

# THE FALLON POST



# VOTER GUIDE



**PRIMARY ELECTION '24**

KEEPING YOU POSTED ON THE  
CANDIDATES AND ISSUES

RE-ELECT

Ken  
**TEDFORD**

MAYOR

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Re-Elect Mayor Ken Tedford*  
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## 2024 Election Guide

Welcome to the 2024 Primary Election Guide. We are pleased to bring you this publication to help familiarize you with the candidates and make sure the information people need to get to the polls is readily available.

We have reached out to all the candidates who filed for office asking for information so we can include it here.

## Voting Information

Nevada is a closed Primary Election State. That means if you register with the Democratic or Republican Party, you may vote only for candidates from your own party and you may also vote in nonpartisan contests. If you chose a party affiliation that was anything other than Democratic or Republican, you may vote only in nonpartisan contests.

General Election: Your ballot will have all contests listed regardless of your political party affiliation with information for ALL elections to be held in 2024.

As a reminder, ALL active eligible voters in Nevada will receive a mail ballot, unless they opt out. All previous opt-out requests received will be honored.

With the passage of Assembly Bill 321 during the 2021 Legislative Session, all registered voters will receive a ballot by mail. If you wish to vote by mail and the county clerk has your correct address, then you do not need to do anything. You can request to opt-out of receiving a mail ballot by submitting a mail ballot preference form. You may also use the mail ballot preference form to request that your ballot be sent to an address other than your permanent residence or mailing address.

All registered voters in Churchill County may vote in person during the published early voting hours or from 7 am to 7 pm on Election Day, including those who received a mail ballot and

Several candidates did not respond and there were some who did answer but did not want to be included for various reasons. Please know every attempt was made.

Please reach out if you have any questions to admin@FallonMediaLLC.com or swing by our new office at 25 S. Maine Street in Fallon.

who have not yet returned it.

Information regarding voting by mail can be found at [nv-churchillcounty.civicplus.com/951/Vote-By-Mail](https://nv-churchillcounty.civicplus.com/951/Vote-By-Mail) or the mail ballot preference form can be found [www.churchillcountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16128/MailBallotPreference-Form\\_FINAL](https://www.churchillcountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16128/MailBallotPreference-Form_FINAL)

You may also update your mail ballot preference online the <https://www.nvsos.gov/votersearch/>

### Primary Election Day, June 11, 2024

*Fallon Convention Center* 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Early Voting: May 25 – June 7, 2024**  
*Churchill County Commission Chambers*  
155 S. Taylor Street in Fallon

Saturday, May 25 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27 - Friday, May 31  
from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, June 3 - Friday, June 7  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

*Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Community Learning Center*  
Saturday, May 25 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



## County Commission Districts “At Large”

County Commission Districts cover the county and are divided based on population and geography. The three commission districts cover the City of Fallon as well, as the city is located inside the county boundaries, giving city residents representation at the county level and the opportunity to vote for their representatives. Citizens of the City Of Fallon are divided approximately equally between the three County Commission Districts and therefore each commission district is elected from approximately 1/3 of the city residents.

Although Commissioners must live inside the boundaries of the seat they are elected from, Commissioners serve “at-large” and are voted for by everyone in the county, not just the voters in their district.

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# US Senator Jacky Rosen Runs for Re-Election

As your Senator, it's my honor to represent and serve the people of Nevada. I am proud to be ranked one of the most bipartisan and effective members of the U.S. Senate. I'm focused on getting things done for our state – not playing the same old Washington games – And I've never hesitated to put partisanship aside or take on special interests to deliver results for hardworking Nevadans.

In the Senate, I have consistently worked with Republicans and Democrats to get things done for Nevadans. I helped write and pass the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to rebuild Nevada's roads and bridges, modernize airports across the state, and improve access to affordable, high-speed internet. I helped pass the PACT Act to expand health care for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits, and I'm working to bring federal funding for the new VA hospital in Reno.

Working across party lines is at the core of my work. I am pushing to pass bipartisan plans that will help police departments across Nevada hire and retain new officers and increase mental health resources for first responders. I'm also supporting a bipartisan plan

to secure our border that would help fix key aspects of our broken immigration system and stop the flow of deadly drugs like fentanyl. And I'm leading efforts with members of both parties to address Nevada's doctor and nursing shortage and expand access to health care in rural and underserved areas.

One of the most important ways we can improve the lives of everyday Nevadans is lowering everyday costs like housing and health care. That's why I took on big drug companies to cap the cost of insulin at \$35/month and lower the price of medications for seniors, and it's why I'm fighting to crack down on corporate investors buying up housing stock and driving up prices.

I've always made it a priority to fight for rural communities like Fallon. That means expanding access to telehealth services and mobile health clinics, defending our agricultural economy, and delivering important rural infrastructure investments for our schools, airports, clean water projects, and broadband.

My office has brought home millions of federal dollars for local commu-



nity projects across Northern Nevada, and I'm proud to have directly helped secure nearly \$5 million for the Kaiser Street Reconstruction project to improve local roadways and sidewalks and \$3.6 million to improve power reliability for the City of Fallon.

I have also stood up to my own party to support more funding for border security, support police officers, and protect Nevada industries like tourism and mining. And I'm working across the aisle to make more investments in technical training programs and apprenticeships for Nevadans to get the skills they need to secure good-paying jobs even if they don't go to college or if they change careers.

My record in the Senate shows that I am committed to bipartisanship and will always put Nevada first.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**RE-ELECT** REPUBLICAN

Dr. Gregory S.

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# US Senate Republican Candidate - Jeff Gunter

"If not now, when; if not me, who," Jeff Gunter said, explaining his decision to run in the Republican Primary for the U.S. Senate. He said because the southern border with Mexico is wide open, "we are facing an invasion, inflation is out of control, and we are in endless wars."

Shutting the border, according to Gunter, will solve those top three problems. "America first," he said. "We must support Trump."

Gunter points to his foreign policy experience, having served as the Ambassador to Iceland during the Trump administration, to show he has the experience with difficult issues and is qualified to serve in the U.S. Senate. "I dealt with human trafficking, smuggling, border control, and laundering money."

He is currently a physician and runs a dermatology practice in Pahrump where he and his wife also own a farm. He said he has been serving patients in rural Nevada since 1996 where he has treated active, retired, and dependent military along

with his rural patients in clinics from Pahrump to Gardnerville to Bishop, California. "In 2019 we made Nevada our legal residence," Gunter said.

"I've been taking care of rural Nevadans for years, the next logical step is to take care of Americans," he said.

Natural Resource Production is important to Gunter, and he sees the industries supported by resource extraction as integral to economic recovery. "You've heard, 'Drill, baby, drill,' - well I'm mine, baby, mine." He said that Nevada is the Silver State for a reason. "We must mine. For every 10,000 mining jobs, that means 50,000 support jobs. Economic success equals freedom."

Gunter also says the Department of Education must be abolished. "We don't need the feds telling us how to run our education, we need those dollars here." He is also opposed to Yucca Mountain and the federal government forcing Nevada to take the nation's nuclear waste. "It's shameful, it's not safe. I don't trust that. This is the same government that told us



masks work and the vaccines are safe. We have an amazing economy here in Nevada, we do not have to sell our soul."

"If we want 3.5% unemployment again, if we want gas at half the price we're paying now, we have to close the border, and we have to support Trump," he said.

Gunter faces a field of 12 Republicans in the Primary Election including Tony Grady, Sam Brown, and Stephanie Phillips. Grady's campaign staff responded to our request for an interview but declined. No other candidate responded. The winner of the primary will face Senator Jacky Rosen in the General Election.



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# Justice of the Peace Candidate Features

## Brenda Ingram

Brenda Ingram has thrown her hat in the ring to challenge incumbent Judge Ben Trotter for a six-year term serving as Justice of the Peace.

Ingram is a native Nevadan, born and raised in Yerington and has lived in Fallon and worked for Churchill County for the past 34 years, making her the most senior employee of the county. She worked for the Justice Court for 18 years, serving as the Chief Court Clerk and for the past 15 years serving as the Director of Court Services.

“During my 18 years in the Justice Court, I worked diligently in every capacity, from Civil Clerk to Misdemeanor Clerk, Felony Clerk, and ultimately as the Chief Court Clerk for 14 years. In this leadership role, I successfully managed the daily operations of the court, overseeing budget preparation and management, grant writing and administration, as well as formulating policies and procedures. My responsibilities also included the supervision of staff, ensuring a well-functioning and efficient court,” she said.

Appointed as the Director of Court Services in 2009, Ingram took the helm at the new department established to address jail over-crowding and improve the overall efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

“Within just 15 months, my department received national recognition for the National Association of Counties for its effectiveness and innovation, reflecting our success in enhancing county government and the court system.”

Ingram has been appointed by the Churchill County Board of Commissioners to represent Churchill County on the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council, which is comprised of one representative from each county in Nevada, created to make recommendations to the Nevada Sentencing Commission. She has also achieved certification as a Pretrial Services Professional with Honors from the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.

“I believe I am the best candidate because I think the community and our

justice system deserves a judge that is far more selective about who they are letting out of jail on their own recognition than the current Justice of the Peace is. I will be more focused on community safety when it comes to releasing arrestees. Our local Law Enforcement does a great job solving crimes and making arrests, but those arrested are getting released from jail before the ink is dry on the officer’s report, even when they are a high risk to our community. It’s not right, it’s not safe and no one in Fallon wants that nationwide



trend happening here,” Ingram said.

Explaining the evidence-based risk assessment tool that the Nevada Supreme Court has mandated, Ingram said it is an accurate predictor of whether a defendant will re-offend or fail to appear for court, if released.

“My department interviews inmates to get pertinent information, runs their criminal histories, verifies their information through references, and then completes the risk assessment. This risk assessment is then provided to the Justice of the Peace. At their initial hearing, high risk arrestees are often released shortly after their arrest. They then must be supervised and monitored with most of them violating the terms of their release, and re-arrested, only to go back in front of the current Justice of the Peace, often to be released yet again. It is absolutely a revolving door.”

Ingram is passionate about bringing her knowledge and experience of criminal justice field back to the Justice Court.

“Over the years I have developed ex-

cellent working relationships with other department heads within the county, as well as a vast network of colleagues throughout the state. If elected as your Justice of the Peace, I pledge to bring a fresh, well-rounded, open-minded, and fair approach to the position. I believe that my track record demonstrates my commitment to our community and my ability to make a positive impact on the justice system.”

Ingram can be contacted at [brenda@brendaingramforjp.com](mailto:brenda@brendaingramforjp.com), she faces Trotter and Dr. Stuart Richardson in the Primary election on June 11.

## Ben Trotter

Ben Trotter is currently serving Churchill County as the Justice of Peace and is running for reelection to his second six-year term.

Trotter moved to Fallon in 1995 to take a job with the Fallon Police Department where he worked as an officer, detective, and sergeant for over 15 years. In 2010 he was one of five law enforcement officers who filed to run for Sheriff against Richard Ingram. Ingram’s wife, Brenda is running against Trotter this year for his Justice of the Peace seat.

As a candidate, Trotter is known for his door-to-door campaign style, and regularly visits as many voters as possible during election season. After covering the county with personal visits, he was elected as Sheriff in 2010 and served two terms. He was elected as Justice of the Peace in 2018, after visiting nearly every voter in the community again.

One of goals for the Justice Court was to use technology to make the court more accessible and efficient for everyone including the public, Sheriff’s Office, prosecutors, and defendants. When he was elected, Trotter began implementing measures to accomplish this, including instituting hearings available virtually.

“The COVID-19 pandemic, while offering challenges, also offered opportunities to fully implement this goal,” Trotter said. Today, the Sheriff’s Office rarely is required to transport prisoners to the Justice Court for hearings as

they can appear from the jail building on camera before the court. Technology is also used nearly daily to allow a variety of parties to appear for hearings remotely.



Judge Trotter believes that the government can and should be efficient and cites the 2017 high water event in Churchill County as arguably the single best example of this efficiency. “While we the decision-makers played large roles in the successful avoidance of a serious flood issue, it was the collaboration between numerous state and local governmental entities and local non-government groups such as the ‘farmer brigade’ that made it all happen and that set up viable, permanent, protections for our community.”

In addressing issues raised by his opponent, Trotter said he finds the risk assessment provided by Churchill County’s Court Services Department extremely valuable and provides him with, often, critical information upon which to make pre-trial release without bail decisions. However, the risk assessment is a tool and is not in itself, the deciding factor or a mandate that a judge must follow.

Judges are required to make decisions based on various levels of proof depending on the issue at-hand. Concepts such as “beyond a reasonable doubt”, “probable cause”, and “clear and convincing evidence”, while possibly defined in words are not actually quantifiable, hence the need for a judge to weigh the evidence and decide. In other words, the determination of whether, say the “clear and convincing evidence” standard has been met, is the decision of the judge, made after hearing arguments and weighing facts. This decision

is likely to vary notably between different judges.

“It would be counter-productive for a judge, in order to demonstrate being ‘tough on crime’ to not take seriously the mandates passed down by the higher courts or the legislature. Understanding the direction our state government is leaning in regard to incarceration of defendants and the scrutiny the judiciary is under in Nevada, this type of action by judges could inspire stricter requirements or even direct orders that erode the independence and discretion of the judiciary.”

Judge Trotter said that after a career in public safety, the safety of the public is a critical consideration in these bail hearings. He encourages people to visit or watch the Court on Zoom on Thursday mornings each week to see first-hand how the Court functions. Zoom log-in information is on the Justice Court website.

Additionally, Trotter explained how the court schedule often changes and is reliant on many variables including attorneys, district attorneys, and multiple defendants, resulting in delays and canceled hearings. Charges that sitting Judges treat the Justice of the Peace position as part-time are regularly made by challengers, without acknowledging the many other tasks that come with the judge position. In addition to his court duties, Trotter often uses his time to write grants, develop the budget, assist staff, research new court rulings and opinions.

He also explained that elected officials in Churchill County do not get vacation time or sick time and he has in some instances used gap time in the calendar for personal needs. Trotter said he is in the courthouse nearly every day of the year and on call 24/7/365. We also are required now to hold hearings on the weekends.

“If someone questions my work ethic, they have not been paying attention for the past 14, or maybe 29, years. The way I campaign for election, the immense amount of community service I have done, and my availability at work on a daily basis should remove questions about my commitment to my duties and service beyond those duties.”

“I am so grateful to have had the

privilege of serving this community and for this community’s support and recognition to making things better for all of us. I am excited to continue to guide this important court through the next six years and ask the citizens and Churchill County for their vote June 11.”

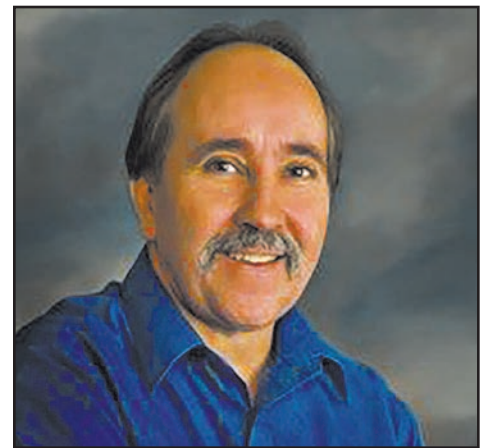
Ben Trotter has a campaign website: [www.BenTrotter4Justice.org](http://www.BenTrotter4Justice.org)

## Stuart Richardson

Stuart Richardson has lived in Fallon for 44 years and a self-described 72-year-old goat farming optometrist. He said he originally filed to run “in January when Ben was on the fence. I just hope in June someone gets 51 percent of the vote, so we don’t have to keep running.”

Richardson had the opportunity to attend law school online through Concord Law School beginning in 2003. “All you have to do to earn a law degree,” he said laughing, “is give up t.v.”

In 2008 he graduated and then passed the California Bar in 2009. He said when Trotter won his JOP seat,



District Court Judge Tom Stockard suggested Richardson for the Pro Tempore position and he has served along side Trotter in that position for five years, filling in when Trotter has a conflict of interest, is in training, or otherwise not available for a case.

Richardson also performs marriages as part of his duties as Judge Pro Tempore.

He can be reached at [stuster@hotmail.com](mailto:stuster@hotmail.com).



# County Commission District 1 Candidates

## Julie Guerrero-Goetsch

Julie Guerrero-Goetsch has announced her intention to run for the Churchill County Commission, District 1, the seat currently held by Commissioner Justin Heath who has decided he will not run for re-election.

Goetsch currently serves as the Administrative Services Manager for the county and has worked for the county for 20 years. “I work with all county departments, the County Manager, and the commissioners,” she said. “I understand property rights, water resources, small businesses, and the value of local government serving local community interest.”

If she is successful in her bid for the District 1 seat, she will retire from her current position with the county.

Goetsch has lived in Churchill County for 24 years, and her children were born and raised here. She is married to Brad Goetsch who served in the Navy for 27 years and retired as the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Fallon.

“I have worked for every county commissioner since Commissioner Jim Regan,” said Goetsch, including Gwen Washburn who served a 16-year term before term limits were instituted. “This has given me the unique opportunity to observe and work directly with many board members over the years. I am supported and endorsed by Commissioner Justin Heath and Commissioner Bus Scharmann.”

With two open commission seats, Goetsch says this is a unique time in our leadership history. “Come January when those seats are sworn in, our senior sitting commissioner will have two years of service. Now more than ever, experience matters.”

A project Goetsch has worked on for many years, of which she is very proud, is the Conservation Easement program. Bringing together the Navy, the command at NAS Fallon, and agricultural landowners to help protect ag land, water rights, and the buffer area around NAS Fallon, has secured thousands of acres of land and water in the Lahontan Valley. “This program



supports agriculture and military, two of our economic pillars and along with renewable energy and our incredible local businesses, make up the backbone of Churchill’s economy.”

She says the most satisfying part of her job is helping others. “I am very passionate about youth, our children and grandchildren are the future of this community. Being a county commissioner will afford me the opportunity to continue serving others in an even bigger way.”

Goetsch was elected to the Churchill County School Board of Trustees in 2022, where she serves on the Budget Advisory Committee and the Policy Committee. She is the Chairman of the County’s Insurance Advisory Committee, and the Recording Clerk for the Fallon/Churchill Fire Board and has served as the past President of Fallon Navy League and the Employee Management Committee. She is also a member of the Churchill County Republican Central Committee.

She can be reached at [Juliegg-4bocc@gmail.com](mailto:Juliegg-4bocc@gmail.com).

*District 1 covers the community generally west of Highway 95 and Taylor Street and south of Williams Avenue and Hwy 50 West. For specific clarity on the district boundaries, see the map on the County Commissioners page at [churchillcountynv.gov/128/County-Commissioners](http://churchillcountynv.gov/128/County-Commissioners) and check representation by address.*

## Matt Hyde

Matt Hyde has officially announced his intention to run for the office of County Commissioner in District 1, the seat currently held by Commissioner Justin Heath. Heath announced several weeks ago that he is not running for re-election.

Hyde is in the middle of his third term, serving on the Churchill County School Board for the past ten years. He has been re-elected twice.

“I’ve always wanted to run for county commission,” he said, although the timing isn’t exactly right because of how his school district term straddles the commission term. “I don’t think children would ever be born if we always waited for the timing to be exactly right,” he laughed.

During his term on the school board, Hyde has served as a member of the Board of Control of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association, the nine-member governing body of high school athletics and activities in Nevada as recognized by the Nevada state legislature. He was the school board president twice and vice president three times.

As a member of the Board of Control, it was important to consider all 17 districts, “not just focus solely on Churchill or Oasis. It’s what’s best for everybody. It really comes down to policy; I’m a big policy-driven guy; if you want to talk to me about policy, that’s where you start to make a change.”

One of Hyde’s most significant successes at the school district was getting the strategic plan in place, setting the board goals, and seeing the graduation rate climb after those goals began being implemented.

Hyde has worked for CC Communications for 27 years and is primarily focused on the importance of infrastructure and roads and is concerned about growth. “I don’t want super-fast growth that our infrastructure can’t handle,” he said. “I don’t want to be another bedroom community; we don’t want to be a second Fernley; we need industry, good manufacturing jobs that pay a living wage.”






His father, Willis Hyde was the Watermaster at the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District when Hyde was young, and he grew up knowing the importance of water in the Lahontan Valley. "Water is important, and we are lucky to live over a great aquifer, but we need to keep the water in this valley. That water coming down is ours. Farming is important for the community, the economy, and to protect that aquifer."

"I just love serving, and I love Churchill County," said Hyde. "I feel like I've learned a lot, and have governing experience and have a lot to contribute."

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3**



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**Justice of the Peace**



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*-Brenda Ingram*



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## Primary Election Guide

# County Commission District 3 Candidates

### Eric Blakey

Hello, my name is Eric Blakey Candidate for Churchill County Commissioner District 3.

I am 51 years of age and have been a resident of Churchill County for 27 years. I am married to Celestia Blakey (McElvain). We have two daughters, Shelby, she currently resides in Boston, MA working with an accounting firm, Colbie is a student within the Churchill County Public School District, she is currently studying life skills. We also have one son Johnathon, he resides in San Diego, CA. as a current member of the United States Navy, serving as an Operations Specialist.

My wife and I are entrepreneurs, we created and operate an Electrical Contracting Business, Hotwire Electric, Real Estate Investment Company, Gum Corner Properties, and Retail Business Dandelion Express Florist.

With that said all of our business plans and goals have a common denominator of providing professional services, which has allowed me to be an enterprising and resourceful person who utilizes my common sense, knowledge, and business mind to maneuver the path of everyday life.

My public service career has coincided with my business career for many years to give back to my community in thanks for the support it has always shown me and my family. I am currently serving as the Chairman of the Churchill County Planning Commission, with six years of service, currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors for the Churchill County Federal Credit Union, 20 Year Career (Retired) with Fallon-Churchill Fire Department, served seven years as Captain and two years as assistant Fire Chief. I have six years of service as a Churchill County Reserve Deputy Sheriff, and have served as board member and president of the Churchill County Youth Softball Association.

My dedication and service to this community has been proven time and time again with my continued actions both within business and public service which has provided me the knowledge



and temperament needed, to lead Churchill County into the future.

As Churchill County moves into the future, we must remember where we started and what has sustained this community for decades and we must never waver from our culture that has grown so strong over time.

Resources, at all costs we must capitalize and protect the resources that our County has to offer, for we will be able to enjoy the great economic impact these will bring and continue to provide endless opportunities to our community for generations to come such as, water sustainability and protection, agriculture sustainability and protection, Geothermal Production, Industrial Opportunities (CHIP), CC Communications, Entrepreneurs with Dreams, and the Rafter 3C Complex. Relationships, we must continue to build upon our strong relationships with the City of Fallon, NAS Fallon, other Counties, State & Federal Government's so we will all move together towards our common goals such as sustainable growth, protection of our resources, and provisions needed for all citizens to have affordable living within our communities.

Infrastructure, we must move forward and begin the installation process, so we are prepared to accept and manage the development of our community as time passes.

Development, is needed across the board, Residential, Small Business,

Large Commercial and Industrial, our County has available space to accommodate whomever presents themselves, however we must put forth effort first to show we are welcoming to development whether it be land improvements, utility improvements, and/or zoning changes, but we must always protect the areas of our County were it is not feasible for development and it doesn't align with those areas.

As Churchill County begins to maneuver into the future we all must be reminded a community that doesn't grow will not prosper as it should, and since the growth has started to increase with a positive outlook, I believe we still have time to correctly plan and navigate our own path to successfully building out our County to meet our common goals of small town appeal with sustainable growth over time where no burdens will be created upon our citizens and/or community.

### Rusty Jardine

To our Esteemed Electors: All of my working life I have been a public servant. Challenges now confront Churchill County that demand real experience. I am your candidate.

I began my career with the juvenile court in Elko. For eleven years I worked with children. I decided cases; and there, having completed three of four college degrees, I became certified as a peace officer, an alcohol and drug counselor, a court administrator and a teacher.

Prior to employment with the juvenile court, I served as a missionary in Colombia, South America. I learned the Spanish language. In Elko I acted from time to time as an interpreter for the courts and law enforcement.

From Elko I went to the University of Idaho, in Moscow, Idaho, where I obtained the degree of Juris Doctor. After law school I completed a judicial clerkship in Lovelock. Upon passing the Nevada Bar Exam, I began the practice of law as an assistant district attorney in Lovelock.



My career of representing local and state governments would grow to include White Pine County District Attorney's Office, the Nevada Attorney General's Office, the Churchill County District Attorney's Office, and the Truckee Carson Irrigation District. For more than twenty five (25) years I have represented local government boards including county commissions and planning bodies. I truly know the "ins and outs" of local government.



I have taught college law courses. I have taught at Nevada's police academies. I have been a bar examiner for the Nevada State Bar and a member of the Bar's Disciplinary Panel for attorneys.

For twelve years I served as general manager and general counsel for the Truckee Carson Irrigation District. At the District, spanning a term of eight years, we settled all of the litigation relating to the Fernley Flood of 2008. With many other entities, we saved our community from catastrophic flooding in 2017. We preserved irrigated agriculture as the flagship industry of our community.

To us all, water is the most important natural resource in our valley. I know water and I know water law. I have appeared many times before Nevada's State Engineer. I have worked with the Federal Water Master and the Bureau of Reclamation. I have appeared many times in state and federal courts on behalf of our water users. I have testified many times before Nevada's legislature. I have lobbied in Wash-

ington D.C. not only for our valley's farmers but for those of our nation. I have served as a board member for the National Water Resource Association in Washington, D.C. and as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Family Farm Alliance in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Our County will be challenged by the lack of funding in the face of the need for enhanced services including unfunded mandates. We must safeguard our public funds. We will need additional water resources. We will need more affordable housing. We must preserve agriculture and support the mission of the United States Navy. These issues are complex and require our best thinking. These issues will require proven experience and proven leadership. I can help.

My wife Danelle and I are the parents of four children: Duane, Kayla, Daniel, and Hanna. Duane is a retired police officer. Kayla is a domestic violence advocate. Daniel is an administrator for the Veteran's Administration. Hanna's husband Daniel operates Hillside Dairy. From them all we have sixteen (16) grandchildren including fourteen (14) girls.

Joined by my family, I humbly request your support in the upcoming primary election. I promise to serve you well.

## Todd Moretto

The son of late Trena Moretto, who served as the Churchill County recorder from 1998 to 2006 Todd has chosen to make Churchill County his home. He was born and raised in Fallon and attended local schools growing up.

Moretto has served on the Fallon Cantaloupe Festival Committee, coming in nearly ten years ago to help with sound and entertainment. He eventually took over booking the acts and running the logistics of the entertainment portion of the Festival and now serves as the vice chairman. In his professional life, he is a maintenance planner for Kennametal and as a local business owner, runs Auditory Sensations, doing sound, and music for local events of all sizes.

"I have attended many community functions and have heard the concerns



expressed by the area's residents, elected and non-elected officials," he said. "I have seen the county's growth and I understand how our local government works. I know what makes this community special."

Issues that top the list of importance include agriculture and tourism. "We must preserve Churchill County's agriculture base with the many farms and ranches, dotting the Lahontan Valley."

With a nod to the many community events throughout the year, Morretto said "Churchill County hosts events better than any other town around. Tourism is important to our community. We need to consider additional motel and hotel rooms to accommodate the successful growth of our town."

"I want to preserve Churchill County's culture and I want to see it continue to thrive. This is what has formulated many of my ideas to move forward as a candidate for the Churchill County Commissioner District 3," he said.



# Candidates for Mayor - City of Fallon

## Luai Ababneh

Luai Ababneh is running for mayor. He was born in Saudi Arabia, raised in Jordan, and immigrated to the United States in the year 2000 to escape religious persecution. He is a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 2003 to 2012. He moved to Fallon in 2007.

Ababneh had a gunsmithing business in town from 2012 to 2017, and has helped the community in a variety of ways, such as establishing a social media presence for his church, giving them safety classes, and has trained many on the safe usage of firearms.

He is a believer in the U.S. Constitution, and that it is the supreme law of the land. He also believes in random acts of kindness, the equality of oppor-



tunity, and the strength of the free-market. But most of all, he believes that the government is there to serve the individual, and not the other way around.

When asked why he was running for mayor and he told me this, "I was inspired by my belief that when an individual feels frustrated with the way local government is run, they should try to fix the situation the best way they can. Also, it is the beauty of the United States of America that anyone can fold their sleeves up and step into the political arena in order to fix the things they feel are detrimental to the quality of living for them and their fellow citizens."

## Jake Robertson

Jake Robertson is a single dad who has lived in Fallon for most of his life. He fondly remembers "running amok" with his friends in what he remembers as a small, safe town.

"I want that for my son," he said, "I want this town to be beautiful for him. I don't want kids to feel like this is a place they have to get out of."



Robertson said he sees issues firsthand at his work at the pawn shop. "I'm face to face with poverty every day, people are strung out, and I just think things can be better. Money can be allocated better."

"I know the mayor is just a figurehead with no voice. The Mayor doesn't have a vote, but with good community involvement, proper accountability, and more transparency, the community can get involved and make things better."

Mentioning that City Council meetings are held at 9 a.m., Robertson said it is difficult for those who are working to attend and participate. He suggests more town hall meetings and better publication of the meetings that do happen.

"We need to give people a chance to participate and let their voices be heard instead of feeling like there is nothing they can do. People don't know where to get involved, and they feel like even if they try, they don't feel like they could make a change."

According to Robertson, he is concerned with what he sees as a big drug problem and a thriving black market. "There are more vagrants downtown, spun out, and they need options to get clean and sober. He said he has seen

this issue firsthand and knows it is possible to escape such a life. "I struggled with addiction in my late teens and was homeless on the streets of Reno. I come from a place of understanding. I've been in the gutter and worked my way out of it. People need something worth striving for."

Robertson feels water, roads, and parks are an important community issue. "The treatment plant was built 20 years ago and we are still paying for water we can't drink, and when I look at roads and then look at the financial reports, the money is there. We need a fund for people whose cars are damaged driving on roads like Richards Street."

He also said the recent investments in the ice rink and pickleball courts are nice, but the ballpark on the east end of Stillwater Street is in horrible condition, and Laura Mills Park hasn't received attention. "Our town is growing, and we could use another park."

Robertson is the grandson of Sharon Angle, a longtime legislator from the Reno area who served several terms in the Nevada Legislature. When he was young, he would attend legislative sessions with her and remembers how she worked hard for her constituents. "She always approached an issue by what her constituents said."

Robertson loves the community and feels a responsibility to participate in local government. "Fallon has a ton of potential, and I would like to inspire people to get involved," Robertson said.

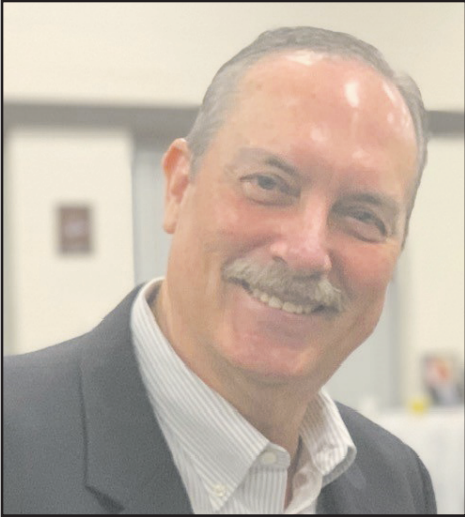
## Ken Tedford

Mayor Ken Tedford has been a fixture at City Hall since 1987 when he was first elected to City Council. He ran for mayor and won in 1995, a seat he has held ever since. This week, he announced his intention to run for re-election to continue the work he has focused on for a lifetime.

"I have a goal every day of looking to see how to make things at the city better," said Tedford. "It keeps your rudder straight. It keeps you in touch with the people you serve."



Tedford has a focus on seniors, the youth, and veterans. Still, as a local businessman, the owner of Tedford Tire, supporting local businesses was ingrained in him by his father early on. He also believes in a strong police department that serves the community, keeping crime low, and he has created a culture of service throughout the city



staff. "I want a clean city, and they all know," he said. "I want Maine, Williams, Taylor driven every day. A clean city starts with me and works down, and we all know, and it is a culture. Those are quality of life issues that are very important to citizens."

The mayor and council have focused on several projects this past year, including significant improvements to A Street, Sherman, Broadway, Whitaker, Rancho, and Carson Streets. Other projects have included improvements to Oats Park with the splash pad and the pickleball courts, ongoing support of the Fallon Youth Club, and the very innovative installation of the ice-skating rink during the Christmas season.

Driven by his strong support of local businesses, Tedford believes efforts to draw people to the community pay off in dividends. "The whole plan of how we do tourism is focused on economic development and strengthening our local businesses. It's supposed to come full circle. The ice rink was a draw, to bring people to the community to go shopping, not just for gas and hotel rooms."

Tedford referenced economic data related to events at the Rafter 3C or

youth sports that show a significant increase in spending during the time frames of the events. "When we used to do the football league, we had local businesses that had their shelves shopped clean, with families killing time, spending disposable income. Everything we do is tied to business."

Mayor Tedford has regularly faced opposition during his re-election campaigns but continues to be successful against his challengers. Because Fallon is a General Law city, the mayor has authority under the Nevada Revised Statute to serve as the Executive of the City. As long as there is no office of the City Manager, term limits do not apply.

In 1993, during a tumultuous period at city hall, the city manager was terminated. Bob Erickson, who served as mayor then, reorganized the city, eliminating the city manager position.

Paraphrasing the minutes of that meeting and the comment made by Erickson at the time, Tedford explained that Erickson was "no longer willing to delegate my responsibility when I have by statute the obligation as mayor to carry out this function." When he was elected in 1995, Tedford continued serving in that role as the Executive of the City, acting as Chief Executive Officer. "It really provides for continuity of government," said Tedford, "which

is one of the things businesses and the community look for."

The mayor does not vote, providing for the separation of powers, and thus does not legislate. He does have veto authority and appoints, with confirmation by the council, the executive staff, including the Clerk/Treasurer, the Police Chief, and the judicial branch as the Municipal Court Judge.

Tedford is currently working with the council and city staff to increase the water tank capacity at Rattlesnake Hill and install a de-watering press at the sewer plant. There are plans to continue improvements to local streets and upgrades to Laura Mills and Burntwood Parks. Tedford is also focused on bringing businesses to the Business Park off Harrigan Road.


There is a note taped to Mayor Tedford's desk, in his own handwriting, worn by time, that simply says, "Critical thought, Careful analysis." They are words he lives by and a reminder during meetings in the mayor's office of how Tedford governs.

"You grow with every decision," he said, "I think I reflect how these people feel if they were here with the knowledge of the decisions you need to make. I love doing this. I love these people who elect me."



# Karla Kent

## Fallon City Council Ward 2



Since I am running unopposed, I will not be on the ballot, however, I want to thank you, the Ward 2 residents, for all of the assistance you have given me during my first term.

Be assured, I will continue to support you, in every way, during my second term.

# Justice of the Peace Candidate Questions

Candidates Night was held on May 20 at the Fallon Convention Center, after press time for this publication, but prior to the actual publication.

Candidates Night is sponsored by Fallon Media Co. and the Lahontan Valley News, along with Lahontan Valley Broadcasting, and the Churchill County Republican Central Committee. We make these questions available for those unable to attend Candidates Night.

## Brenda Ingram

### *1. What experience do you have to be an effective Justice of the Peace?*

I've spent 2/3 of my life serving our community, having worked for Churchill County for over 34 years. I possess a wealth of institutional knowledge about the court system. During my 18 years in the Justice Court, I worked diligently in every capacity, including Chief Court Clerk, ensuring a well-functioning and efficient court.

In 2009, I was appointed Director of Court Services, a new department aimed at addressing jail over-crowding and improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of our criminal justice system. As Director for the past 15 years, I've been a department head and leader. I have developed excellent working relationships with other department heads, as well as a vast network of colleagues throughout the city and state.

My 30+ years of experience in the court system and my knowledge of how the Justice Court should function, in the courtroom and in the office, has prepared me for this position.

### *2. How do you handle conflicts of interest as a JOP?*

It is crucial that a judge remains independent, fair and impartial in all cases. If a conflict of interest is present in a case, the judge is required to make it known and to recuse themselves from the case. This occurs even when the judge thinks he or she can be objective or impartial, but their impartiality might reasonably be questioned by others. Churchill County maintains a

list of Judge Pro Tempores to preside over such cases and I will not hesitate to utilize this option if a conflict exists or may be perceived to exist.

### *3. How important are judicial committees or other entities outside the court to aide with job performance as a judge?*

It is important to remain engaged in the community and to participate in appropriate activities inside and outside the court. Judicial Committees are not only helpful to the purpose of the committee, but also keep the judge informed on the relevant issues facing the judiciary.

However, while a judge's participation in extrajudicial activities outside the court is encouraged and allowed pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, it must be in a way that minimizes the risk of conflict with their duties as a judge. There are restrictions placed upon judges when participating in activities outside the court. These restrictions are important to adhere to, in order to minimize the risk of the appearance that the activities are coercive or that they may undermine the judge's impartiality, independence or proper performance of their duties. I will adhere to the Code of Conduct when participating in extrajudicial activities outside the court.

### *4. How important is Drug Court when sentencing an individual who would or could appear before you?*

The Justice of the Peace can't sentence an individual to Drug Court. That's done by the District Court Judge. However, I support the use of specialty courts such as the drug court, mental health court, DUI diversion court and veteran's court. They give offenders the opportunity to receive the help they need, and after successfully completing the program, their criminal case will be dismissed or reduced. These programs can save the individual from the ramifications of having a felony on their record and give them the life skills and tools they need to overcome their issues. This leads to more successful lives and reduced recidivism.

While District Court has diversion courts for Felony and Gross Misdemeanor cases, I think it would benefit our community to offer diversion opportunities to misdemeanor offenders as well. If elected, I plan to pursue grant funds to bring a misdemeanor diversion option to the Justice Court.

### *5. Describe your personal ethics in relationship to judicial ethics?*

There's a quote on my website by Potter Stewart that says, "Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." I apply this to my personal ethics. I strive to always do the right thing, even when I don't have to, personally. But judicially, it's a must. The Supreme Court of Nevada ordered the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct that limits the actions and activities for judges, even though they may be legal for others to do, to avoid impropriety or even the appearance of impropriety. For example, I have spoken about Mr. Trotter's leaving the office to campaign during the court's business hours. Is it legal for him to do this? Perhaps. Is it ethical? In my opinion it's not. If I were the judge, I'd be in the office during working hours, not out promoting my own ambitions.

### *6. How do you define teamwork in your office?*

Teamwork in my office consists of employees working together to accomplish the goals of the office. Everyone is cross-trained and willing to help each other complete their tasks, for the benefit of the office and the public that we serve. It is an efficient, supportive, and happy environment that employees enjoy being in. That translates to good service for the public.

### *7. How would you involve a situation involving a staff member who was accused of a crime or a staff member who accused you of a crime?*

I believe that everyone is entitled to due process and that no rash decisions should be made based on an allegation.



If a staff member was accused of a crime, I would notify Churchill County Human Resources for guidance on the appropriate action to take, pursuant to county code. There may be differences in how the county is required to handle an incident depending on if the crime is related to the job they are doing, or if it is alleged to have occurred outside of the office.

If a staff member accused me of a crime, I would also confer with Human Resources and the District Attorney's office for the proper steps to take. I would cooperate with any investigation.

8. What would a typical week look like for you as a JOP?

A typical week with me as Justice of the Peace would be an efficient use of time throughout the whole day to accomplish all the work of the court. I support a stacked calendar on all days of the week, so that if a case goes off calendar, there's another one to take its place. This way you don't have the

large gaps in between cases that the current JOP says are happening all the time, and that's why he leaves the office with nothing to do. And if there is down time, I know how to help the very busy staff. I worked in the office for 18 years. I know how to manage cases and create legal documents and do not find that beneath me to do.

9. What are your thoughts of transparency and an expanded justice system through resources like Zoom and public access to the court?

I believe in transparency in the courts. Documents that are deemed to be public records need to be readily available to the public to view.

I support Zoom in the courts, on a limited basis. I agree with inmates appearing by Zoom from the jail to preserve officer safety and efficiency. Allowing the public to view court proceedings via Zoom, and Zoom appearances for attorneys, officers and individuals who are otherwise unable to appear in person are situationally

appropriate. However, a big part of being held accountable for a crime is being personally present in court to face victims and be sentenced. After all the work that officers put in to investigate crimes and make arrests, along with all the research, paperwork and preparation put forth by the prosecution, and the trauma that a victim may have suffered, it is unacceptable for a person to be sentenced from the comfort of their home, simply because Zoom is available. There should be more scrutiny when allowing defendants to appear by Zoom by the judge.

10. What do you see as the most significant challenges facing the justice system in Fallon and how do you propose to address them?

The most significant challenges facing the justice system in Fallon are the high rate of failures to appear for court and the high pre-trial recidivism (repeat of-

Continued on page 16...

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**Republican**  
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- ★ 2+ years Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control
- ★ Nevada Association of School Boards
- ★ Churchill County Debt Management Commission
- ★ Certified Public Officer

# Justice of the Peace Candidate Questions

...Ingram, continued from page 15

fenses) rate. This is a result of high-risk offenders being released back into our community on their own recognizance. I plan to address this by utilizing the Nevada Supreme Court's evidence-based risk assessment to determine the risk of individuals, and only release those that are not a high risk to our community. This will reduce pre-trial recidivism and failures to appear for court, which will relieve law enforcement from the burden of arresting defendants multiple times for the same offense, and result in quicker dispositions, fewer opportunities to create more victims, and a safer community.

For more information about the issues facing Justice Court and my approach to fix them, visit my website at [www.brendaingramforjp.com](http://www.brendaingramforjp.com) and follow me on Facebook at Elect Brenda Ingram Justice of the Peace.

## Ben Trotter

1. *What experience do you have to be an effective Justice of the Peace?*

I have four college degrees including a Master of Business Administration. I have completed over 700 hours of judicial training, earning three educational achievement awards in my first term. I served over 24 years in law enforcement in our community including eight years as your elected Sheriff. I have served over five years as your Justice of the Peace, in a court that has handled tens of thousands of filings, cases and hearings during my tenure. I believe, most of all, that my ability to remain neutral, think independently and be fair and impartial regardless of who is testifying, prosecuting, defending or watching make me a highly effective judge.

2. *How do you handle conflicts of interest as a JOP?*

Coming from a small town like Fallon, any judge is bound to know many people who appear before them. I have had very few of these where that relation-

ships required me to disclose or even remove myself from the case. This is because of my limited social interactions, not having business partnerships locally and having no family living locally. Many of my recusals came early in my term when I had freshly come from the Sheriff's Office and were only when I knew too much about the case. To alleviate any questions, if there is even a potential conflict, I disclose this and allow the attorneys and their clients to discuss whether they feel the conflict arises to the level of me removing myself from the case. The goals are always fairness, satisfaction by the parties in the process and, hopefully, improved trust in the justice system.

3. *How important are judicial committees or other entities outside the court to aide with job performance as a judge?*

I am a member of the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ) which is an organization of Justice Court and Municipal Court judges. This organization gives me contact points for assistance with conflicts of interest and for advice on cases. The organization as a body provides a significant resource of backgrounds and experience levels that can prove valuable when considering the variety of cases a justice court handles. I have also benefited from training opportunities presented by this organization and other entities such as the National Judicial College in Reno, the National Center for State

Courts among others. The America Judges Association also provides a publication that covers many current topics. Learning and collaboration make all of us better at our jobs.

4. *How important is Drug Court when sentencing an individual who would or could appear before you?*

Justice Court does not facilitate or assign to Drug Court – a District Court function. When I sentence on a misdemeanor, it may or may not be with any knowledge of any pending Drug Court assignment. If there are negotiations between the parties that effect the sentence in my court based on the defendant's performance in Drug Court, I generally go along with these agreements. If a defendant is successful

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**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

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in Drug Court, and can carry that success further in their life outside of Drug Court, we have gone a long way toward this person becoming a contributor in our community. I often tell defendants from the bench that I am delaying certain sentence requirements so they can focus on success (and afford the costs required) in the Drug Court. At this time, Drug Court and/or rehab are the best options we have for rehabilitating addicted persons...which benefits our community.

## *5. Describe your personal ethics in relationship to judicial ethics?*

Nevada's Code of Judicial Conduct is quite comprehensive. I try to make decisions from the bench that build trust in the judiciary and adhere to the Code. I disclose when I have beyond a superficial acquaintance with a party. I do not use my position for personal gain. I try to give everyone a chance to present their case and do not delay my decisions. I avoid ex parte communication and do not talk about active cases publicly. If I know too much about a case or person, I step aside and bring in a judge who does not share this issue. I try to protect witnesses, victims and other court participants from undue attack in trials while still allowing parties to vigorously advocate their case. Fair, impartial, professional and consistent are my goals and these align well with the Code.

## *6. How do you define teamwork in your office?*

Teamwork in the justice court is paramount. Our staff are too busy to not work together. I help in those capacities allowed by the codes of conduct. Teamwork means I am humble enough to take input from my staff. They know that I am available anytime they need me. We collaborate often with other users of the Court. The "team" includes all County departments. When I first became judge (even knowing the strong likelihood Brenda Ingram would run against me) I suggested to the County that her department should move into the downstairs office space of the Justice Court. This was not about me or politics but about doing what was best for the community. Housing a depart-

ment that works in the courts and jail in close proximity to them makes the judicial system more efficient. Teamwork means looking out for all the members of the team.

## *7. How would you involve a situation involving a staff member who was accused of a crime or a staff member who accused you of a crime?*

I had to deal with this situation in my first term in office where a staff member stood criminally accused. My involvement was to remove myself and all my staff from involvement in the case outside of providing a facility and locating and paying for an outside clerk and judge to handle the case. We all were sensitive and supportive of our accused team member but did not want our involvement to adversely reflect on the fair handling of the case.

## *8. What would a typical week look like for you as a JOP?*

A typical week for me includes civil hearings Monday and Tuesday morning. Hearings Monday afternoon for persons out of custody. Wednesday, Thursday afternoon and Friday are reserved for scheduled trials. Thursday morning is the busiest morning involving a large docket of defendants, district attorneys (DA), public defenders (PD) and other defense attorneys.

I spend several hours on the bench handling cases. Throughout the week, I see defendants who are in custody to explain their rights and the charges. Sunday (and sometimes Saturday) afternoon I hold bail hearings with the DA and PD since the Nevada Legislature changed the law requiring these within 48 hours of arrest. Every morning I review arrests from the night before, deciding if probable cause has been established. Often, trials or hearings get resolved, continued, canceled creating very frequent gaps in my workload or hearings are suddenly requested filling gaps that existed.

## *9. What are your thoughts of transparency and an expanded justice system through resources like Zoom and public access to the court?*

Your Justice Court is already substantially more transparent than ever before. We use Zoom daily for many types of cases and the log-in information is publicly posted on our website and does not change. This has allowed for unprecedented access to justice for people from all over the world, literally.

When I ran for this position in 2018 this was a primary goal of mine and COVID, with all the problems it caused, also created the opportunity to implement this virtual access in a meaningful way. I believe this kind of access to the Court is important and immensely efficient and I fully support continuing to make it a permanent part of your Justice Court.

## *10. What do you see as the most significant challenges facing the justice system in Fallon and how do you propose to address them?*

Leniency vs protecting community. Nevada and the U.S. are trending toward leniency for criminals. A judge can only be as "tough on crime" as the laws allow. Judges have discretion but if that discretion does not answer the mandates appearing as laws or rulings, more mandates will come that erode discretion and increase leniency for criminals. Ingram accuses me of leniency, but if I don't walk the tightrope between my perspectives on leniency and the mandates I am sworn to uphold, I will be a contributor to our community becoming another Bay Area: crimes being decriminalized and havoc for businesses and residents.

I want to slow our pace of following California down this road - history has shown that we do follow. My part in this is to be cognizant of the long-term damage not judiciously complying with our current laws will cause since the judiciary is under intense scrutiny. Any opportunity the watchers can exploit will further the emptying of prisons through decriminalization, while tying the hands of victims to protect themselves.

## Stuart Richardson

*Dr. Richardson did not submit answers to the questions.*

# County Commissioner, District 1, Candidate Questions

Julie Guerrero-Goetsch

*1. The county is facing a monumental budget deficit that will affect the rest of this fiscal year and FY2025. How should the county overcome both the short-term and long-term budget woes?*

Each year local government entities must go through a budget development process, which begins each January for preparation of the fiscal year beginning July 1st. During this process, appointed and elected department heads submit base operating budgets along with any supplemental requests, which may include additional services, supplies, equipment, or personnel along with justification for those requests. The county's base operating budget plus the additional requests submitted for the year beginning on July 1, 2024, exceeded estimated revenues. The county must submit a balanced budget to the Nevada Department of Taxation, and therefore leadership made a decision to remove the majority of supplemental requests, leaving just base or standard operating budgets and asked for departments to cut 15% from services/supplies and capital expenses in order to balance the budget. Leadership also asked that in the current year, departments work to try and save 10% of services/supplies to strengthen our beginning fund balance headed into July. The board has exercised its authority to reduce the budget by requesting staff re-look at their budget requests. This is a cooperative process where department heads propose where they will make reductions within their budgets. The county has done well over time and strives to find effective ways to move forward while adapting to economic conditions and state/federal decisions. This is not the first time I've seen the county go through economic cycles. I support responsible spending and fiscal accountability. My experience, perspective, and history has taught me important lessons about government budgeting and economic cycles. More taxes are not the right answer, but leveraging grants, partnerships, and economic development that brings managed beneficial growth supporting

our local businesses and bringing in new complimentary businesses, helps our local economy and our community without raising taxes.

*2. What issues in public health safety would you prioritize with the Central Nevada Health District?*

Churchill County was instrumental in the formation of the Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) and partnered with the City of Fallon, Mineral, Pershing, and Eureka counties, to better serve our rural communities rather than remaining a member of the state's health district. CNHD began serving the communities in its four member counties and one city on July 1, 2023. Although the health district has several services it must provide related to environmental health, epidemiology/communicable diseases, and public health preparedness; prioritizing clinical health services is vitally important especially with the challenges of access to healthcare in rural areas. Residents should not have to travel to receive care. Our community needs and deserves accessible quality healthcare locally, with access to good doctors and clinicians.

*3. Looking ahead, what do you envision for the county 5 years from now, 10 years from now?*

The future of Churchill County is bright. I envision our vibrant community continuing to embrace the qualities that make us unique. With our economic foundation based in agriculture, military, renewable energy, and our amazing local businesses, efforts to support and expand what we have in place will help us retain our character and charm while providing opportunities for building upon what we know works and what has served us well. In the next five to ten year period, I envision completion of some vital infrastructure projects such as the secondary water treatment plant which will aid in making progress toward housing needs. I also see exciting growth in public recreation facilities funded through South-

ern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) monies which the county recently became eligible for. Growth in tourism will help strengthen our local businesses and provide opportunities for entrepreneurs. Continuation of the conservation easement program protects agricultural lands, water rights, and our military base. Additionally, with a proposed 35% growth projected at Naval Air Station Fallon, that will provide tens of millions of dollars in contracts within our community and a variety of good paying jobs. Into the future, I also see some industrial development, which will provide for stable, good paying employment opportunities as well. With an approach of managed, sustainable, beneficial growth, we will be able to maintain all the things people love about our community, while enhancing opportunities for all. This is OUR community and those elected to provide leadership must be in-step with the vision of this community.

*4. How do you balance the need for housing with your constituents who are vehemently opposed to housing projects in their neighborhoods?*

Housing has certainly been on our short list of needs for quite some time, and while there will always be both support and opposition for proposed housing projects, if we are conscious to not overbuild any one particular area, spread growth, preserve water resources, plan for open space, and ensure adequate infrastructure and roads, we can achieve a successful outcome. Leadership must maintain a vision that is in alignment with our community so that we are working together on solutions to meet housing needs now and into the future.

*5. Should the county delay its plans to build a new CAPS (Churchill Animal Protection Society) facility due to budget problems even though the money has been committed. How would you handle the situation and is it fair to make CAPS wait another year for improvements?*

In the fall of 2022 the Board of



County Commissioners authorized funding in the amount of \$560,000 with the cost being split with the City of Fallon for a new building for CAPS, to be constructed on county owned property near the Moody Lane Wastewater Facility. Following this authorization, the county expended some of those funds to purchase a metal building for this purpose in the amount of \$96,500, which is being stored at the Moody Lane facility. After seeking proposals for design work for the new facility, the Board took action in March 2023 to approve the proposal by GEM Drafting, LLC in the amount of \$105,890. It was stated that the county would not know the total construction costs until the design work was complete, and the project went to bid. If those costs exceed the original budget set by the Board, they will be brought back before the Board. At this time, the county has not yet received the design, so formal decisions have not been made. If the construction costs exceed the original budget, I believe all involved should work together to develop an interim solution to the pressing issues at the current facility, and develop a timeline for moving forward on the new facility. The county does not have its own animal control, and has been a longtime supporter of CAPS. I believe all involved want to see a positive outcome.

*6. If you disagree with a department head in pushing forward a proposal or plan, how would you navigate the conflict between the staff and elected officials?*

Navigating conflict is handled through reliable, consistent, strong leadership skills, of which I possess. If elected as county commissioner, I pledge to ensure I have done my “homework” on any proposals or plans, which includes review and research, speaking to county staff members and/or appointed/elected department heads, and listening to our taxpayers. Ultimately, upon completion of my research, if I disagree with a plan or proposal, I would oppose it. I am not afraid to speak up and ask difficult questions. I know where to obtain information, I have a vast knowledge of county history to draw from, and I know all of our current appointed and elected department

heads. When I make decisions, they will always be clearly backed-up with educated research and our citizens will know why I support or oppose an item. Transparency in decision making is of utmost importance, and at the heart of those decisions should always be the best interest of our community.

*7. Student achievement in Churchill County is below state and national averages. The need for library expansion has been presented to the commissioners for years and without action. What would you do as a commissioner to build a culture of education in our community which includes library expansion?*

Student proficiency in our school district is without question an issue. As a current school board trustee, I am hopeful that recent steps in the right direction with new leadership, curriculum, and approach, will improve student performance. We also have a need to increase instructional minutes and we must raise the bar on the handling of behavioral issues. Libraries are valuable assets for people of all ages, and I am proud of the accomplishments of our recently retired Library Director. Under her leadership, the opportunity to rethink and redesign our library has been accomplished, and the Library has seen a significant increase in use, programs and activities that benefit our community. As a commissioner, I will ensure my decisions reflect the needs of the community. I also believe that partnerships and collaboration with our local schools is an important part of improving and building a culture of education.

*8. How do you see the roles of the Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and the Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) in attracting new businesses and training a potential workforce?*

CFED is the Regional Development Authority (RDA) that the City of Fallon and Churchill County are a part of. CFED works regionally with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) and our local government entities to promote economic development and attract the types of businesses that would be a good fit for Fallon/Churchill.

CEDA works with the city and county as our local “boots on the ground”, and seeks to provide resources, education, and workforce development programs and services to empower entrepreneurs and our local business community. CFED and CEDA are both integral parts of creating and sustaining a vibrant economy.

*9. The Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization (FRTC) is moving forward. What is the county’s role in ensuring provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that approved the modernization is carried out in a timely manner?*

Modernization of the FRTC, which is the ranges the Navy uses for weapons and SEAL training, has not taken place since the late 80’s. After several years of work with stakeholders, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was enacted by Congress on December 23, 2022. The county is still very actively engaged in working with the Navy, BLM, BOR and other stakeholders to develop processes for the transfer of the checkerboard lands the county will receive as an economic offset, as well as the routing and development of replacement roads, and compensation of impacted grazing rights to name a few of the items. While it will take several years before all of the pieces of the complex NDAA are carried out, it is vital that the county remain engaged and continue working with all stakeholders.

*10. More events are coming to Fallon because of the Rafter 3C Complex. What does the county need to do now to capitalize on this new era of attracting visitors to our community?*

With usage and events at the Rafter 3C continuing to exceed initial projections, there are many beneficial opportunities for existing businesses and new businesses, not only in the form of vendor opportunities, contractor opportunities, and event hosting, but also from increased tourism in our community. Visitors shop here, purchase gas, eat at our restaurants, and stay in our hotels, which in turn helps our local businesses

*Continued on Page 20...*

# County Commissioner, District 1, Candidate Questions

*Guerrero-Goetsch continued from page 19*

and our economy. As a community we have an opportunity for quality entertainment and helping our local businesses thrive

## Matt Hyde

*1. The county is facing a monumental budget deficit that will affect the rest of this fiscal year and FY2025. How should the county overcome both the short-term and long-term budget woes?*

I attended the budget workshop and the Commissioners have a plan in place which requires departments to cut 10% this fiscal year and 15% fiscal year 2025. By doing so, I believe that will take care of the short term budget deficit.

For the long term, this will require several discussions. One of which should include how there wasn't more of a warning and adjust our accounting protocols to ensure we don't encounter this again. I would like to monitor the spending of both tax and grant revenues through budget to actual reports. In doing so, we can adjust accordingly. We must work hard together to spend within our means and have accurate projections of tax and grant revenue. Commissioners rely on accurate information given to them by the County Manager, comptroller and department heads to make decisions on best how to use tax dollars. Accurate operating expense projections are a must to keep these facilities maintained within our revenue projections.

*2. What issues in public health safety would you prioritize with the Central Health District?*

I would prioritize mental health and well being as well as substance abuse in both adults and youth. Although Nevada may no longer be in the top 10 states suffering from suicidal deaths, we're still ranked around the 12th, indicating there's a lot of work to do. I know the school district is taking steps to work with local agencies regarding

suicide prevention, but mental health issues have increased since the pandemic (specifically anxiety, depression and substance abuse) and a lot of people affected, report that they aren't being treated and don't exactly know where to start in seeking help, or fear they cannot afford it. I've talked to educators that attribute increases in mental health concerns to a wild increase in social media and internet access. Additionally, with the legalization of marijuana and the fentanyl epidemic- our citizens need more education and more accessible services.

*3. Looking ahead, what do you envision for the county 5 years from now, 10 years from now?*

We are in the process of receiving a grant of \$32 million that could improve our tourism and local recreation. A plan is being put together to expand our amenities at the fairgrounds with a 5 year life for build out. These amenities hold a lot of potential. Receiving and spending grant dollars on these types of projects in Churchill County brings tax dollars back to our community and gives our citizens an opportunity to enjoy more recreation and family activities. As a commissioner, I will be extremely cautious in vetting projected revenues and operating expenses provided to us as commissioners. Both short and long term we need to keep working on attracting industry to Churchill County. Much of this will depend on how soon we can get adequate power to the industrial park, something we must tirelessly work at. We need more high paying jobs in Churchill County. My goal is to give young people a reason to stay here. A couple of ways to do this is to have great recreation opportunities and good jobs that support raising a family. NAS Fallon, the largest employer in Churchill County, is growing and with that growth our infrastructure must grow to support the influx of people moving into Churchill County.

*4. How do you balance the need for housing with your constituents who are vehemently opposed to housing projects in*

*their neighborhoods?*

According to Captain Tanner of NAS Fallon, we will experience substantial growth. Available housing is an issue in Churchill County. Unfortunately, not everyone is in a position to buy a home. Multi-unit housing is a necessity. We also need to be diligent in weighing the impacts of such projects on current residents, while also protecting the rights of the property owners wishing to develop said property. The city and county governing bodies must work together on this issue of available housing.

*5. Should the county delay its plans to build a new CAPS (Churchill Animal Protection Society) facility due to budget problems even though the money has been committed. How would you handle the situation and is it fair to make CAPS wait another year for improvements?*

Everything in a budget needs to be prioritized through discussion as commissioners. I am a dog lover and have never been without a dog and the work that CAPS does is near and dear to my heart. With that said, I believe the most important part of any organization is its people. Unfortunately, money that's committed may have to be pulled back in times of budget issues. We have people struggling with inflation, and these people are not getting a cost-of-living increase working for Churchill County. We may have to improve what CAPS has until we have more funding.

*6. If you disagree with a department head in pushing forward a proposal or plan, how would you navigate the conflict between the staff and elected officials?*

Disagreements are going to happen, how you handle said disagreement is what matters. I will always actively listen to the department head's perspective and would hope to receive the same in return. Conflict over an issue is OK, if both parties will work through it respectfully. Staff and elected officials are both people and should respect each other the same way. Sometimes



you just have to respectfully agree to disagree. Ultimately, I will be elected by the people and I will base my final decision on what is best for the taxpayers of Churchill County.

*7. Student achievement in Churchill County is below state and national averages. The need for library expansion has been presented to the commissioners for years and without action. What would you do as a commissioner to build a culture of education in our community which includes library expansion?*

Myself and fellow board members have dedicated countless hours in the last ten years while I've been on the school board in an effort to see students reach their potential. In our community we need to think of 21st century library expansion solutions. I would love to see the expansion hold areas for collaborating to include things such as STEM, youth book clubs, science labs, projects, and more open space for e-learning. This would encourage youth to get more involved, even head up some of the clubs or programs and promote parental involvement, as well as the whole community, to get involved in learning and growing together. Parent engagement is vital to student success. During the summer many kids stop reading altogether, therefore, I would rally around anything that promotes literacy for kids. I will continue to build relationships between the school district and the Churchill County Commissioners.

*8. How do you see the roles of the Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and the Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Agency in attracting new businesses and training a potential workforce?*

CEDA is a great support system for current businesses and future entrepreneurs looking to come into this community. CEDA has been a great asset to the school district in developing and implementing work based learning, which I have been involved with and promoting through my work as a school board trustee. As a commissioner I would still promote and be involved with the work based learning initiative. Students have the opportunity to work

in an internship at various businesses in the community. Students get on the job training and develop soft skills for future success. I would like to see CFED continue with the push to make Churchill County's industrial park a destination for manufacturing, starting with getting adequate power for the industrial park which will promote economic growth.

*9. The Fallon Range Training Complex modernization is moving forward. What is the county's role in ensuring provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act that approved the modernization is carried out in a timely manner?*

I am not sure we have any real control of the timeliness of the modernization, the Navy moves at its own pace. Our state delegation in Washington DC is helping us out and I think the best course of action is to keep them in the loop and make sure they keep pressure on the Navy to push forward and meet the commitments made to Churchill County.

*10. More events are coming to Fallon because of the Rafter 3C Complex. What does the county need to do now to capitalize on this new offer of attracting visitors?*

As a board of control member for the NIAA, we often discuss where to hold major sporting events such as state wrestling. One issue that comes up for Fallon is lack of lodging for the big events because all school sizes attend one site for state.

It would be nice if Churchill Fallon Economic Development was able to recruit someone to open a hotel for more lodging. With the proposed grant expenditures, it includes an RV park which will help accommodate more families. When my kids traveled for youth sports we towed our trailer everywhere. A lot of families did as well.

Approximately \$9 million of economic impact was generated by Rafter 3C last year. I was able to enjoy it several times myself attending different events. I also think it's a great idea to incorporate Food Truck Fridays and weekly farmers markets. The \$32 million grant project will include new facilities for ball games, pickleball, and other family friendly activities that will bring more tourism through tournaments for multiple sports. As a commissioner, I would encourage that these facilities are as maintenance friendly as possible to ensure operating expenses are kept to a minimum.

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# County Commissioner, District 3, Candidate Questions

Eric Blakey

*1. The county is facing a monumental budget deficit that will affect the rest of this fiscal year and FY2025. How should the county overcome both the short-term and long-term budget woes?*

I find the budget issue concerning, not monumental, as the current administration is implementing the necessary steps to mitigate any financial disaster for the times that we have been presented. As a new commissioner once elected, I believe review of the steps that were taken for the FY2024 budget will need to occur so we can mitigate any continuing concerns that might still exist if any and a review of the current FY2025 budget is in line to be balanced. Should concerns exist I will do my part to take the necessary action needed to have a balanced budget. Churchill County has general fund balance of approximately 25 million at its current state, not counting any new revenue moving forward, which would allow operations as they exist for about 22 months, so there is time to plan the financial outlook with no detrimental effects.

*2. What issues in public health and safety would you prioritize with the Central Health District?*

The Central Nevada Health District is an impressive new resource to our community that will have broadened effects on all citizens here and especially to those who they serve the most. Churchill County along with the other participants must always fulfill their obligations in support of the district's mission. I believe identifying the actual concerns of our community that are not completely known or understood and the depths of those concerns will be the largest issue, while mental health and unknown communicable diseases should have the same amount of consideration in combating those issues as well.

*3. Looking ahead, what do you envision for the county 5 years from now, 10 years from now?*

Five-year Vision, Great strides will be taken with our infrastructure and developmental areas such as (CHIP) the Churchill Industrial Park to allow our growth to begin, also we will start to see more residential homes to welcome the arrival of new citizens ready to make Churchill County their home.

10 Year Vision, Infrastructure will be close to completion within most residential areas, neighborhoods, and CHIP, while existing businesses will start to flourish, and new businesses will start to arrive because of the increased demographics from our growth.

*4. How do you balance the need for housing with your constituents who are vehemently opposed to housing projects in their neighborhoods?*

When the time presents itself for a community to grow everyone has an ideal, however there are many deciding factors to help make some of those decisions, a few being what is the common goal, where is growth feasible, what issues can be mitigated, do current county zoning codes coincide with the areas that exist, does the developmental cost supercede the fruition of a neighborhood. When communities grow into the future there will be give and take from us all, however, should our community not grow it will not prosper as it should. I believe the citizens of Churchill County will support growth when developments are presented correctly and developed within reason.

*5. Should the county delay its plans to build a new CAPS (Churchill Animal Protection Society) facility due to budget problems even though the money has been committed. How would you handle the situation and is it fair to make CAPS wait another year for improvements?*

There are a few things to clarify prior to saying yes or no to moving forward with the Facility, were there funds set aside for the project? Are they still there? How much was set aside? Does that amount align with the amount currently needed to build-out the project? Once these answers are known then I believe a comprehensive plan can be

made as to when the project will move forward and what the CAPS organization should expect. I believe we can work together to make the best of a distressed situation until the project moves forward.

*6. If you disagree with a department head in pushing forward a proposal or plan, how would you navigate the conflict between the staff and elected officials?*

Disagreements are always a vital part of every effective conversation in order to get the answer that will provide the best solution. In this setting, I believe the department head would be the expert for the topic at hand as for they are employed as such, the elected official would only be there in a guidance role to make sure the direction the department is heading aligns with our county's mission and goals, also that the citizens will approve of the outcome.

*7. Student achievement in Churchill County is below state and national averages. The need for library expansion has been presented to the commissioners for years and without action. What would you do as a commission to build a culture of education in our community which includes library expansion?*

I am aware the Churchill County Library has been fundraising for many years to build an expansion with no prevail as now. A community Library is priceless to rural areas for there are several citizens who depend on its existence every day, and students wishing to engage in the discovery process of the information a library can offer is invaluable to the knowledge it will provide them. We shouldn't lay blame on an unexpanded library failing our leaders of tomorrow, however until the time comes for a larger facility, we should work together to make sure the proper and correct information is being offered to the students while also filling all the unknown gaps of learning to the best of our ability.

*8. How do you see the roles of the Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and the Churchill Entrepreneurial Develop-*



*ment Agency in attracting new businesses and training a potential workforce?*

The CFED role within our community is to promote why Churchill County is the premium choice to locate a new business or relocate an existing business to our county while providing the logistical services needed.

The CEDA role within our community is to provide business development and workforce development to those wishing to establish a business within Churchill County, while also assisting with the needs of business startup and providing guidance on how to maneuver the correct path to a successful business.

*9. The Fallon Range Training Complex modernization is moving forward. What is the county's role in ensuring provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act that approved the modernization is carried out in a timely manner?*

As we all know the Federal Government will usually act as they please and at their pace. However, I do believe the role of Churchill County Commissioner, also to include County Commissioner's from other areas that are involved have the responsibility of ensuring that Grazers, Miners, Private landowners, and Sportsman will be compensated correctly, while monitoring the progression of the FRTC Expansion.

*10. More events are coming to Fallon because of the Rafter 3C Complex. What does the county need to do now to capitalize on this new era of attracting visitors to our community.*

Promote this facility to all prevails to make sure we are attracting all possible events that align with our entertainment goals for the broadest array of event goers to our area. We must make sure the logistics are perfectly in line so the efficiency of the event operations will produce the highest economic impact to our community.

## Rusty Jardine, Esq.

*1. The county is facing a monumental budget deficit that will affect the rest of this fiscal year and FY2025. How should the county overcome both the short-term and long-term budget woes?*

Appropriately, each department may provide for an across the board reduction in budget of 5% for the current fiscal year. This should address the short term deficit. In the long-term special care must be taken to properly forecast conditions that are certain to attend a national outlook. Budget reductions may be implemented across multiple budget cycles. Inflation is on the rise; and, out there, the prospect of recession is looming. Extraordinary care must be taken, then, with regard to large scale projects planned for in the long-term. The budget approved by any public entity is its single most important policy statement. Its implementation and oversight impinge fiduciary duties for the elected officials at the highest level. Attending every budget cycle is this reality: Expenditures rise to meet or exceed income! We must plan for that!

*2. What issues in public health and safety would you prioritize with the Central Health District?*

Preliminarily, the authorizing statutes and provisions of the administrative code for the Central Health District are very broad. Naturally, protecting the public against communicable diseases lies at the base. In rural Nevada we need more health care providers including those in the realm of mental health. How do we fund for such amidst budget shortfalls? We must look to other sources. We may look to state and federal sources as available. We must, when necessary, advocate funding such as loan forgiveness. Bottom line, we just keep looking!

*3. Looking ahead, what do you envision for the county 5 years from now, 10 years from now?*

Assuming a downturn in the national trends consisting of a slowing econo-

my, wherever possible we will want to hold the line on budget considerations and wait out the storm. Nevertheless, we must do everything in our power to enhance our tax base (See Question 10). Our housing needs will continue to rise in the short-term in support of the mission of the United States Navy and our own efforts to bring in new industry and its attendant work force. To sustain continuing growth will require a careful view of water resources. New sources must be identified in the short term to facilitate growth in the future. In the long-term, we may see lands taken out of production. Our hope nonetheless is to preserve agriculture as the bedrock of our county. We will see new industry come our way as a result of inviting the world to visit us (See Question 10).

*4. How do you balance the need for housing with your constituents who are vehemently opposed to housing projects in their neighborhoods?*

For the future, as we advance our need for housing—both in support of the mission of the United States Navy, and industry that has joined our community, we will always want to preserve our lifestyle here. It is important to us all. We still brag of having so few stop lights in our county's most populated city: Fallon! We must grow but we must do so in a sustained-deliberate fashion. The availability of water and the development of attending infrastructure projects may well govern the pace. We will carefully adhere to our water resource plan, our master plan, and our water resource plan. We will give ear to the people's voice regarding impacts; and, where possible, provide conditions that will assuage important concerns. However, it must be remembered that property ownership bears important rights including that of development. We must administer these concerns carefully within the framework of the law.

*.5. Should the county delay its plans to build a new CAPS (Churchill Animal Protection Society) facility due to budget*

*Continued on page 24...*

# County Commissioner, District 3, Candidate Questions

...Jardine, continued from page 23

*problems even though the money has been committed. How would you handle the situation and is it fair to make CAPS wait another year for improvements?*

Idling in the background, presumably across multiple budget cycles, is the vital need to enhance the mission of CAPS. We will support doing so. And, we will do so upon a firm financial basis which may mean we wait another year. We must look to other sources if our budget will not allow such. As necessary, we keep looking for all possible sources.

*6. What if you disagree with a department in pushing forward a plan? How do you deal with a conflict between staff and an Elected Official?*

In our system of county government, we have only three commissioners. If this question suggests a commissioner working as a "One Commissioner Board" in dealing with the conflict—that cannot happen! The Commission engages its county manager on important issues; and, where necessary, those issues are brought into the sunshine of an open meeting for resolution by all the commissioners. A commission establishes a budget and that budget is driven by department heads under guidance by the county manager. Moreover, many budgets in the county are managed by other elected officials necessitating care in not crossing clear lines of authority.

*7. Student Achievement in Churchill County. Expansion of the Library. Building a Culture of Education.*

We all want to see student achievement rise in our community. We must do so to be competitive in a world market. But at the core of this issue is another government responsible for that outcome: The Churchill County School District. We will support the District in its efforts to address the issue. We will go hand in hand to Carson City if needed to secure state based funding

if necessary. Separable is the issue of the library. Yes, we will always want to advance its purposes. But, those purposes are often distinct from those of our children in school. A library has a general education purpose in a community. Our people, including our aged citizens go there for information, for assistance, for internet access. As our financial picture sharpens, we will plan to improve our library for the benefit of us all. Personally, I consider myself an educator. I have taught college courses. I have presented in grade schools and junior highs. I have taught at police academies. I support learning because I am ever learning! That is the culture we will advance.

*8. The Roles of CFED and Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Agency?*

Vital to us all are these roles. We are going to grow. We will have new businesses. We invite visitors here because this is the best place for them. We must sell our vision to all those who are interested. People will come. Those who are here will want to stay. The CFED and the CEDA must be out there extending our invitation. We will ever support them.

*9. The Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization. What is the County's Role?*

The Training Complex is moving forward; and, the process didn't always allow for our County being heard. As it moves forward we will want to hold our nation's lawmakers and policy makers to the proverbial fire: The County must obtain the promises rising from the National Defense Authorization Act—which included lands to the North of Fallon and certain access. Where these promises are not sustained, we will take our concerns to the Department of Defense if necessary.

*10. The Rafter 3C Complex. How Do we Capitalize on This Asset?*

The numbers speak for themselves: In the past year we were attended by some 303,000 visitors! We saw some 549 event days! We saw a boost of some

Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000) to our economy! We will do more. As we improve facilities and make more hook-ups available we will attract more people! We will sell our story to all who will listen. We can here provide that which cannot be afforded in places like Reno. We are in a driver's seat. Building upon what we now have, with what we can have, will build our tax base and help resolve our budgetary limitations. We will do so with federal monies to the best of our ability in an effort to sustain our limitations on the public.

## Todd Moretto

*1. The county is facing a monumental budget deficit that will affect the rest of this fiscal year and FY2025. How should the county overcome both the short-term and long-term budget woes?*

There are many things we can do. First, once the budget is set stop spending money not in the scope of the budget. Or if money does have to be approved find a way to pay for it before approving the new request. Also, I understand that a lot of grant money is slated to potentially be awarded to us in the future, but we need to understand when, how, and the best way to have this money work for us. Not just spend it all as soon as we get it or before.

*2. What issues in public health safety would you prioritize with the Central Health District?*

I personally think there is a lot of room or need to help the senior sector of Fallon with services and assistance to help them have a better quality of life. As for mental health, I truly believe there is an absolute need for help with our youth. We are not cultivating strong mental abilities and seem to coddle instead of mentor or engage with them constructively. This needs some help.

*3. Looking ahead, what do you envision for the county 5 years from now, 10 years from now?*

*Continued on Page 26...*



# RUSTY D. JARDINE

## Churchill County Commission District 3

### Proven Government Experience



- ★ Rusty Jardine is the former Manager and Counsel for the Truckee Carson Irrigation District. In that role he oversaw the placement of our most important natural resource, our water, to its beneficial use.
- ★ During his career as a public servant he has represented boards of county commissions in three counties. He represented the Churchill County Board of Commissioners for eight years.
- ★ He has dealt with all forms of government issues including a global pandemic, lawsuits, budget crisis, flooding and drought, and contract negotiations.
- ★ His past and present titles include district manager, attorney at law, peace officer, counselor, college instructor, firearms instructor, interpreter (Spanish), juvenile master, bar examiner, bar disciplinary panel member, lobbyist and board member for the National Water Resource Association.
- ★ He is licensed to practice law in the state and federal courts of Nevada, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.
- ★ Rusty was encouraged to run for County Commissioner by Assemblyman Greg Koenig, Former Commissioner Pete Olsen, Commissioners Bus Scharman and Justin Heath, and Ernie Schank for President of the Truckee Carson Irrigation District.

**NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED REAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE  
ON THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.  
RUSTY HAS IT. PLEASE JOIN WITH HIM!**

*Paid for by Rusty Jardine for County Commission*

# County Commissioner, District 3, Candidate Questions

...Moretto, continued from page 24

We need to capitalize on growth in the sector we are good at I.E. events getting people to come to our community spend money spend the night and talk about how much fun they had. We have a great opportunity to grow this sector of Fallon with the possibility of some great grants. This is something we should be pushing on hard. As for our county, I would love for us to get out of the mindset of the county getting into the land development business let that stay with private enterprise, and let us work on what we need to do to help our residents by operating our government the most efficient way possible.

*4. How do you balance the need for housing with your constituents who are vehemently opposed to housing projects in their neighborhoods?*

As far as I'm concerned, I am the voice of the people who put me in office if they don't want it why are we forcing it? There is always a different solution to a problem than the first idea. Communication and getting more people's points of view is always a good start. I have ideas but there is not enough room or time here feel free to ask me when you see me.

*5. Should the county delay its plans to build a new CAPS (Churchill Animal Protection Society) facility due to budget problems even though the money has been committed. How would you handle the situation and is it fair to make CAPS wait another year for improvements?*

No this should not be delayed if this was budgeted and has been accrued for then it needs to happen your word and character should mean something and I feel we have gotten away from that. This is why it is important to do your due diligence before promising things without doing as much research as necessary to make an informed decision.

*6. If you disagree with a department head in pushing forward a proposal or plan, how would you navigate the conflict?*

This is something I have a lot of opinions about. First, I feel we do not take our department heads (elected or appointed) expertise in their given field of work into account as much as we should. These people are put or elected to their positions because they are the best at what they do. All decisions should be a team effort not just the point of view of one or two people.

We need to get our county back to the table where they all feel we have a say in the decisions that affect their departments without the fear of retaliation because of their view from their lane of expertise or experience.

*7. Student achievement in Churchill County is below state and national averages. The need for library expansion has been presented to the commissioners for years and without action. What would you do as a commission to build a culture of education in our community which includes library expansion?*

I feel these have nothing to do with each other. The library is great on its own and has a place and a need in our community it can create a love of reading and knowledge but does little to sustain long-term effects on education. Getting parents engaged in their children's education would be the biggest help. We have lost touch with the human interaction with our kids and parents. We have turned to hands-off virtual communication. This decreases our social skills and pride and willingness to achieve because there are no personal connections. Ask a teacher if they connect with a kid on a human level and gain trust and respect if that child is way more receptive and respectful this goes for parents as well. We need the face-to-face human connection to start to rebuild the ability to learn. A set standard, teachable curriculum would be a huge help as well. I guess we will see if this works with reading this year it is the first one, we have had in a very long time.

*8. How do you see the roles of the Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and the Churchill Entrepreneurial Develop-*

*ment Agency in attracting new businesses and training a potential workforce?*

This is an area where we could use some work, we have cut chopped and made this very difficult to understand how all of these departments and people work as a cohesive unit we need to do better. This is something that needs to be fixed sooner than later.

*9. The Fallon Range Training Complex modernization is moving forward. What is the county's role in ensuring provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act that approved the modernization is carried out in a timely manner?*

This is a train wreck and I'm not sure we will have much say in this as I believe all the moving parts have already been set in stone, but I hope we learn from our mistakes with this and don't repeat them in the future.

*10. More events are coming to Fallon because of the Rafter 3C Complex. What does the county need to do now to capitalize on this new era of attracting visitors to our community.*

This is a big one and requires a lot of discussion and planning. First thing we need to get to a place where the 3C is self-supporting and this will require the need to charge and bring in larger events. This is a facility that requires the support of all our county and city officials to work together and bring the events that bring economic impact and support them with the things we do best. Small-town, clean, family events that we just flat do better than any other community around. We are there we are on the map we just need to work together and realize it is not a competition between events or one is better than another they are all important and are pushing for the same goal. Bring money to our community through entertainment, sporting events, community support and Fallon pride and step away from personal agendas and promote Fallon with every event we can get here.



## City of Fallon Mayoral Candidate Questions

Luai Ababneh

*1. How do you balance the need for housing or multiple-housing units with your constituents who may be opposed to new housing projects in their neighborhoods?*

Housing planning is controlled by the real estate market, the direction developments of housing move is mostly dependent on the regulation of land development and infrastructure which can be directed by the planning department of the city. Knowing the expansion plan of the Fallon Naval Air Station and the number of personnel that the station is going to be geared for, we should be planning and designing developments that can accommodate the numbers of service members in the Fallon Air Station and explain to the public the opportunity that accompanies such expansion. And for our constituents that oppose such expansions and developments, I advise that planning for it and knowing the opportunities and the problems that might accommodate such developments. And approaching it with a well thought plan is a lot better and manageable than opposing it, which can lead to uncontrolled expansion, which can be accompanied with uncontrolled changes that can cause negative effects on our local prospects and values that we like to live by.

*2. How do you see the roles of the Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and the Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Agency in attracting new businesses and training a potential workforce?*

Such organizations can provide well-thought foundation for individuals and groups that strive to be well contributing entrepreneurs in the area which in row, can assist the local community and the younger generation to establish themselves in our local community instead of see a better opportunity in moving out of the area. Therefore, such programs should be designed in an approachable way where the requirements to join such programs are cost effective and does not add a burden on the approaching individuals who wish to participate in such a program.

I am a sole believer in the free-market and that businesses will target an area as long there is an opportunity and space for such businesses to create profit.

*3. More events are coming to Fallon because of the Rafter 3C Complex. What does the city need to do now to capitalize on this new era of attracting visitors to our community.*

Having a well managed and maintained, working infrastructure that allows ease of function for participants in such events and opening an opportunity for service businesses to accommodate participants in events and visitors can improve on both the social function of the local community and the economy of the area. Therefore it is important to direct and prioritize the work on the infrastructure to allow the local community to show the real hospitality of City of Fallon and Churchill County for such events.

*4. A number of residents claim the city is losing money by not having recreational marijuana businesses. Are you in favor or not in favor of having recreational marijuana businesses, why or why not?*

Recreational drugs whether legal or not, in my opinion, creates a burden on local community and an opportunity for misguiding younger generation either by example or availability. Also, it creates a financial budget burden on law enforcement that works continuously to keep our community safe. Therefore, yes, I am opposing such businesses.

*5. During your time in office, how would you envision the city in two years? Four years at the end of your term?*

My main goals with our beloved city is to improve and establish maintenance programs for our infrastructure, design a plan for expansion space for the city that can accommodate the expansion of the Fallon Naval Air Station. Attempt the establishment of youth educational programs that will allow our younger generations coming up to understand

the reality of economics, the opportunities of work and education that can be available to them, and the methods that will allow them to prosper locally. Also, work with the state to establish reforming programs for our law enforcement, especially with educational programs that is geared towards setting them for success in their careers.

*6 Like many small cities, the downtown area has lost businesses to shopping strip malls or big outlet stores. How can our city reinvigorate the downtown area to attract more businesses to Maine Street?*

It is very recognizable in the City of Fallon that the turn of businesses on Maine Street is fast where businesses open and close within average of two years, which indicates that there is a fundamental problem of directing venture capital in the right direction and given businesses the fertile environment to thrive, it is known that the first three years of any business is crucial to the development of such business. And that is where establishing well-thought programs through business development organization that educates individuals and groups with venture capital in the direction of business ventures that has the possibility to pan out and thrive. Another important point is to consider the amount of regulations that certain businesses fall underneath and how much financial and managerial burden such regulations add to the startup of a business. In order for us to open the opportunity for small businesses to start on Maine Street, we should allow the space and the opportunity for individuals and groups to seize such an opportunity. Not only that but we should advertise it for them.

*7. Being mayor is more than serving the residents. How do you envision working with state and congressional leaders for funding of projects, etc.?*

I am a big believer in small government, as the great president Ronald Reagan said in his farewell address: "I hope we once again have reminded people that man is not free unless government is

*Continued on next page...*

# City of Fallon Mayoral Candidate Questions

...Ababneh, continued from page 27

limited. There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: As government expands, liberty contracts."

Therefore, my goal is to work with state and federal government in a way that allows the flow of funding to our beloved city, without the influence of changing the societal values that we believe in.

*8. Attracting doctors to Fallon has been difficult. How can Fallon attract doctors and other medical personnel to establish a practice in the city?*

Medical businesses nation-wide, have been suffering from a personnel shortage, especially since the pandemic that we have suffered in the past years. Which makes it even harder to advertise the local market for medical personnel to move into the area. That is where unburdening such businesses and working with the state and legislatures to create a buffer period for such businesses to move into our city where they subscribe to programs that lowers their license fees, taxes, and certain requirements that is creating a burden on such businesses to see the opportunity of starting in our city.

## Jake Robertson

*1. How do you balance the need for housing or multiple-housing units with your constituents who may be opposed to new housing projects in their neighborhoods?*

To best balance the need for, and concerns about new housing in our community we must first focus on our current infrastructure. By bolstering the existing infrastructure we can improve the lives of the citizens, putting them at ease to the ideas of expansion with new housing developments.

*2. How do you see the roles of the Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and the Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Agency in attracting new businesses and training a potential workforce?*

As long as these entities can create a satisfying experience and create positive results for those utilizing them I will see their roles as crucial to our community.

*3. More events are coming to Fallon because of the Rafter 3C Complex. What does the city need to do now to capitalize on this new era of attracting visitors to our community.*

One thing our city can do to take advantage of these events coming into our town is to welcome them with open arms and create opportunities for local businesses to participate through city events hosted in parallel to large events at the Rafter 3C Complex. We've seen great success for the Cantaloupe Festival with the recent concerts and rodeos, so why can't our city create and capitalize on the same golden opportunities?

*4. A number of residents claim the city is losing money by not having recreational marijuana businesses. Are you in favor or not in favor of having recreational marijuana businesses, why or why not?*

The city is indeed missing out on revenue from recreational cannabis that as a result ends up in the city of Fernley and other nearby communities. Money shouldn't be the only concern, though. A lack of regulation causes a black market to thrive, so if the city could land a clean blow to the harmful black market while simultaneously creating tax revenue, then I would support it.

*5. During your time in office, how would you envision the city in two years? Four years at the end of your term?*

In two to four years I would like to see a city that is experiencing more community involvement. My vision looks like regular town hall meetings held at reasonable dates and times, transparent announcements to the town about what is happening at its core, and people inspired and hopeful about using the voices they have.

*6 Like many small cities, the downtown area has lost businesses to shopping strip*

*malls or big outlet stores. How can our city reinvigorate the downtown area to attract more businesses to Maine Street?*

I was always a huge fan of the farmer's markets that were hosted on Maine Street, and even though some businesses disapproved of the weekly event I personally believe it was positive for the community and shops that chose to be involved. Those farmers markets brought our community together and made downtown thrive with life. With the foot traffic created by those types of community events businesses have access to more customers and more exposure for their brand in the downtown area.

*7. Being mayor is more than serving the residents. How do you envision working with state and congressional leaders for funding of projects, etc.?*

My vision for working with the state and congressional leaders is simple, but our residents must surely be involved. A man representing his community at the state level without hearing their voices and concerns is not an asset to his constituents.

*8. Attracting doctors to Fallon has been difficult. How can Fallon attract doctors and other medical personnel to establish a practice in the city?*

Making any city a beautiful place to live attracts skilled individuals who can provide exceptional services. Successful people want to live in successful towns so we should focus on cleaning up our streets and reputation in order to attract the right professionals who will want to put down roots in our community.





## Mayor Ken Tedford

*1. How do you balance the need for housing or multiple-housing units with your constituents who may be opposed to new housing projects in their neighborhoods?*

The City of Fallon has historically planned for growth with zoning ordinances that provide for development of single family residences, multifamily residences, and commercial areas while protecting existing neighborhoods. As a result of the above, we have avoided the neighborhood issues this question poses.

Development is always a complex issue; it requires consideration of utility infrastructure, needs for law enforcement and fire protection, and traffic impacts. Currently within City limits there are many existing properties which could accommodate multifamily housing. In fact, there are three multifamily projects in various stages of approval now. As Mayor, I've charged the City's development team with making the project planning and development process as efficient as possible while protecting existing neighborhoods and homes.

*2. How do you see the roles of the Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and the Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Agency in attracting new businesses and training a potential workforce?*

CFED and CEDA are critical partners in sustaining our local economy. The City of Fallon and Churchill County created the Churchill Fallon Economic Development organization ("CFED") and retained the services of Bruce Breslow to recruit major global and domestic corporations to Churchill County. Working closely with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, we strive to recruit investment in Churchill County and the City of Fallon to maximize utilization of our natural resources and land use. The City just entered into an agreement with Amazon to locate a distribution center with the City's Business Park.

The City was an original member of the Churchill Economic Development Authority. Beginning in 1985, and working with the late Chair Shirley Walker, CEDA played a vital role not only in recruiting business to our community and developing the City of Fallon Business Park, but also creating a support system for existing and new local small business alongside our agricultural community. With the creation of CFED and the transitioning of CEDA to the Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Association, it is imperative that this vital work continue, partnering with the Fallon Chamber of Commerce and the Western Nevada Development District. Collectively, these partners provide expertise, occupational training and education, financial counseling, and grant opportunities to support small businesses and entrepreneurs.

*3. More events are coming to Fallon because of the Rafter 3C Complex. What does the city need to do now to capitalize on this new era of attracting visitors to our community?*

As Mayor, along with the City Council, the City of Fallon supported Jim Barbee and Pete Olsen's vision of accomplishing what was a 20-year dream into construction of the Rafter 3C complex within 18 months. The City provided financial support, staff support, and marketing assistance to this endeavor. In addition, the City provides direct assistance and support to various events through the Convention and Tourism Authority and the Office of the Mayor.

Currently, the highest need is the development of additional hotel/ resort properties to support the patrons and contestants of the large events this facility attracts. I have personally, along with Bruce Breslow and County management, been actively engaging with local motel operators to expand their facilities. I have also been reaching out to regional and national developers to fulfill this need.

*4. A number of residents claim the city is losing money by not having recreational marijuana businesses. Are you in favor or*

*not in favor of having recreational marijuana businesses?*

I personally have an unfavorable view of recreational marijuana businesses as the citizens of the City of Fallon, in two separate elections, voted in favor of medical marijuana but voted in opposition to recreational marijuana.

The Fallon City Council, reflecting the wishes of the majority of citizens of the City, approved an ordinance allowing a medical marijuana dispensary within the city, but voted against permitting recreational marijuana dispensaries within the City. I respect the actions of the Council.

In these decisions, the City Council acted on principle and not out of a preoccupation with the prospect of lost revenues when it respected the will of the citizens. The potential amount of lost revenue occasioned by the prohibition of the sale of marijuana for purely recreational use is insignificant relative to the city's overall budget.

*5. During your time in office, how would you envision the city in two years? Four years at the end of your term?*

In my next term as Mayor, I will continue the work of making Fallon the best place to live for all our residents. For me, this commitment comes down to two topics: public safety and quality of life. Our City Police Department is a CALEA certified, highly professional law-enforcement organization. The City/ County Volunteer Fire Department maintains an ISO-1 fire rating within City limits-the only volunteer department in the Nation that achieves this.

I see my role in improving citizen's quality of life through managing our City owned parks, events, and enterprises and also through enhancing and preserving culture and our economic base. It can be a challenge to address all of these areas on limited resources, but it has been something we've been successful with in the past and will continue to do in my next term.

*Continued on Page 30...*

# Primary Election Guide

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...Tedford, continued from page 29

My personal charge is to strive every day to improve the quality of life for every citizen of the City. I endeavor to create economic opportunity for our youth so that they can remain in or return to their hometown; I do my utmost to ensure that all of our senior citizens maintain a connected, sustainable lifestyle with local health care services.

*6. Like many small cities, the downtown area has lost businesses to shopping strip malls or big outlet stores. How can our city reinvigorate the downtown area to attract more businesses to Maine Street?*

Beginning in 1999, in collaboration with downtown property owners and businesses, a vision for downtown improvements, streets, water, sewer and sidewalks was created and implemented. A five-phase project with partial funding through NDOT was completed in 2019, which runs from Williams Avenue to Tolas Place, and from Center Street to Oats Park.

During the past two years, private property owners have increasingly invested in their properties along with major public investment by CC Comm, the William M. Pennington Life Center, and renovating the Churchill County Bank Building. The Central Nevada Health District is renovating two large buildings which will create 40-50 new jobs in downtown Fallon. The vacancy rate is quite low and there are large sections of undeveloped land which will facilitate development and that is not the case in most historic downtowns. As of today, there is serious interest in renovating existing structures and developing downtown open spaces. We are engaged with these people to keep downtown a central, vibrant space.

*7. Being mayor is more than serving the residents. How do you envision working with state and congressional leaders for funding of projects, etc?*

My philosophy is that the most important thing a Mayor does is serve the citizens. Everything he or she does must be with that end in mind. To serve effectively, a Mayor must be able to work with our State and Federal colleagues. Throughout my tenure I have

developed very close, bi-partisan, and professional relationships. Currently, I enjoy such a relationship with, among others, Governor Lombardo, Senator Cortez-Masto, Senator Rosen and Congressman Amodei. In the course of these relationships, I am always advocating for the best interests of the City of Fallon and Churchill County.

But it is not just about my advocacy and relationship with our partners. It is also imperative that the Mayor help foster interconnectedness between the City's elected officials and appointed staff with our partners. In my time, we have done that. The City, as an organization, maintains strong relationships with the Governor and State Legislators, and also with our Senators, Congressman, and State and Federal agencies. As a result of these active partnerships, the City has accomplished more for its citizens. In fact, as a direct result of these relationships, we have pending over 40 million dollars in congressional directed spending, federal grants, and state funding.

*8. Attracting doctors to Fallon has been difficult. How can Fallon attract doctors and other medical personnel to establish a practice in the city?*

In 1981, I was recruited to join the Hospital Board. Having served for 35 years on that Board and succeeding governing and advisory boards, I realize the

challenge of recruiting primary care doctors and specialists. This is not just a local issue: right now, there is a severe shortage of doctors across the United States. The State of Nevada has among the lowest doctors per capita in the country. The competition for medical professionals is intense.

My experience has been that you don't just recruit a physician; you recruit their entire family. This requires attractive housing inventory, recreational and cultural opportunities, a robust education system, a professional support system, and further economic opportunity. In recent years, Banner Health System has taken the lead in our community recruitment efforts. They are not doing so alone, though. As recently as last month, as Chair of the Central Nevada Health District Board, I initiated a conversation regarding providing incentives to our high school graduates to pursue a medical education and return home to their hometown for their professional careers. This is a long-term approach, but certainly one that we have the ability to put in place and the kind of thing that I am working towards.



## Mosquito Contest Goes to General and School Board Final after Primary

There are two seats open on the Mosquito, Vector, and Noxious Weed Abatement District and three candidates running; Marion Jonte, David Brown, and Cynthia McGarrah. These three candidates will go straight to the General Election and appear on the November ballot, with the top two candidates being elected.

For the Churchill County School Board of Trustees, there are three seats open and the three candidates filed; Wendy Bullock, Gregg Malkovich, and Kathryn Whitaker. The three candidates will appear on the Primary Ballot

for June 11 and will be elected at that time.

Meanwhile, Trustee Tricia Strasdin recently resigned her position on the board and the district has opened the public process to fill her empty seat. Applications were due May 22, 2024. The term of this appointment is from the date of selection to December 31, 2024.

The Board of Trustees will interview selected applicants at a Regular Board meeting on May 29, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office boardroom and appoint a Trustee to fill the vacancy. Wendy Bullock confirmed that she has applied to fill that vacancy.



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