they provide crucial support to our communities.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party lines, with the governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

To reduce the tax burden on residents and small businesses while maintaining a balanced budget, we have two primary strategies: either cut spending or attract new taxpayers to help distribute the financial load more equitably. I firmly believe that bolstering a supportive environment for the mining industry can establish a long-term revenue stream that not only creates good-paying jobs but also generates significant tax revenue. This influx of resources will enable us to fund essential services without becoming overly reliant on property taxes. Moreover, modern

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See STEIGER on page 13

SAMPLE BALLOT

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County General Election

November 5, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

1. TO VOTE, BLACKEN (●) THE OVAL COMPLETELY. An oval blackened completely to the left of the candidate or ballot issue choice indicates a vote for that candidate or a vote on the ballot issue.
2. To write in a name, blacken the oval to the left of the line provided, and write in the name (or affix a pre-printed label) in the blank space(s) for the write-in candidate(s) for whom you wish to vote.
3. DO NOT CROSS OUT. If you make a mistake or change your mind, exchange your ballot for a new one.

OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT DEER LODGE COUNTY, MONTANA - NOVEMBER 5, 2024			
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS	FEDERAL AND STATE (Continued)	FEDERAL AND STATE (Continued)	
1. TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN (●) THE OVAL USING A BLUE OR BLACK PEN. 2. To write in a name, completely fill in the oval to the left of the line provided, and on the line provided print the name of the write-in candidate for whom you wish to vote. 3. DO NOT MAKE AN IDENTIFYING MARK, CROSS OUT, ERASE, OR USE CORRECTION FLUID. If you make a mistake or change your mind, exchange your ballot for a new one.	FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ DENNIS HAYES LIBERTARIAN ☐ MONICA TRANEL DEMOCRAT ☐ RYAN K ZINKE REPUBLICAN ☐	FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ SUSIE HEDALEN REPUBLICAN ☐ SHANNON O'BRIEN DEMOCRAT ☐	
	VOTE IN ALL COLUMNS VOTE BOTH SIDES FEDERAL AND STATE	FOR GOVERNOR & LT. GOVERNOR (VOTE IN ONE OVAL) ☐ RYAN BUSSE DEMOCRAT FOR GOVERNOR RAPH GRAYBILL DEMOCRAT FOR LT. GOVERNOR ☐ GREG GIANFORTE REPUBLICAN FOR GOVERNOR KRISTEN JURAS REPUBLICAN FOR LT. GOVERNOR ☐ KAISER LEIB LIBERTARIAN FOR GOVERNOR MATT CAMPBELL LIBERTARIAN FOR LT. GOVERNOR ☐ FOR GOVERNOR FOR LT. GOVERNOR	FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ JEFF WELBORN REPUBLICAN ☐ LEONARD "LENNY" WILLIAMS DEMOCRAT ☐
			FOR CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ ERIN FARRIS-OLSEN DEMOCRAT ☐ BOWEN GREENWOOD REPUBLICAN ☐ ROGER ROOTS LIBERTARIAN ☐
	FOR PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT (VOTE IN ONE OVAL) ☐ KAMALA D. HARRIS DEMOCRAT FOR PRESIDENT TIM WALZ DEMOCRAT FOR VICE PRESIDENT ☐ ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. WE THE PEOPLE FOR PRESIDENT NICOLE SHANAHAN WE THE PEOPLE FOR VICE PRESIDENT ☐ CHASE OLIVER LIBERTARIAN FOR PRESIDENT MIKE TER MAAT LIBERTARIAN FOR VICE PRESIDENT ☐ JILL STEIN GREEN FOR PRESIDENT RUDOLPH WARE GREEN FOR VICE PRESIDENT ☐ DONALD J. TRUMP REPUBLICAN FOR PRESIDENT JD VANCE REPUBLICAN FOR VICE PRESIDENT ☐ FOR PRESIDENT FOR VICE PRESIDENT	FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ CHRISTI JACOBSEN REPUBLICAN ☐ JOHN LAMB LIBERTARIAN ☐ JESSE JAMES MULLEN DEMOCRAT ☐	FOR SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ JEREMIAH LYNCH NONPARTISAN ☐ CORY SWANSON NONPARTISAN ☐
			FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE #3 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ KATHERINE BIDEGARAY NONPARTISAN ☐ DAN WILSON NONPARTISAN ☐
	FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ ROBERT BARB GREEN ☐ SID DAUD LIBERTARIAN ☐ TIM SHEEHY REPUBLICAN ☐ JON TESTER DEMOCRAT ☐	FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ BEN ALKE DEMOCRAT ☐ AUSTIN KNUDSEN REPUBLICAN ☐	FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 3, DEPT 1 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ JEFFREY W DAHOOD NONPARTISAN ☐
			FOR STATE AUDITOR (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ JAMES BROWN REPUBLICAN ☐ JOHN REPKE DEMOCRAT ☐
	VOTE IN NEXT COLUMN	VOTE IN NEXT COLUMN	FOR STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 38 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ BECKY BEARD REPUBLICAN ☐ JEFFREY BENSON DEMOCRAT ☐
			VOTE BOTH SIDES
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FEDERAL AND STATE (Continued)	COUNTY (Continued)	BALLOT ISSUES (Continued)
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 71 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ SCOTT P DEMAROIS DEMOCRAT ☐ H STEIGER REPUBLICAN ☐	FOR ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER (VOTE FOR FIVE) ☐ GREG BUDD NONPARTISAN ☐ SANDRA CHESTNUT NONPARTISAN ☐ BILL DEE NONPARTISAN ☐ DANIEL GODDARD NONPARTISAN ☐ BECKY GUAY NONPARTISAN ☐ MIKE HUOTTE NONPARTISAN ☐ KAITLYN JUAREZ NONPARTISAN ☐ THOMAS "TOM" LEE NONPARTISAN ☐ LAURA L. MANCEVICH NONPARTISAN ☐ KEVIN A. ORRINO NONPARTISAN ☐ DAVE PALMER NONPARTISAN ☐ TERRY A. VERMEIRE NONPARTISAN ☐ CHRISTOPHER ZACHER NONPARTISAN ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 127 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION (VOTE IN ONE OVAL) CI-127 amends the Montana Constitution to provide that elections for certain offices must be decided by majority vote as determined as provided by law rather than by a plurality or the largest amount of the votes. If it cannot be determined who received a majority of votes because two or more candidates are tied, then the winner of the election will be determined as provided by law. CI-127 applies to elections for governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, state representative, state senator, United States representative, United States Senator, and other offices as provided by law. ☐ YES on Constitutional Initiative CI-127 ☐ NO on Constitutional Initiative CI-127
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 76 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ JOHN FITZPATRICK REPUBLICAN ☐ ELENA GAGLIANO LIBERTARIAN ☐		CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 128 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION (VOTE IN ONE OVAL) CI-128 would amend the Montana Constitution to expressly provide a right to make and carry out decisions about one's own pregnancy, including the right to abortion. It would prohibit the government from denying or burdening the right to abortion before fetal viability. It would also prohibit the government from denying or burdening access to an abortion when a treating healthcare professional determines it is medically indicated to protect the pregnant patient's life or health. CI-128 prevents the government from penalizing patients, healthcare providers, or anyone who assists someone in exercising their right to make and carry out voluntary decisions about their pregnancy. ☐ YES on Constitutional Initiative CI-128 ☐ NO on Constitutional Initiative CI-128
COUNTY		
FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ MICHAEL "MIKE" BEAUSOLEIL NONPARTISAN ☐		
FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ STEVE M. GATES NONPARTISAN ☐		
FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ DAVID GALLE NONPARTISAN ☐ KEVIN A. HART NONPARTISAN ☐	BALLOT ISSUES CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 126 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION (VOTE IN ONE OVAL) CI-126 amends the Montana Constitution to provide a top-four primary election. All candidates, regardless of political party, appear on one ballot. The four candidates receiving the most votes advance to the general election. A candidate isn't required to be nominated by a political party. A candidate's political party preference isn't an endorsement by the political party. The legislature may require candidates gather signatures up to five percent of the votes received by the winning candidate in the last election to appear on the ballot. All voters may vote for one candidate for each covered office. CI-126 applies to elections for governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, state representative, state senator, United States representative, and United States Senator. ☐ YES on Constitutional Initiative CI-126 ☐ NO on Constitutional Initiative CI-126	CITY FIRE HALL GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (VOTE IN ONE OVAL) SHALL THE COMMISSION OF THE CONSOLIDATED CITY AND COUNTY OF ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY, MONTANA BE AUTHORIZED TO SELL AND ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN ONE OR MORE SERIES IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO FOUR MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$4,700,000.00), BEARING INTEREST AT RATES TO BE DETERMINED AT THE TIME OF THE SALE, PAYABLE SEMIANNUALLY, DURING A TERM AS TO EACH SERIES OF BONDS OF NOT MORE THAN TWENTY (20) YEARS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO PAY COSTS OF AN ADDITION TO AND RENOVATING AND UPGRADING THE CITY FIRE HALL LOCATED AT 420 W. COMMERCIAL STREET IN ANACONDA; RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS; AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS? IF THIS BOND ELECTION PASSES, BASED ON THE TAXABLE VALUE OF THE ANACONDA CITY FIRE DISTRICT, THE PROPERTY TAXES ON A HOME WITH AN ASSESSED MARKET VALUE FOR TAX PURPOSES OF \$100,000 WOULD INCREASE BY \$65.20 IN THE FIRST YEAR, OF \$300,000 WOULD INCREASE BY \$195.60 IN THE FIRST YEAR, AND OF \$600,000 WOULD INCREASE BY \$391.20 IN THE FIRST YEAR. AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES MAY LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN RENTAL COSTS. ☐ BONDS - YES ☐ BONDS - NO
FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 UNEXPIRED TERM (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ EDWARD G. BEAUDETTE NONPARTISAN ☐ CON MALEE NONPARTISAN ☐		
FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ MORGAN SMITH NONPARTISAN ☐		
FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ GREG BAHR NONPARTISAN ☐ BILL T EVERETT NONPARTISAN ☐		
FOR CHIEF OF LAW ENFORCEMENT (VOTE FOR ONE) ☐ BILL SATHER NONPARTISAN ☐ KYLE STALEY NONPARTISAN ☐		
VOTE IN NEXT COLUMN	VOTE IN NEXT COLUMN	END OF BALLOT
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DeMAROIS from page 11

lines, with the governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

I believe bipartisan collaboration will be the only way that we Montanans will get this tax problem solved. We cannot continue to place an extreme burden on the middle-class wage earner in this state. I will work across the aisle to create solutions such as a shift back to the upper 1% of wage earners and corporations within the State. A collaboration of the Montanans in Helena would allow us to discover the "loopholes" that are used to avoid taxes. This would potentially create more income by allowing the folks making the money to paying their share.

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

Here again, we need to form a coalition of like-minded, public school supporting, Montanans that want to create solutions. I do not believe the charter school laws we watched emerge out of last session does anything but undermine public school districts. I believe all the state agencies to be examined to see exactly where taxpayer money is, and where it's going. I would ask, how much money, public tax money is being fed out of state to "contract" agencies that provide service back to our schools or other programs within the state? I suggest looking at the top 10 appropriately funded public school systems in the US, from this data, we could potentially utilize proven techniques that would build a system OPI, teachers, and districts need to thrive.

STEIGER from page 11

mining companies have demonstrated a strong commitment to investing in the communities where they operate. They often engage in reclamation projects, alleviating the burden on government resources. These companies contribute to infrastructure, education, and community development, which enhances the overall quality of life.

As a young professional in the engineering field, I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable advancements in mining technologies, particularly regarding reduced environmental impact and enhanced operational safety. With Montana's robust environmental regulations in place, we can further improve the efficiency of our permitting and regulatory processes without compromising quality. Currently, projects can take decades and cost millions of dollars to navigate the permitting process, only to be denied in the end. Mining companies are eager to invest in regions with stable governments and consistent, fair regulations. Let's position Montana as that prime destination for investment, allowing these companies to deploy their substantial capital and bring back high-quality jobs to our state.

With Montana's vast natural resources and a commitment to environmentally-conscious mining practices, we have a unique opportunity to extract resources efficiently and responsibly. This approach not only benefits state economy but also reduce our reliance on foreign production for critical materials, ensuring that Montana remains a leader in responsible resource management.

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

I had the privilege of attending Montana's public education system and believe I received a good education. I think Montana has a strong foundation in its educational system, and our curriculum is solid. All Montana students deserve a quality education. As for funding, I point to my earlier answer on taxation. Growing Montana industries will provide additional tax revenue that can benefit our schools, allowing us to improve resources, teacher pay, and facilities, ensuring every student has the opportunities they need to succeed.



★ For yourself
and your children

★ For our future
and our democracy

★★ Thank you for voting ★★

MALEE

for
Commissioner

House District 76



John Fitzpatrick (R)

Age: 76 years

Length of residency in district: house in district since 1992; officially moved to district in 2016.

Born and raised: Anaconda, MT

Occupation: retired; part-time real estate developer; state legislator.

Family: married, 54 years; two adult sons; six grandchildren

Education: BA, University of Montana, 1970; MA, Ohio State University, 1971; Ph.D, Ohio State University, 1974

Military service: none

Previous political office: state representative, HD 77

Question 1: Why are you running for the state house?

To continue the work that I started in the 2023 session specifically:

A. To continue to make improvements to the state's correctional system.

B. To assist local governments obtain assistance for infrastructure development and repairs.

C. Ensure that state employees are adequately compensated.

D. To create an incentive program to attract people to work for the state in hard-to-fill occupations such as nurses and engineers.

See FITZPATRICK on page 15

Elena Gagliano (L) (no photo provided)

Age: Old enough

Length of residency in your district: 32 yrs.

Born and raised where: Born in America, raised in New York and Montana. I've been a Montana resident since 1981.

Occupation: Retired Bell System Commercial Representative

Family: Yes. Grown up, and moved on

Education: Formal education 14 yrs, self-educated: 30 plus, and still learning

Military service, if any: None

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: Member of the now defunct Granite County Forrest Management Advisory Committee. Granite County director for Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority Feb 2021 to Sept 2024 (County opt out of administration).

Question 1: Why are you running for Montana House of Representatives?

"I'm running for the Montana House of Representatives to advocate for personal freedom, limited government, and individual rights, principles I believe are under threat from increasing government overreach. Montanans, especially in rural areas, deserve a government that allows them to pursue prosperity and make decisions without interference. As a legislator, I will work to reduce government regulations that stifle our natural resources, agriculture, and small businesses. I'm committed to empowering local communities to address their unique challenges and to ensure the people of my district have the freedom to live their lives as they see fit."

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes a portion of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, which is home to Montana State

See GAGLIANO on page 16

Sara Novak for Senate District 36 *Experience Matters!*

As a mom & educator I believe in our children & want to ensure they have a robust future.



I kindly ask for your vote for Senate District 36.

Fighting for Strong Healthy Families &
Strong Healthy Communities.

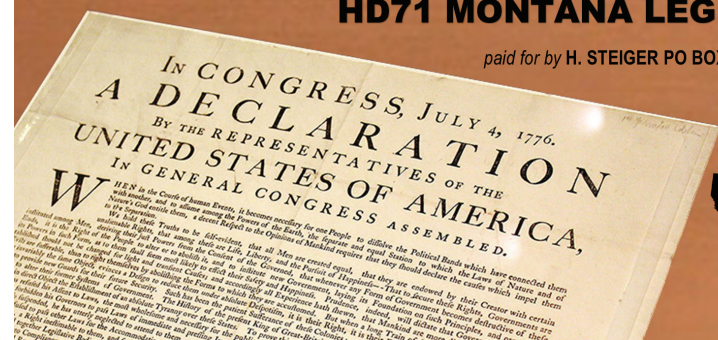
Paid for by Novak for Senate District 36 - DEMOCRAT - Maggie Swanson, Treasurer

... government of the people,
by the people, for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.

H. STEIGER

HD71 MONTANA LEGISLATURE

paid for by H. STEIGER PO BOX 721 BUTTE MT 59703



FITZPATRICK from page 14

E. To create incentives for people to serve as volunteer emergency service personnel.

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes a portion of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, which is home to Montana State Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

The 2023 legislature provided a significant pay increase to help address staffing shortages at our state institutions. The prison was successful in reducing its vacancy rate from over 40% to about 2%. In contrast, relatively little improvement has been seen at the state hospital.

In my opinion, the biggest obstacle to creating success at MSH, is the management structure of DPHHS and the lack of leadership within that agency. With the creation of DPHHS in 1995, the state's health care and nursing facilities have been "orphans" within the department—their mission never really understood and their needs systematically ignored.

I have no confidence that the existing leadership at DPHHS has the skill set, commitment, or desire to improve conditions at MSH.

In order for things to improve at MSH, it is necessary to change both the management structure and culture of the institution. I anticipate bringing legislation to create a Department of Health Services and remove the state's health care and nursing facilities from DPHHS to the new agency staffed by people who know how to manage hospitals and nursing homes.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party lines, with the governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

Ninety eight percent of the property tax collected in this state is spent by local governments. The only way to reduce property taxes in a manner that is equitable to all taxpayers is to reduce local government spending, a task that

is almost impossible to achieve. In the absence of spending reductions, all other forms of tax reduction simply shift the tax to other taxpayers—notably agriculture, commercial businesses, and industry. Some win, some lose.

The appropriate goal for any residential property tax relief plan is to maximize relief for residential taxpayers, while minimizing the adverse effects on other taxpayers, and ensuring that local governments retain the tax base necessary to properly fund their operations. That is a tall order.

The proposal currently being evaluated in Helena consists of lowering the tax on the principal residence of Montana citizens and structures used for long term rentals while increasing the assessment factor on "second homes" and short term rentals. That keeps the tax shift within the residential class and protects agriculture, commercial businesses and industry.

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

The statistic cited above is both irrelevant and misleading. It's irrelevant because it is comparing a low wage state (Montana) with high wage states like New York and Connecticut and regardless of how much more Montana spends on education that relative ranking is not going to change a great deal.

It's misleading because it implies that Montana children are not receiving a decent education and that is not true. Montana's high school graduation rate ranks in the top ten of states and Montana ranks 10th in average SAT score. Overall, Montana schools do a good job of educating our children.

The next legislature will provide some sort of inflationary adjustment to the school funding formula to ensure that operating costs are being covered.

After that, it becomes a matter of targeting spending to create better educational outcomes such as financial incentives to attract teachers to rural districts or, assist districts secure housing for teachers.



- Over 16 years with the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Law Enforcement.
- Holds more certifications with the Montana Public Safety Officer Standards and Training than any other candidate.
- 1113 of P.O.S.T. training, including but not limited to, crime scene management, death investigations, instructor development, civil rights, anti-bias, officer liability and many more.
- As the training officer for the department, I've made training a priority and have secured over 3000 hours of training for the entire department.
- I've held multiple positions within the department including Patrolman, Sergeant, Field Training Officer, Lieutenant, Training Officer and Detective.

Philosophy

- To be available to the community and address its needs.
- To be honest and transparent.
- To provide a well-trained, proactive police force the community deserves.
- An active leader who is committed to building trust within the community.
- To ensure integrity will always be a top priority within the department.

www.facebook.com/kylestaleyforchiefofflawenforcement

Paid for: Kyle Staley for Chief of Law Enforcement, Ben Everett, Treasurer, 223 Rumsey St., Anaconda, MT 59711

Senate District 36



Sara Novak

Age: 46

Length of residency in your

district: Most all of my life. I was born & raised in Butte. I have lived

in Anaconda for about 18 years.

Born and raised where: Butte, MT

Occupation: Special Education Director

Family: Husband Daren and 3 Children (SheaLee -16, Hunter -13 & Gage -13)

Education: Butte Public Schools, Butte High Class of 1996; B.S. Education – UM Western; M.Ed Counseling – MSU-Northern; Earned my Class 3 License for Education Administration – MSU Billings/UM

Military service, if any: None

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: MT State Representative – House District 77

See NOVAK on page 17



Darlean Newman

Age: I am 58 years old

Length of residency in your district:

I have lived in Wise River, Deer Lodge County, since May 2019.

Born and raised where: Houston, Texas

Occupation: Since April 2004 I have run my own sole proprietor international consulting business, with most of my clients located in the Eastern part of the United States, and a few clients in Europe and Southeast Asia. I work with small brokerage institutions who specialize in private placements, investment banking, and mergers & acquisitions, third-party marketers, hedge funds, and funds of funds. I provide compliance, registration, and regulatory support to the chief compliance officer and provide administrative support functions to the financial principal.

Family: My husband, Eric Newman, and I have been married

See NEWMAN on page 18

GAGLIANO from page 14

Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor and the Department of Public Health and

Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

I understand the importance

of Montana State Hospital to the community, and the concerns of its workers need to be addressed. I believe the best way to improve conditions at MSH is through a more localized, transparent approach. Rather than relying on top-down solutions from the government, we should empower local hospital administrators, employees, and the community to identify issues and develop practical solutions. I will work with fellow legislators and the governor to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles that slow down improvements and push for reforms that prioritize the well-being of both patients and staff, while ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party lines, with the governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

"Montanans are facing rising property taxes, which are putting a significant burden on homeowners and small businesses alike. I believe reducing government spending is the key to addressing these tax hikes. By cutting waste and streamlining government operations, we can lower the tax burden on property owners and small businesses. I'll

work across party lines to build a leaner government that prioritizes essential services without resorting to unnecessary taxation. Protecting property rights is essential, and I will push for transparency in how tax dollars are allocated, ensuring that taxpayers are not overburdened by inefficient government programs."

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

"I believe that empowering local communities and parents to have more control over education is critical to improving Montana's schools. With growing teacher shortages and underfunded rural schools, we need solutions that put education dollars directly in the hands of local school boards. By reducing federal mandates and allowing schools more flexibility, we can focus on getting resources to the classroom where they matter most. I also support expanding vocational training and partnering with local industries to prepare students for careers in fields like agriculture, trades, and technology, ensuring that students across Montana are equipped for success."

JOHN FITZPATRICK

A record of supporting our state employees



JOHN FITZPATRICK
Sponsored HB 13, the state pay plan which provided the staff at the prison and Warm Springs with their first real pay raise in several years. He also sponsored two bills which appropriated almost \$240 million to replace obsolete housing units and fix infrastructure at the prison and springs.

John Fitzpatrick

John Fitzpatrick, leadership and the experience to get things done. The candidate who respects the contribution made by state employees and who works for the people of the district.

NOVAK from page 16

– 2021-2023; School Administrators of Montana – Past President; Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education – Past President & Federal Advocacy; Community Hospital of Anaconda – Board Member; Southwest MT Federal Credit Union – Board Member; Various Community Groups/Events – Volunteer as needed

Question 1: Why are you running for Montana State Senate, and what skills do you bring to the table as a state legislator?

I am passionate about the policy work and how it affects us as everyday citizens. I feel that average people with boots on the ground should have a seat at the table, crafting policy. I feel that my voice as a parent, educator, union member, female, outdoor enthusiast (the list goes on), is a voice that brings important points to the conversations and legislation.

One thing I really like about the Senate is that it provides the ability to serve on both policy and budget. I would really love the opportunity to serve on both Education Policy and Finance (Section E). I have the professional knowledge and experience to support this work. When I served on the Education Interim I worked with a bi-partisan group from both the House & Senate to dig deep into issues and move legislation forward. I am prepared to pick up right where I left off.

I have the connections and relationships established and I have earned the respect of both legislators and staff as someone who has knowledge and integrity. I have excellent communication skills along with the ability to problem solve, collaborate and advocate.

I want the opportunity to return to Helena to represent my friends and neighbors. Additionally, with the redistricting, this Senate seat would give me the opportunity to represent the two communities that have had the greatest impact on my life and shaped me into who I am today.

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes Anaconda -Deer Lodge County,

which is home to Montana State Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

I would first like to acknowledge my support of the employees at MSH and thank them for the work they do. Many have been faithful, dedicated employees while experiencing poor working conditions and a lack of support. The work they do matters and I appreciate them.

I think it is imperative to work collaboratively with the Governor, DPHHS and the Unions that represent the employees. In the past I have attended town halls where the staff and union leaders brainstormed ideas to make things better. I've met with both the Governor and the Administration at DPHHS and I am happy to do so again. Additionally, I will be an advocate and a voice in the legislature for the staff, patients and facility as a whole. This is not a partisan issue in my opinion. It is a lifeline for the entire state, in providing support and treatment to the most critical mental health patients while they are in crisis. While folks are quick to criticize, most of them would never be willing to do this vital work and walk a day in the shoes of any MSH employee.

There is a huge economic factor for our region riding on this as well. I am adamantly opposed to privatization of the facility (or any state facility/programs). We have folks who have dedicated their lives and careers here who are vested in retirement and have a lot to lose in a transition like that. Additionally, I believe we can provide the services and run the facility more efficiently and cost effectively in the public sector than in the private sector. In addressing rumors that the state would like to make it more of a regional model, I support the expansion of mental health treatment centers and resources all across the state. However, this should happen in addition to the MSH facility, not as a replacement. We need to put our money where our mouths are in terms of supporting mental health treatment

in our state for all ages, populations and communities. This will take collaboration and work with all levels of government, including DPHHS.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party lines, with the governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

Addressing the property tax situation will take collaboration and needs to be a priority. I am open to listening to any and all ideas brought forth. Bottom line is that I will support legislation that provides residents and small business owners relief. We as residential tax payers, should not be covering the burden, while the wealthiest citizens and large corporations get tax breaks and/or little to no increase. Everyone needs to pay their fair share. I believe there should be gradual increases over time and/or caps on the increases allowed. Additionally, folks who have been in their homes for many years and are on a fixed income need to be considered. I believe there is a big difference between permanent residence (specifically long-term home ownership) and rental properties and/or short-term rentals.

One simple fix in years past, which I support, includes the legislature and the Governor working collectively to adjust/ lower the multiplier. This can and should be addressed during the next session. Additionally, there is needed reform with the appraisal process and the cycle of re-appraising residential properties.

We need long term solutions that benefit EVERY residential taxpayer and small business owner. We need to equalize things by reversing the unfair shifting of taxes to homeowner. Renters are also feeling it as their rates have raised drastically to cover the cost that the owner is experiencing.

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the

Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

I see and experience first-hand the funding crisis in our public education system. Our current formula has an inflationary cap which does not allow the increases to keep up with the actual costs and is not in line with inflation. The cost to heat buildings alone has skyrocketed. That cap needs to be addressed but we also must look at the overall funding formula. There are many complexities to this. While most districts rely on Average Number Belonging (ANB) count for funding, we do have some schools that rely more heavily on the base aid entitlements. Personally, I also believe that our per pupil expenditure numbers are skewed because we have districts with as little as 1 student enrolled.

Recruitment & Retention is one of the largest concerns for EVERY district in this state. At the heart of that is salary and benefits, but right up there is the affordability and availability of housing. Special education is a huge expense that has been grossly underfunded. When Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed, Congress set "full funding" at 40%. It has only ever been funded at a high point of 18% and currently is at about 13%.

Another dynamic negatively impacting our public schools is the diverting of funding to private schools and in some cases to parents directly. Vouchers & privatization efforts need to be stopped.

We need to ensure ALL of our students have robust opportunities. This legislature must act on moving forward to support our public schools and uphold our constitutional obligation.



NEWMAN from page 16

for 38 years. Eric and I have two grown children that live in Texas. Our daughter is married to a sheriff's deputy in Harris County, Texas, and they have one child who turned four this summer. Our son served in the United States Marine Corps and graduated college in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, and a minor in math.

Education: In the summer of 2022, I graduated cum laud from Colorado Technical University ("CTU") with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Finance. Additionally, I graduated cum laud from CTU in December 2023 with a master's degree in the same field of study.

Military service, if any: At the age of 17 years old I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps just three weeks after my high school graduation. I attended boot camp training in Parris Island, SC. I earned the rank of E-3 (Lance Corporal) and I was honorably discharged at the end of my enlistment. During my time in the Marine Corps, my job was as a Files and Directives Clerk, wherein I received a Certificate of Commendation from the Inspector General of the Marine Corps for "professional achievement in the superior performance of [my] duties during the inspector general's inspection. [My] superior initiative, keen insight, and diligent efforts contributed significantly to the accomplishment of [my] unit's mission and inspired all who observed [me]. [My] professional ability and loyal dedication to duty reflect great credit upon [myself], [my] unit and the Marine Corps." During my time in service, I received letters of appreciation, and I achieved a Marksmanship Rifle Badge.

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: This is my first time running for any political office. I have held board member positions with several non-profit organizations; 2004-2009: I served as Treasurer and later was appointed as President of the high school Junior ROTC Booster Club where both our kids were members; 2012-2019: I taught religious

education classes at our Parish, St. Edward Catholic Church, in Spring, TX for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students who were preparing to celebrate the first Holy Communion; 2012 to present: I am a member of the Catholic Daughter's of the Americas, Court 2065 in Spring, Texas where I previously served terms as the Treasurer (2014-2016) and Regent (2016-2019); 2013-2019: Volunteered and supported a children's orphanage in Spring, TX. Through coordination with community partners and various church organizations I was able to assist and support 32 girls and 26 boys, ages 5 to 18, with funding and personal care needs. I helped to provide school supplies and backpacks, summer picnics and outings, Christmas programs and gifts, and monthly birthday parties, just to name a few projects; Oct 2023 to present: I am a member, and the First Vice President, of the Wise River Community Foundation in Wise River, MT; April 2024 to present: I am a member of the Marine Corps League, Pvt Mike Detachment #1380, in Anaconda, MT; Sept 2024 to present: I am the newly appointed Secretary/Treasurer for our homeowner's association.

Question 1: Why are you running for Montana State Senate?

I am running for Montana State Senate because I feel we need to maintain strong leaders that will support conservative values in our legislature, all while preserving and protecting Montana's valuable resources (i.e. agriculture, energy independence, public lands, and tourism). As a Marine Corps Veteran and independent business owner for the last 20 years, I bring strong leadership and problem-solving skills to the table.

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, which is home to Montana State Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

I will work with both sides of the aisle and all stakeholders to consider

additional funding, training, and staff for the Montana State Hospital to achieve recertification status. It might also be necessary, going forward, to consider building additional facilities around the state so that one facility is not carrying the burden of the entire system.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party lines, with the governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

The property tax issue in Montana is overly complicated and burdensome. After attending a Local Government Interim Committee meeting in Helena last November, I feel the current property tax structure needs to be revised to account for the increased cost of living conditions, higher home/land prices, and take into consideration economic growth within our communities. I will work with all parties and stakeholders to suggest that we provide an exemption for primary residences back to pre-COVID levels (potentially), while second homes, vacation homes, rental/investment properties, etc be classified at a higher tax level. Additionally, since tourism is as top economic driver for Montana, I will also suggest a separate tax for tourism properties/businesses because these visitors use our airports, roads, bridges, parks, public lands, etc and should be considered a source of revenue to offset the additional wear and tear on our infrastructure and communities.

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

The required 95 mills that homeowners pay annually as part of our property taxes is more than sufficient to cover the cost of education for all students in Montana.

ADLC County Attorney



Morgan Smith

Morgan Smith is running unopposed for County Attorney for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. The Anaconda Leader did not submit questionnaires to the unopposed candidates for the general election, except to ADLC Commission candidates. In lieu of that, here is the previously published biographical information submitted by the candidate for the June 2024

Primary Election:

Age: 32

Length of residency in Anaconda: 32 years

Born and raised where: Anaconda

Occupation: Managing Attorney - Butte and Anaconda Offices of the State Public Defender

Family: Third Generation Anacondan. Parents Kathie (Forwood) and Duane Smith, brother Kramer Smith.

Education: Bachelors Degree, University of Montana; Juris Doctorate, University of Montana School of Law

Military service, if any: N/A

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: Board President - Anaconda Community Foundation (member since 2016, president since 2021); Member - The National Trial Lawyers, awarded 2023 Top 40 Under 40 Montana Criminal Defense Trial Lawyer.

Senate District 38



Jeffrey Benson (D)

Age: 67

Length of residency in your district:

We have lived in the Boulder Valley for 4 years. Formally we lived in the Helena Area where we have been rooted in Montana since 1980.

Born and raised where: I was born in Southern Minnesota and my parents had moved to the Twin Cities. My father was an executive at Land O'Lakes.

Occupation: Retired Advisor and Consultant.

Family: The Benson family homesteaded in Montana in the early days of Montana statehood. They farmed and ran a dairy near Billings and my wife's family farmed in the Helena area. I am married, and have two children and two grandchildren

Education: Attained a Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University. I also earned several advanced designations in Business Management, Risk Management, Business and Administration and Human Resources.

Military service, if any: none

Question 1: Why are you running for Montana State Senate?

My purpose in running is to provide a voice to the people of Montana. The current administration is only benefiting the well to do and multi-billion-dollar corporations. No one is looking to help the working and retired Montanan.

The Republicans have closed

access to public information from the citizens of the state. They are off on some spending spree that we have seen the largest spending debauchery in history. The mismanagement of property taxes and the transference of tax liabilities to working and retired folks had made life nearly unbearable in Montana. Housing has become unaffordable and workers are having to travel further to their jobs.

I vow to stop the Beard/Gianforte corporate welfare program and restore Montana's way of life.

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes a portion of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, which is home to Montana State Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

After years of negligent, the bottom has fallen out and once again the working man gets blamed. The Legislature neglected their constitutional responsibilities and never appropriated the necessary funds to operate the facilities. Inadequate funding with the realization of increasing medical care made the mission nearly impossible. As with other social services, it appears the Republican/Gianforte group wants to outsource these services as they have in other areas.

I would endorse and carry forward a funding package to assure the facility is properly supported where we are in position to hire freely competent doctors, medical personnel and staff. We have the realization of increase scrutiny so we have to have the flexibility to assure that the appropriate accounts are facilitated, but to assure that the staffing is balanced to accommodate the workload.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party lines, with the



Becky Beard (R)

Age: 64

Length of Residency in SD 38: 28 Years (Elliston MT)

Born and raised where: Born in Lewistown MT, Relocated to Helena in 1973

Occupation: Retired Consultant, Beard Environmental & Technical Assistance LLC

Family: 5th Generation Montanan, Married, 1 Daughter

Education: BA Carroll College, Helena MT, 1991, International Relations

Military Service: None

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations:

Montana State Senate (SD 40), 2023-2024; Montana House of Representatives (HD 80), 2017-2022; National Council of State Legislators (NCSL) Women's Legislative Network Board Member, 2024; Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association, Associate Member, 2017-Current; MT Manufacturing Extension Center Advisory Board, 2024; Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc., Associate Member, 1997-2020; Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (WASACT), Non-agency Participant, 1997-2020; Trustee, Elliston School District No. 27, Powell County, 2014-2016; Leader, Girl Scouts of Montana, 2009 – 2011; U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, Boise Office, District Export Council – Appointment, 1994; Trustee, Eastgate Village Homeowners Association,

1983; National Rifle Association Member

Question 1: Why are you running for Montana State Senate?

Having served in the Montana Legislature since 2017, and participating on the tax committees in both chambers, I continue to voice the concerns of district constituents about the high costs of projects, programs and services provided by the state government. If we have any hope to cut tax increases, we need to focus on limiting spending increases.

I plan to continue promoting sound education practices to better prepare our youth to meet the demands of Montana's current and future workplace. This includes supporting our teachers in these efforts, and to reduce the red-tape associated with our current educational environment, so educators can focus on the individual needs of their student populations.

Overall, our elected officials are tasked with representing the citizens within their respective jurisdictions to carry out the goals of the people. I believe the government, based upon sound legislation, should in turn promote the rights outlined in the state's Constitution, and also adhere to the limitations outlined therein. I want to leave it to Montanans to prosper through becoming well educated and prepared for a competitive work environment, while furthering advances in technologies to promote individual health, welfare and safety.

Question 2: The district you are running to represent includes a portion of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, which is home to Montana State Hospital. How will you work with your fellow legislators, the governor and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to address concerns that workers at MSH have about the facility, both in the present and for its future?

The Montana State Hospital's administration and management have been struggling to get the facility recertified, and that process seems to have been postponed until 2025. This is due, in part, by leadership turnover, medical provider issues,

See BENSON on page 20

See BEARD on page 20

BENSON from page 19

governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

Republicans missed the opportunity to fix this mess and let the largest property tax increase hit Montanans pockets. They knew in advance of the last legislature of this increase, but opted to give billions to wealthy and out of state corporations—not the Montana people. Then the new property taxes generated an additional \$800 million in taxes paid by Montanans by the end of November, 2024. Our seniors on fixed incomes can't pay these enormous assessments.

I propose a property tax freeze for our seniors. Somewhat like North Dakota's plan, taxes are frozen on retirees' property until the home is sold. Then the home reverts to the current rate for the new owner. The proposal is subject to an income cap and residency requirement, so Montana doesn't become the "Switzerland" for out of state retirees. I would also claw back some of the tax giveaways and provide lower taxes for working Montana residents.

Also, we have to start charging more for secondary homes, vacation rentals for those who use Montana as a playground. Until we do, Montana's property tax burden will continue to increase. Republicans have already proposed changing property classifications on rural property affecting more than 42,000 homes increasing taxes as much as 1,300%! I vow to stop this!

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

Let's face it, Republicans do not like education and have stripped funding in nearly all aspects. While complaining of "inflation", the recent legislature only appropriated a 3% funding to schools. Meanwhile, insurance, equipment and materials were increasing in double digits. Then there is the embarrassing decline in teacher salaries where Montana is last in the country for paying their teachers. Our future, the children, are in jeopardy if we continue down this path.

If you want competency, if you want progress, if you want to provide for the future, you need a quality education. Our schools require realistic funding to assure we will meet our constitution responsibilities and duties.

BEARD from page 19

and staffing challenges. I intend to work with fellow legislators to implement pending legislation recommended by the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee since the conclusion of the 2023 Session. We must better provide reports of alleged abuse and neglect to advocate on behalf of the patients being served. We also need to prioritize dollars spent while, at the same time, comply with the federal Medicaid coverage certification requirements.

Question 3: Property taxes continue to be one of the hot-button issues of the day. How will you work both with your caucus and across party lines, with the governor's office and with the Department of Revenue to develop legislation that reduces the burden of taxation on residents and small businesses?

The most effective way to reduce property taxes is to reduce spending. Property tax revenues not only fund our local governments' essential services and operations, but also our education system. In 2024, 57 percent of these dollars went to education. All parties need to engage in the critical evaluation of budgets.

At the August Revenue Interim Committee (RIC) meeting, we reviewed the Governor's Property Tax Advisory Committee's recommendations. Twelve recommendations were detailed in that report. The most popular recommendation was the homestead-comestead exemption. It aims to decrease the tax rate for primary residences and long-term rentals, valued up to \$1 million, by about 18 percent. Conversely, the tax rate for homes above that threshold and on second homes would increase to 1.9 percent, or an estimated 41 percent increase in taxable value. This proposal will likely be presented during the upcoming session, along with consideration of its ramifications to our already-complex tax codes.

Other report recommendations include revamping the way local governments present and vote levies to promote higher numbers of residents engaging in the process, and establishing expiration dates on levies. One of the highest increased line items on many of our property tax bills results from approved levies, typically based on "mills" instead of dollar amounts. We, as residents, need to engage with our local governments' budget proposals because that is when a significant portion of property taxes originate. The task force's full recommendations are available for review at <https://budget.mt.gov/About/PropertyTaxTaskForce>.

Question 4: Finally, and related to that, is the question of funding education in Montana, which ranks 38th in the U.S. in terms of state revenue per pupil according to the Montana Association of School Business Officials. How can we better fund public education in Montana to ensure students are receiving a quality education?

As indicated above in the response to Question No. 1, we must continue promoting sound and cost-effective education practices that best serve our youth. This includes supporting our teachers in these efforts, and to reduce the red-tape associated with our current educational environment. Teachers must be able to focus on the individual needs within their classrooms; to instill the rationale as to the importance of foundational critical learning. Unleashing a menu of choices for at-risk and special needs students will help assure that no youngster falls through the cracks. Children are not all the same, and they all certainly don't learn by cookie-cutter methods. There are a number of states with diverse enrollments which have adopted school choice options in our country. In order to boost quality in education, I'm an advocate of school choice here right here in Montana. Education funding and transparencies of those dollars must be prioritized.

District Judge**Jeffrey W. Dahood**

Jeffrey W. Dahood is running unopposed for 3rd Judicial District Court Judge. The Anaconda Leader did not submit questionnaires to the unopposed candidates for the general election, except to ADLC Commission candidates. In lieu of that, here is the previously published biographical information submitted by the candidate for the June 2024 Primary Election:

Age: 47 years

Length of residency in Anaconda area: I have spent a majority of my life in the Anaconda area other than three years living in South Dakota for law school.

Born and raised where: I was born in Butte and raised in both Butte and Anaconda. I attended Anaconda Senior High School and graduated in 1996.

Occupation: Attorney

Family: I am married to Melissa Dahood and we have been married for 19 years. We have two sons, Wade Dahood and Brett Dahood who are both attending Anaconda High School. Wade is a senior and will graduate this May and Brett is a Freshman.

Education: Anaconda High School, diploma 1996. Montana Tech, B.S. Business and Information Technology, 2001. University of South Dakota, Juris Doctorate, 2005.

Military service, if any: None.

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: No previous political offices. I am a member of the Anaconda Rotary, past president of the Anaconda Snowmobile Club, past treasurer of the Anaconda Little League and past secretary of the Third Judicial District Bar Association.

ADLC Study Commission



Daniel Goddard

I'm 69 retired on SSI.
 We need to have a total change in government to effect change for our area to grow LGR is our only chance local government has been in effect since 1977 when ARCO bought Anaconda.
 My great grandfather went all the way to the supreme court for water rights to the land he homesteaded. I'm trying to gain the right for us to vote on how our tax money & land is used. LGR can reform us.
 20 yrs retired military sgt
 1yr clark university accounting
 10 yrs ceo antiques
 Montana born & raised 6 yrs anaconda resident my first driver permit Hamilton Montana. Went to grade 1 corvallis mt.
 The lgr is important for adlc to obtain growth for the future & increase of our population. The fire dept needs to match that growth along with other public services that hve fallen behind in the past 10 years. The need to vote for funds to increase the fire dept ability to serve that house & buisness growth is needed to save lives in our community is a must. It boils down to about \$10 per month which is small insurance for each home owner. We have solved the the fire department OSHA needs for sleeping quarters, but that is just a bandaid compared to the fire stations upgrade remodel & exaust system in adlc main firehouse. Our local government is to blame for this type of example getting out of hand at this point & steps need to be taken to prevent such occurances.



Mike Huotte

Age: 39
 Length of residency in Anaconda: 39 years
 Born and raised where: Anaconda
 Occupation: Accountant
 Family: wife Melissa and 3 step daughters
 Education: Bachelors in Business from Montana Tech
 Military service, if any: None
 Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: County Commissioner for 5 years; Anaconda School board; planning board; Southwest Montana Community Federal Credit Union board of directors; State of Montana Board of Public Accountants board member.
 Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?
 I am running to bring my experience in government to the review committee. I want to make sure that the committee and the community take this opportunity to carefully review and consider changes to the charter.
 Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?
 Having served as a County Commissioner I understand how government operates. I also value

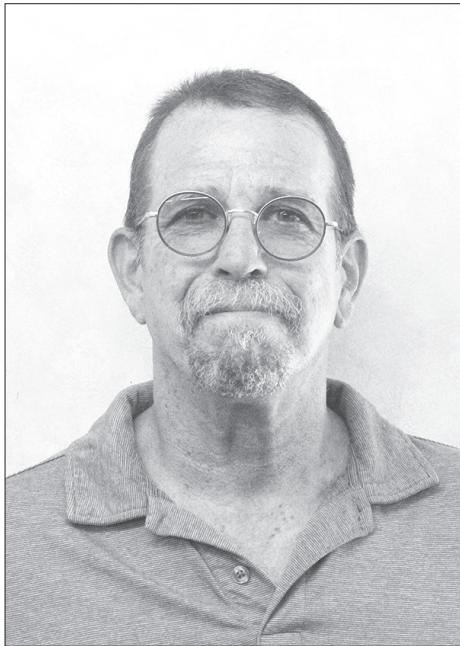
See HUOTTE on page 23



Becky Guay

Age: 63
 Length of Anaconda residency: Born and raised in Anaconda. Returned back to Anaconda 19 years ago.
 Born & Raised: Anaconda
 Occupation: Retired. Served as the ADLC Chief Executive from 2006 until 2012. Town Manager in West Yellowstone from 2012 to 2015. Prior experience as a Management Analyst for the City of Camarillo, California.
 Family: Married to Doug Buskirk. Have one daughter and son-in-law (Emily Radonich and Josh Orkin) living in Southern California. My parents were Eddie and Alice Guay of Anaconda.
 Education: Associates of Science in Engineering, Montana Tech; Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, California Lutheran University; Various Master's level courses in municipal management.
 Military service: I did not serve in the military.
 Previous Offices Held/Memberships: ADLC Chief Executive, 2006-2012; Past Member: Montana League of City and Towns; Montana Association of Counties; Clark Fork Coalition (Board of Directors); Upper Clark Fork River Restoration Council; Montana Main Street; Various local organizations and committees.
 Question 1. Why are you running for ADLC Study Commission?
 I love Anaconda and her people and was privileged serve as ADLC Chief Executive, the best job I held

See GUAY on page 24



Greg Budd

Age: 64
 Length of residency in Anaconda: 62 years.
 Born and raised where: Anaconda
 Occupation: I worked in Montana Corrections for 40 years. Many of those years I was a manager or supervisor. I was interim Director of the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole. I was the Superintendent of the Treasure State Correctional Training Center (Boot Camp) and was trained in investigations and policy review processes as well as critical incident reviews.
 Family: My Wife Melanie Budd and I have been married for 42 years and have two sons, Brad Budd and Derick Budd
 Education: I graduated from AHS in 1978. I have attended numerous professional training seminars.
 Military service, if any: None.
 Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: I am currently a member of the Anaconda Police Commission.
 Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?
 As a Police Commissioner, I found out that the rules around that role were outdated and need to be updated to reflect changes in state law. Secondly, I had a conversation with the Chief of Law Enforcement Sather about grant monies for training and equipment. Sather said because of

See BUDD on page 24

ADLC Study Commission (continued)



Christopher Zacher

Age: 33

Length of residency in

Anaconda: 33 year resident

Born and raised where: Born and raised in Anaconda

Education: Graduated from Anaconda High School class of 2009

Military service, if any: U.S. Air Force Veteran; Aerospace Propulsion Specialist 509th Bomb Wing

Occupation: ADLC Parks and Recreation Maintenance

Family: Wife: Seanna Zacher; Stepsons: Connor, Carter, and Colin Sampson

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?

I am running for study commission because I would like to serve my community in a greater capacity and to fulfill the opportunity of this unique civic duty.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

I have a great respect for Anaconda and a sharp sense of detail that I believe will be an asset to the study commission. I will bring forward and positive thinking, to make the necessary changes needed to our local government process.

See ZACHER on page 25



Sandra Sletton Chestnut

Residency: Born and raised in Anaconda, left after graduating from AHS for college and careers. Returned in Jan. 2015 after retirement.

Occupation: Retired from Columbia Falls School District/ former English teacher.

Education: BA English Education – Montana State University; Master's in Education – Lesley College.

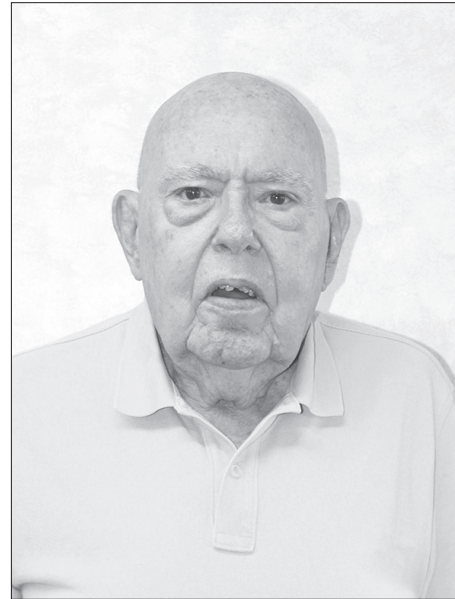
Previous Government Experience and Organizations: School Board member – two terms in Basin School District, Basin, MT, one term in Boulder School District, Boulder, MT; Montana Education Association; National Education Association.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?

The Montana Code requires that the formation of a Study Commission to review local government be asked of the voters every 10 years. Even though the Commission of 2016 submitted a proposal that was rejected, those same voters indicated in the 2024 primary that they wanted another study done. I decided to run for this study to understand what the voters would like to see as changes and to help facilitate a smoothly run government that satisfies the ADLC community.

Question 2: What skills will you

See CHESTNUT on page 25



Thomas Lee (Tom)

Age: 76.

Length of Residency in Anaconda:

I was born and raised in Anaconda. I lived in town for 23 years. I returned to Anaconda in July of 2022.

Occupation: Retired teacher. I also worked in sales.

Family: Single.

Education: BA in Secondary Education.

Military service: I did not serve in the military.

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/ professional organizations: I was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of the Tobacco Valley in Eureka, Montana. Retired member of Montana Coaches Association.

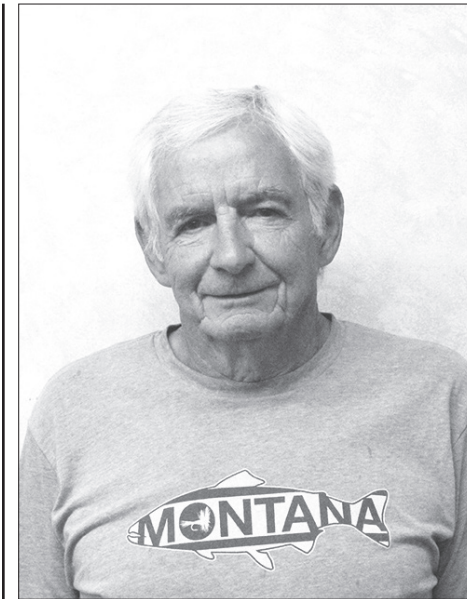
Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?

Government was always an interest that I had. A chance to review our local government structure and look at possible changes appeals to me.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

I am able to bring about consensus on most issues. I am able to reflect the different view of a group and have skills needed to lead a group to a compromise. This may not be the perfect answer. Progress is achieved in small steps.

See LEE on page 25



Dave Palmer

Age: 71

Length of residency in Anaconda: 3 years

Born and raised where: Butte

Occupation: Retired

Family: Wife- Betsy, Daughter- Sara & Daren Novak Shea Lee, Hunter, Gage), Son- Jonny & Jodi (Dan, Madi Jo, Payton), Son- Danny & Jodi (Ari), Son- Mikey & Adri (Emmey)

Education: Some college and 4 year electrical apprenticeship (Masters License)

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/ professional organizations: Butte Silver Bow Council of Commissioners - 20 yrs, Butte School District #1 Trustee - 3 yrs, Butte Study Commission, 2 yrs, Butte Silver Bow Chief Executive - 4yrs.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?

I have always believed people should get involved in their community.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

My many years of experience in a consolidated local government.

Question 3: What are your goals for the Study Commission, and how will you work with your fellow commissioners, ADLC employees and the public to achieve those goals?

See PALMER on page 25

ADLC Study Commission (continued)



Kaitlyn Juarez (Vetter)

Age: 29

Length of residency in Anaconda: 13 years.

Born and raised where: Born in California, moved to Nevada before turning 1 years old, and moved back to Anaconda when I was 7 years old; therefore, I would say raised in Montana.

Occupation: Homemaker and Business Owner: HomeTown Construction and Restoration

Family: Toni Juarez-Husband, two daughters (10) and (1), Bryn Vetter-Father, Susan Kihle (Smith)-Mother, Tyler Vetter-Brother, Paulette and Ronald Vetter-Grandparents.

Education: Bachelor's degree from MSU in Health and Human Performance-Exercise Science

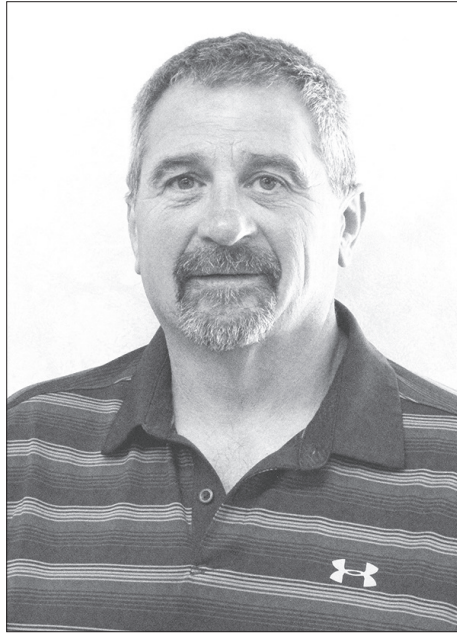
Military service, if any: N/A

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations: I am currently on the "tubing hill committee/winter tourism grant," I am interested in being on more committees in the future.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?

I am passionate about the success of our community, especially with our town expanding; therefore, I thought

See JUAREZ on page 25



Kevin A. Orrino

Age: 58

Length of residency in Anaconda: 50 yrs, (1966-1988) (1996-Present day)

Born and raised where: Anaconda MT

Occupation: Registered Respiratory Therapist, Owner/member Smelter City Estates, LLC, Owner/member JKO Investments LLC.

Family: Wife; Jolyn, Son; Maj. Jake Orrino (Carolina), Son; Cory Orrino (Chelsie) Grandchildren: Luke, Madilyn, Tyler, and Emma.

Education: Associate of Health Sciences Military Service: None

Previous political offices held and/or memberships in community/professional organizations:

American Legion Baseball Board volunteer, Anaconda School District #10 Building task force review committee member 2011. Volunteer umpire/coach ADLC recreation sports, Anaconda Little League, and Legion Baseball. St Anne's Society President, Smelter City Estates HOA President.

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?

I was approached and encouraged by several community individuals to apply to serve on the study commission. I accepted their encouragement believing that I have the knowledge, experience, and commitment to serve on this

See ORRINO on page 26



William K. Dee (Bill)

Age: 70

Length of residency in Anaconda: Entire life other than living in Colorado for 1 1/2 years

Occupation: Retired automobile dealer

Family: Married to my wife Dawn for 43 years. 4 boys – 3 who presently reside in Anaconda. 6 Grandchildren. Robbie/Audrey – Anaconda - Meghan (19) – Navy, Gavin (16) AHS. Ryan/Anne – Traverse City, MI. Kevin/Kylie – Anaconda – children – Khael (11), Kirra (8). Casey/ Kayla – Anaconda – children – Kenasyn (8), Callaway (5).

Military: none

Education: Graduated Anaconda Central in 1972, attended Carroll College, Montana State, General Motors School of Marketing and Management, numerous courses relating to the Automotive Industry.

Previous political offices held/or memberships in community/professional organizations: No political offices held. Community organizations: Past President Montana Auto Dealers, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, Montana Chevy Dealers. Past member or director of the Community Hospital Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, Kiwanis, Elks, Local Development Corporation, St James Hospital, Southwest MT

See DEE on page 26

Terry Vermeire

Terry Vermeire is running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission. The Anaconda Leader did not receive a response to our questionnaire from this candidate.

Laura Mancevich

While Laura Mancevich will appear on the ballot for Study Commission in November, she has informed the Anaconda Leader that she would not be pursuing the election and declined to respond to the questionnaire.

HUOTTE from page 21

public input and participation in local government and will work to make sure the public is afforded the right to participate in the review.

Question 3: What are your goals for the Study Commission, and how will you work with your fellow commissioners, ADLC employees and the public to achieve those goals?

My goal is to make sure the committee carefully reviews the charter and evaluates each area for potential changes. I have experience in working with the Commissioners, County employees, and the public through my years as a Commissioner. I will listen carefully to all sides of an issue and make informed decisions.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the ADLC Charter that you believe should be reviewed in particular, and why?

I believe that the Study Commission needs to look at how Commissioners are elected especially as it relates to them making decisions that affect the entire community. I also think that we will need to review positions that are elected and positions that are not elected and evaluate any potential changes.

GUAY from page 21

in my life. I want to continue serving the people of ADLC on the Study Commission as we consider, evaluate and recommend changes to the Charter. Montana's Constitution allows local governments to review their form of government every ten years. I was so pleased that citizens voted to take this opportunity to review our form of governance. I believe my work experience in several types of local governments give me unique perspectives into what is working well and what provisions may need a tune-up. I am also very familiar with resources available to help guide Study Commission members as they formulate their recommendations to the voters of ADLC. Since I am now retired, I have the time, energy and skill set available to fully commit to the work of the Commission. I would be proud to be entrusted to represent the citizens of ADLC once again and promise to work diligently and cooperatively with you, the citizens of ADLC, and other Commission members, throughout this process.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

My service as the ADLC Chief Executive (elected position) and as the Town Manager of West Yellowstone (appointed position) plus an additional 20 years in local governance leave me uniquely qualified to serve on the Study Commission. I have studied various forms of local governance for most of my working life and I am thoroughly familiar with the many variations that are allowed within the Montana Constitution.

I believe that I am a good listener and will take in as many view points as I can before reaching decisions. I am not afraid to speak up, when the time is right, and I am also comfortable facilitating discussions to ensure that all voices have an opportunity to be heard. I can communicate effectively verbally and in writing and pledge to use these skills to both seek public input and also keep the public involved in and informed about the Commission's activities.

I have a good grasp of how changes to the Charter may impact the County budget. I will ensure that Commissioners at least discuss budgeting issues and disclose these to the public so residents are not faced with unanticipated property tax increases from changes.

Lastly, I have lived in ADLC most of my adult life. I know our town and our people and have a good sense about what works well here. Solutions that may be useful in Missoula just might not be the answer here.

Question 3: What are your goals for the Study Commission and how will you work with commissioners, employees and the public to achieve those goals?

A. Ensure the Commission works within the bounds of its mandate and conducts itself in a manner that respects the dignity of all

Commissioners, County employees, and the public.

Our diversity is our greatest strength and it should be celebrated and encouraged. The Commission should appoint a Chairperson and adopt a Code of Conduct at its first meeting so meetings go smoothly and all participants are heard and respected. Commissioners should also adopt a budget for its activities so the public knows what costs are incurred. Commissioners should attend Study Commission training provided by the Local Government Center.

B. Thoroughly review all the provisions of the Charter.

Obtain input from those most familiar with and impacted by any proposed changes to the Charter, before issuing any recommendations. Contact elected officials, employees and seek advice from local citizens to identify Charter provisions that they wish to review and communicate with them throughout the process.

C. Ensure the public has ample opportunities to participate in and be advised about the workings of the Commission.

Use diverse communication methods, including the County website, newspaper articles, social media, surveys, open houses, etc., to ensure that the public can provide input before decisions are made and also to keep people informed about the process and decisions made.

D. Issue a final report identifying the Commission's recommendations and rationale for any proposed changes.

Write the report in clear language that is easy for the public to understand. I would be available to "interpret" the report and its recommendations to ensure that voters understand the ramifications of any changes placed on the ballot for the 2026 general election.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the Charter that you believe should be reviewed and why?

Section 3 of the Charter calls for County Commissioner nominees to be selected by Commission district in the primary election. It then goes on to say that in the general election, only voters within that Commission district elect one Commissioner from those nominees. This provision needs to be changed so that voters elect all candidates at large, not by district, in the general election. Enabling voters to select candidates to represent their district to appear on the ballot in the general election ensures that voters provide "local" input about their preferred choices for a Commissioner. But in the general election, all voters should have a chance to vote on all candidates for the County Commission, regardless of their district of residence.

Commissioners represent the County at large, and vote on all issues facing the County regardless of the district the issue affects. ADLC residents deserve to have five County Commissioners - duly elected by all voters - representing them, rather than having only one representative on the Commission.

BUDD from page 21

the title of Police Chief rather than Sherriif, that it prohibited him for putting in for federal grants. I would like to investigate whether this change would help with putting in for grant monies.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

I have many years of policy review and writing experience. I have drafted Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) in several areas. My investigative skill will allow me to review the power, form and plan of our government with no preconceived agenda. The public and current county officials will help define what is working and what is not.

Question 3: What are your goals for the Study Commission, and how will you work with your fellow commissioners, ADLC employees and the public to achieve those goals?

To conduct an objective review of our local government in three areas:

1 Power of Government, which ours is self-governing with a charter. I am told that our charter is one of the best in the state. During the last review this did not change.

2 Form of Government; Ours is a charter form which adopted a commission and chief executive.

3 Plan of Government; This area looks at the function of government. Areas include terms of office, partisan nonpartisan, election by district or ward or at large or county wide for commissioners.

Once appointed, at the first meeting called by the Chief Executive our group will select a presiding officer, and we as a group will determine the outline of the review. MCA requires that the Study Commission hold public meetings of its agenda and progress to keep the public informed and gather input. In the same way the Study Commission will elicit information from ADLC employees to gather more input.

I think it is also important that the public understand what the Study Commission does not do.

1 It is not a performance review elected officials, staff or appointed boards.

2 It is not a review of local government policies or ordinances.

3 It is not a review of local government taxes, fees and assessments.

4 It is not a review of laws that regulate planning or zoning.

5 It is not an opportunity to direct or require local officials to carry out any tasks or functions.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the ADLC Charter that you believe should be reviewed in particular, and why?

As discussed above I would like to examine the Chief of Law Enforcement title, to see if a change would allow for putting in for grants. I also think by reviewing other charters within the state that are working well we may be able to make our charter more effective.

ZACHER from page 22

Question 3. What are your goals for the Study Commission and how will you work with commissioners, employees and the public to achieve those goals?

If selected I will work diligently and transparently to meet the concerns of the citizens, the commission and ADLC Employees in our great community.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the Charter that you believe should be reviewed and why?

One aspect I would like to see addressed in our charter would be to create an open election for our commission. The ADLC commissioners make decisions and vote on issues that affect our entire community. The people of Anaconda need the opportunity to choose every person representing the final votes at the commission table.

LEE from page 22

Question 3: What are your goals for the Study Commission, and how will you work with your fellow commissioners, ADLC employees and the public to achieve those goals?

By reviewing our local government we are mapping out how government will serve the community over the next 10 years. We must focus on the future to be successful. I would like to hear from ADLC employees on how to improve their roles in local government. The focus should be on the future not on past grievances.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the ADLC Charter that you believe should be reviewed in particular, and why?

I believe that commissioners should be elected by district in both the primary and general election. The voice of our rural citizens will be diminished if commissioners are elected by the entire community.

CHESTNUT from page 22

bring to the local government review?

Honestly I have no particular skills that I would bring other than a willingness to listen to the issues and recommendations of the people.

Question 3. What are your goals for the Study Commission and how will you work with commissioners, employees and the public to achieve those goals?

My goals are to discover any areas of contention among the citizens of our county and to investigate legitimate concerns. I would hope to remain bipartisan in all matters and work harmoniously as possible toward a common goal.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the ADLC Charter that you believe should be reviewed in particular, and why?

The last study commission addressed the issues of electing county commissioners (at large vs. countywide) and the possibility of the ADLC Chief Executive Officer and/or the Chief of Police should be elected or hired.

The ADLC Charter is a very thin document and other than those two issues to be revisited all that remains to be investigated would be the matter of how taxes should be levied. Perhaps the property tax levy can be examined by a new study commission.

PALMER from page 22

I do not have any set goals. If elected I will work closely with the other members, listen to the ADLC employees, elected officials and the public to review the charter of ADLC. We will see what is working and what is not and make recommended changes to be put before the voters of ADLC.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the ADLC Charter that you believe should be reviewed in particular, and why?

I believe our current form of government is right for the size of our community. It is cost effective for the taxpayers and gives the voters a choice come election time. Once again though, we will review the entire charter.

JUAREZ from page 23

it would be a terrific opportunity to be involved with the Study Commission and to witness the inner workings of our local government. To be able to address what aspects we could improve upon and where those pieces lie. I also think it is important for the younger generation to get involved. These are the opportunities that foster growth, knowledge, and experience. I may not have years of experience in local government, but I offer a fresh set of eyes and a commitment to learn.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

I currently do the administrative and secretarial tasks, budgeting, and design, for our construction company. I have a keen eye for detail, a genuine curiosity for how our local government currently operates and a willingness to learn. I also will not be afraid to ask the tough questions and get down to the root issue/cause.

Question 3: What are your goals for the Study Commission, and how will you work with your fellow commissioners, ADLC employees and the public to achieve those goals?

Communication and transparency between the commissioners, ADLC employees and the community are key. The Study Commission should listen to the opinions and/or concerns from the community regarding the current structure of the ADLC charter and how our government is operating. With this valuable feedback the Study Commission members should evaluate where they can successfully address those within the local government and provide an impactful effective solution. My family has grown up in this town for generations, I grew up in this town and now I'm raising my family in this town- that's why it's so important to me to make sure our remarkable town is functioning at its highest ability, while simultaneously

not losing sight of what makes our small town so great: the residents, the opportunities and the charm. Doing this will ensure the brightest future for the next generation. What makes the Study Commission so valuable is that it incorporates individuals who have a common goal, but come with different ideas, opinions, and backgrounds to make that shared goal a reality. Our community is filled with so many hardworking, honest, and kind individuals and I look forward to having the opportunity to work along side members of this community and to do my part to make this local government review a success.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the ADLC Charter that you believe should be reviewed in particular, and why?

The people voted for the Study Commission, for a review and for change. The last Study Commission put forth recommendations and the voters rejected those changes; however, I think the people within our county are now ready for change. It is the Study Commission's job to give a voice to the community members and hopefully answer their questions and address their concerns. My main objective is to go into the Study Commission with an open mind, to listen to the people within the ADLC and the opinions of my fellow commission. To ask the tough questions and analyze where our county is struggling when it comes to the form and structure of our local government. Based off the conversations I have had and the opinions I have seen thus far, I would say there are four top aspects of the ADLC Charter that will be reviewed by the members of the Study Commission. Those topics would consist of the Commissioner elections and whether that should remain district specific or be a county wide election, elected vs appointed positions for the CEO and Police Chief, the specified duties of the CEO and Commission and the current matters going on with the Fire Department.

ORRINO from page 23

board. I have been a small business owner, a land developer and volunteer in Anaconda. I am proud to say I am from Anaconda and feel I will be a beneficial member of the ADLC study commission.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

I have taken time to study and review the Charter and Administrative Code of Anaconda/Deer Lodge County and for the past several years I have tried to attend as many commission meetings as possible. This has helped me learn more about how our city/county government works and is run. I also have 20 years' experience as a land developer within the county working with government officials, planning boards and Anaconda citizens to help bring new home construction to our community.

Question 3. What are your goals for the Study Commission and how will you work with commissioners, employees and the public to achieve those goals?

Anaconda formed a consolidated City/County government in 1977 before the Smelter closed. I believe there was a lot of time, thought and work put into why this form of government was adopted for our community. I respect the study commission of that time as well as every study since then. My goals are to look at the charter in depth, maintain an open mind and dialogue with my fellow commissioners, ADLC employees and public. I will take an analytical approach in considering what works and what may not be working for the best interests of the citizens of Anaconda, then work to achieve the best outcome for our government and community.

Question 4: What is one aspect of the Charter that you believe should be reviewed and why?

One area of concern to me is how our Board of County Commissioners is currently elected per district voters but represent and make decisions for the county as a whole. I believe it would be better if the candidates were voted on by all registered voters regardless of district as the way the CEO and Chief of Police are currently elected, I support that. I have heard comments in the community that our elections are a "popularity contest," that to me indicates the voter did not do their due diligence. As Abe Lincoln said "Government, Of the People, By the People, and For the People," I will work with this group to figure out what is best for the citizens of ADLC.

DEE from page 23

Drug Council, past member of an automobile organization of 20 dealers from throughout the country who meet quarterly for continued education. NADA – past member of the National Automobile Dealers Association. Member of Holf Family Parish

Question 1: Why are you running for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Study Commission?

I believe Anaconda Deer-Lodge County is at a critical time in it's history. Over the last 43 years, since ARCO made the decision to no longer do business in the state of Montana, the state was forced to adjust, especially the Anaconda-Butte area. Anaconda Deer Lodge County particularly was drastically affected. Over that 43-year period our community, it's leaders and most importantly it's citizens have been forced to reconstruct our community from a one industry town, which was basically controlled by a company to a completely new type of community. It has taken over 40 years to accomplish that goal. With recent Record of Decision agreed upon there will be a day when BP will no longer be the driving force in Anaconda Deer Lodge County. The decisions our leaders in the future are critical. Past state leaders gave us the opportunity to reevaluate our charter every 10 years. Our voters chose to elect a Study Commission to reevaluate our charter. Those who are chosen will study our present charter, determine if changes should be made or remain the same. If they as a group agree, that changes should be made or remain the same, they will recommend their advice to the citizens of Anaconda Deer Lodge County. Their recommendations will be on the 2025 ballot and the decisions will be made by the voters.

Anaconda has been our family's home for over 100 years. For Dawn and I, our 4 boys, 6 grandchildren, and a business that employs over 30 people. Anaconda's future is paramount. Those we elect, how they are elected or appointed, and the process is extremely important. Democracy FOR the people of Anaconda.

Question 2: What skills will you bring to the local government review?

Having the opportunity to experience and be part of a business that employed 10 individuals, then grew to over 30. Prospered during challenging times. That experience has taught me how to evaluate, make changes when necessary for the benefit of the business, it's employees and most important, it's customers. We succeeded because we hired the best staff available in many areas. By being honest, fair, a good listener, able to change,

compromise, make decisions which benefit the majority, and most important, the customers. In this case, the citizens of Anaconda Deer Lodge County.

Question 3. What are your goals for the Study Commission and how will you work with commissioners, employees and the public to achieve those goals?

My goals for the Study Commission is to educate myself on the past and present charter. Listen to other commissioners who have knowledge, experience and no agenda or ax to grind. Reevaluate the pros and cons and suggest changes if necessary or remain the same. Listen to employees of ADLC, present elected officials and most important, the citizens of Anaconda. What do they want Anaconda to become in the next 5-10-25 years?

Question 4: What is one aspect of the Charter that you believe should be reviewed and why?

The aspect I believe is most important and should be reviewed is how we elect our Chief Executive, Chief of Police, and Commissioners. How do we get the most qualified individuals in those very important positions? Each one is different, that is why major discussions among the Study Commission is necessary and opportunity for public input. If we elect the proper commissioners, I believe they should hire the Chief Executive. The CEO has many responsibilities. He or she must be the most qualified possible. It should not be a popularity contest. That person must be able to make decisions that are in the best interest of the majority. It would be up to the commissions to interview and evaluate potential CEO applicants, just like any other position for a complex company. The commissions who represent the citizens have the right by majority or 4 of the 5 commissions (up for discussion) to hire and fire the CEO. The Chief of Police is similar process but that maybe the CEO's responsibility with input from the commission. As for the Commissioners, I feel they should always be a resident of their district and only the district should be able to vote in the primary, but the general election, the entire community should be able to choose who they feel is best qualified to make the best decisions for the entire community.

I am not totally committed to these changes. I will listen to others and then decide what is best for Anaconda. I'm sure the other Study Commission members will do the same. After research and discussion, we will make suggestions to improve the charter, but in the end, it will be the will of the people, that is Democracy.

Anaconda Fire Department Bond Election

The question of whether to issue up to \$4.7 million in bonds to renovate the Anaconda Fire Department's fire hall is up to the voters within the department's fire district, after the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission voted earlier this year in favor of placing the issue on the ballot for the Nov. 5 general election.

The ballot language asks voters to authorize ADLC to sell and issue general obligation bonds of up to \$4.7 million for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of an addition to and renovations and upgrades of the city fire hall at 420 W. Commercial Ave. in Anaconda, as well as for costs related to the improvements and to the sale and issuance of the bonds.

If passed, and based on the taxable value of the Anaconda Fire District, the property taxes for every \$100,000 of assessed market value of a home in the fire district would increase by \$65.20 in the first year, according to the ballot language, which further states that an increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

Here is the ballot language as it appears on ballots for voters living within the fire district:

"City Fire Hall General Obligation Bond
"Shall the Commission of the Consolidated City and County of Anaconda-Deer Lodge

County, Montana be authorized to sell and issue general obligation bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of up to four million seven hundred thousand and no/100 dollars (\$4,700,000.00), bearing interest at rates to be determined at the time of the sale, payable semiannually, during a term as to each series of bonds of not more than twenty (20) years, for the purpose of providing funds to pay costs of an addition to and renovating and upgrading the City Fire Hall located at 420 W. Commercial Street in Anaconda; related improvements and costs; and costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds?

"If this bond election passes, based on the taxable value of the Anaconda City Fire District, the property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by \$65.20 in the first year, of \$300,000 would increase by \$391.20 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs."

To see whether you live in the Anaconda Fire District, go to the ADLC Planning Department website, <https://www.adlc.us/187/Planning>, click on the ADLC Planning Map link and use the map's filters to select fire districts.

Initiatives and State and Federal Offices

The Montana Free Press has published an election guide for the federal and state offices, as well as the three proposed amendments to the Montana Constitution. It is available online here: <https://apps.montanafreepress.org/election-guide-2024/>.

Also, the Anaconda Leader has published on its website, anacondaleader.com, a series of articles from the University of Montana School of Journalism on these races. The articles are being published in the print edition of the Leader throughout the month of October as well.

Voter Information

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. If you aren't sure of your polling place or precinct, or for questions on voter registration or to register to vote, go to the ADLC election office on the second floor of the courthouse or call (406) 563-4063.

You may also visit the Montana Secretary of State's website, <https://sosmt.gov/elections/>. And be sure to bookmark that site so you can check the results in real time as they are posted after the polls close.

MORGAN
★ ★ ★ ★ SMITH
FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY

Thank you for the support of my campaign this election season. I would appreciate your vote on November 5th. I look forward to serving Anaconda - Deer Lodge County as your next County Attorney.



PAID FOR BY MORGAN SMITH FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY
PO BOX 607 ANACONDA, MT 59711, KIMBERLY LORENZO TREASURER

Bill T. Everett for CEO



Rebuilding Anaconda

Anaconda is now Debt Free

- From **\$6.9 million** in debt, to **Zero!**

Negotiated Consent Decree with ARCO

- Providing a pathway for a healthy and clean community
- Provided Millions of dollars for Rebuilding Anaconda

Grant Funding

- Applied & Received more than **\$40 million** in Grants
- **\$21 million** Grant to restructure and rebuild Mill Creek Highway
- **\$2.75 million** Grant to improve Ice Skating at Kennedy Common, add a Hockey Rink and Sledding Hill

New Business

- The Forge, Murdoch's, RV Resort, O'Rileys, Mungus, Steelhead Doors, KLM, Western States Garage Doors.
- **Coming Soon** - ABC Home Center and state-of-the-art carwash

Infrastructure

- Rebuilt and Repaved **118 blocks of Streets** and over **30,000 feet of new pavement** and asphalt
- Over **300** new and retrofitted historic street lights
- **\$4.5 million** rebuild of Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Brand new Splash Park in Washoe Park

Preserving Anaconda's Historical Heritage

- Courthouse and Hearst Free Library renovations

Anaconda hasn't looked this great in 50 years!
I would appreciate your vote on November 5th

Paid for by Bill T. Everett PO Box 39, Anaconda, MT 59711