

PRIMARY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2024

1. Tell us about yourself, what information you think is important about you, your family and your background.

I am a Wyoming Native growing up in Riverton and with a few years exception, I have lived in Wyoming. Both my parents are retired educators, and my wife is in the medical field here in Laramie.

I hold a degree in applied aviation science and a BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Wyoming. I also hold and maintain two professional standards in my field of work, a private pilot's license, and an extra class amateur radio license. For the past 24 years I have been a professional locksmith and physical security specialist. I have owned and operated Wyoming State Safe and Lock for the past 21 years and based out of Laramie.

2. What qualities, training, experience and skills would you bring to this office? Tell us why you are running for this office.

Honesty, accountability, and the ability to communicate with residents are a few of the qualities I will personally bring to the commission. Integrity has been a keystone to my professional success. I am also quite familiar with government bid letting process, Request for proposals and quotes having had to go through the process many times. The pit falls of that sometime plague governments when a contractor exploits vague definitions or a lack of knowledge in what is being requested. I know that not every funding choice is a good one and that sometimes NO is the answer that needs to be delivered.

My profession takes me all over the county for different reasons and I am always engaging with residents, business owners and just regular folks. I get a lot of input from all walks of life.

I am running to keep the county government from operating like the city and that county residents aren't forced to adhere to regulation dictated by other government bodies. I would like to develop multiple options to relieve Albany Counties dependance on State and Federal Funds.

3. What are the primary responsibilities of the office you are seeking?

County Commissioners duties are varied and wide ranging. They are the Legislative, Judicial, and executive branches of the County wrapped into three people. The commissioners act as representatives of the people to the different departments within and the county itself, the complaint department, the business, and budgeting authority.

Commissioners, for some residents, have more day-to-day impact on their lives than most state legislators.

4. United States citizens, under government, have rights. What is the basis of these rights?

The bill of rights as the first ten amendments of the constitution grant citizens of the United States the most basic rights. They further define what states can and cannot infringe upon. It is the government's responsibility to support citizens' rights and not encroach.

5. Elected officials are viewed in one of 2 ways – politicians or statesmen. Explain your understanding of each and how you would describe yourself.

I see a politician as a political gamesman and representative. Doing the will of the people but with a minor or major personal stake. A statesman, either appointed or elected, performs their duties of office for the good and benefit of all. Regardless of political or personal gain.

Myself, I would hope that after elected, would perform my duties as statesmen like as possible without regard for personal gain and the most benefit to the community that elected me.

6. What are the controversial issues for deliberation and voting and how will you deal with These?

I don't know that controversial issues are plaguing the county government. The direction the current board of commissioners has taken is more to align the County with the direction of the City of Laramie. While this might be agreeable with city residents it isn't, in my opinion, best, or prudent for county residents.

While there will always be some cooperative efforts between city and county my voting would reflect common sense for all county residents and not let the city politics spill over the city boundaries.

7. Tell us anything else you would like about your candidacy.

My wife and I have chosen to raise our family here in Albany County. I want to keep Albany County a wonderful place to live, work, worship and explore. I hope that my election and term on the board of county commission would provide to keep the county on a prosperous track and be the better for my having been elected.

Thank you for your consideration,

Thad Hoff