

**League of Women Voters  
VOTER'S GUIDE 2010  
Candidate Responses**

Question 1: **What qualifies you to serve in the office for which you are a candidate?**

Question 2: **What is the most pressing issue facing Latah County or the State of Idaho, and how do you plan to address it if you are elected?**

**Idaho State Senate**



**Gresham Dale Bouma (R)**

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I have been a small business owner, classroom teacher, school district business manager, municipal and school auditor, avid student of economics, solar technology graduate, organic family farmer, husband, and father. I believe my broad range of private and public-sector experiences will serve Latah County well.

Like the rest of the nation, the most pressing and obvious challenge facing Idaho is the economy and jobs. Many small businesses are barely making it now. If Obamacare increases insurance costs or Cap and Trade causes energy costs to "skyrocket" (as Obama has said it will), many small businesses will just disappear. Idaho needs to do all within its power to protect its job producers. Without jobs we will not have a recovery. Without jobs we will not have funding for our schools or colleges. Without jobs our young people will have to move back in with mom and dad as 80% of last years college graduates did nation-wide. I will work to make Idaho more business friendly without sacrificing the things we all hold dear by working to promote a reasonable regulatory environment and by opposing any net tax increases.



**Dan J. Schmidt (D)**

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During my 23 years in the community, I have demonstrated my qualifications. As the coroner, I worked with many agencies, made hard decisions, and saved the taxpayers money. On the Gritman Board, I learned and practiced setting policy to serve the community. I solve problems with vision and common sense.

Idaho needs stable growth. State government needs to balance a healthy business environment with stable revenue for needed public services, primarily education. Businesses want good workers and good schools for their kids. Strengthening the University of Idaho will also make Idaho attractive to good business. Tax exemptions can be a shortsighted business promotion. Our tax structure needs to be updated. I will work to promote stable growth by focusing on these important tasks. We don't have time for fringe distractions.

**Idaho State Representative Position A**



**Judith L. Brown (D)**

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I am an economist with 15 years experience working on economic development and fiscal policy issues in Idaho, including 10 years as director of the Idaho Center on Budget and Tax Policy. I will work hard at interacting with Latah County residents and working out solutions to our common problems.

The most pressing issue facing Idaho is the lack of a vision for broadly shared prosperity, and the commitment to work toward it, as we recover from the Great Recession. We need to change the conversation, the policies and the outcomes at the Idaho Legislature. To promote broadly shared prosperity, I will work for strong public and higher education systems to provide our young people the education and training they need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I will also work for sound economic development policies that will make Idaho more successful at creating and retaining good-paying jobs. Finally, we need a revenue system that allows the state to pay its bills and honor its commitments while sharing the burden fairly. These are the things I will work for: good schools for our children and our future, better jobs for all of us; and fair taxes and fiscal responsibility.



**Tom Trail (R)**

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I've have served 7 terms in the Legislature. I am the Chair for the House Ag Affairs Committee which is a leadership position, and I've been the sponsor or co-sponsor of 75 bills. My commitment is Constituent Service. I've a proven record in supporting k-12 and Higher Education.

Strengthening the economy, job creation, and improving our k-12/Higher Education Systems are the top priority in the county/state. Latah County is at the 18% level in Terms of poverty level, and there is an increasing unemployment problem with our Middle class. Small businesses who create most of the jobs need assistance in: 1) increased access to credit/loans at reasonable rates to expand business operations, 2) improved access to both state/national grant opportunities, 3) assurance that national/state tax rates remain stable, 4) increased access to tax credits at state/federal level, 5) local zoning laws that encourage local business expansion, and 3) increased support for k-12 and Higher Education—who train the business work force. This will require a bi-partisan Effort at local, state, and federal levels. I am committed to work with local, state, And federal elected officials and the private sector in this effort.

### **Idaho State Representative Position B**



**Shirley G. Ringo (D)**

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Leadership Positions: Moscow Education Association President and Head Negotiator, Idaho Education Association State Membership Chair, AARP Board (Latah County), Idaho State Legislature. These experiences have helped me work with people to reach shared goals, and to gain insight into issues important to residents of Latah County.

Dealing with loss of employment is critical to residents of Idaho and Latah County. Rebuilding our economy requires attention to opportunities for jobs that provide a living wage with benefits, and jobs that fit the culture of our communities. Providing such opportunity requires a well trained workforce. We cannot continue to neglect support for education programs. Higher Education has been hit hard by a lack of support by the majority party in the Idaho Legislature. Among the casualties are students who are losing opportunity because of higher fees and tuition. Vocational/technical schools are also key to providing education and training responsive to individual goals and skill development necessary for jobs of the future. Changes in Idaho tax policy are necessary to support important programs. Among my recommendations would be more aggressive collection of taxes owed, elimination of certain tax exemptions, removing the sales tax on food, and taxing internet sales.

**Isaac "Ike" Young (R)**

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I served 6+ years in the U.S. Navy as a Hospital Corpsman, in those years I was a LPO (Leading Petty Officer) for the Alcohol Rehabilitation Division, Great Lakes Naval Hospital, and LPO for Marine Wing Support Squadron 171's Battalion Aid Station and field hospital.

The most pressing problem Latah County and Idaho face right now are jobs, the opportunity for jobs after collage and the economy. The best way to handle all of these is to get government out of the way of small business, cut taxes, and foster an environment for economic freedom. By cutting regulations and taxes on individuals and business we allow them to be the stewards of their own destiny.

## Latah County Commissioner District 2



**Bill Goesling (R)**

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I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve as a Latah County Commissioner. With both formal education and real life experiences in business, engineering and leadership, I am confident that I will be able to meet, understand and work with others to solve the challenges facing our county.

This summer I had the pleasure of meeting many of you. It was apparent from our discussions that there are three primary concerns-financial responsibility, unemployment, visibility and accessibility. The primary concerns point to what I believe is the most pressing issue facing Latah County; the lack of confidence in government. That is, our citizens want to understand, see and know that their county government is meeting their needs. They want to know the taxes they pay to the county are fair, reasonable, budgeted properly and spent appropriately to meet their needs. As your commissioner I will seek ways to provide you opportunities to not only see your government at work but also to participate in its processes. How? By my attendance in your formal and informal meetings, by periodically holding commission and other committee meetings throughout the county and by actually seeking your input and participation.



**Tom S. Stroschein (D)**

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I believe electing two unseasoned commissioners will create a hardship for the county in these difficult economic times. In the best interest of Latah County, I am running to keep one commission seat filled with the person who has seven+ years experience on the Latah County BOCC.

We have been challenged to meet the needs of Latah County while tightening our fiscal belts. We've met this challenge without reducing any services thanks to the collaborative efforts of all county departments. However, due to Health and Welfare reducing the workforce, closing offices and withholding financial resources remanded by the Idaho State Legislature, the financial burden for public and behavioral health services is being shifted to the county. This is a pressing issue, and I am in a strong position to directly address it because I am currently serving on the District 2 Mental Health Board and the Idaho State Board of Health and Welfare and have created strong allies with groups dedicated to finding solutions for the trying times ahead.

## Latah County Commissioner District 3



**David McGraw (R)**

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My 30 years of business experience in Latah County, my willingness to listen to all parties involved, and finally knowing how and when to make tough, fair, business minded decisions. These are the qualities I possess that best qualify me to be your next Latah County commissioner from district 3.

Jobs and the economy are on everybody's mind right now. I've been told by business leaders that our county is known for being "one of the hardest counties in the state to do business in." Whether this reputation is deserved or not, the perception is there and needs addressed if we are to be successful bringing new business to the county. 1) Paul Kimmell, Aimee Shipman and all the members of The Latah Economic development council need to be supported in every way possible with their efforts of recruiting businesses interested in locating to our area. 2) Latah Zoning ordinances need to be relaxed to help encourage business growth and development. This can be done while still protecting the environment that we all enjoy in Latah County. 3) As with any well run business, county government needs to be as effective as possible. Every dollar spent needs scrutinized and justified.



**Robin Ohlgren (D)**

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A 32-year resident of Latah County, I have held leadership roles both in Troy and Moscow, in projects promoting community development, arts and culture, and education. My background in community organization, fundraising, budget oversight (both small business and non-profit), and creative problem solving will serve Latah County well.

Sound economic development is the overarching theme that can address many of the concerns facing Latah County. Through smart planning, open dialogue and a transparent process, we can focus on solving budget shortfalls, identifying new streams of revenue, creating sustainable jobs, and promoting community development that is good for our families, our quality of life, and our environment: *it will be possible to have security, prosperity and sustainability for Latah County.* It's time for county government to develop a forward-thinking, long-range strategic plan that encompasses up-to-date land-use policy, effective resource management in law enforcement, and adequate programs that provide services and support to our families. We need to implement regulations and permitting processes that are friendly to the entrepreneurial spirit of our rural landowners, and that will attract businesses committed to the same quality of education, services, and environment that we value.



**Gerald Warner (Ind)**

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Born in the Pacific Northwest, I came to Latah County in 1973 and managed my local business for 38 years, including investments and financial matters. The buck stops here...No Bailouts--Less Government. I will be the last one standing out in the storm for the people!

I believe creating JOBS is critical to our children's future and our livelihoods today. Business needs to be welcomed in our County, to create needed JOBS and get us through our financial Depression. Jobs will help us provide for the important County services. I believe our citizens support environmentally clean businesses. I will take on the challenges of our County and work hard to follow them through to completion. I believe in the foundation of our constitution and will work hard to carry out the mandates of the majority voters for our County. I believe in doing my best to listen to all the citizens, including senior citizens through the young who can not yet vote. If elected I will work hard to listen and work for all our citizens to make Latah County a better place for us all.

**Latah County Clerk of the District Court**



**Susan R. Petersen (R)**

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I have 20 years of experience in this position, integrity.

Decreased revenues will have an affect on the services that can be provided. I am deeply concerned the effect this will have on our citizens. I will seek input from our citizens.

**Latah County Treasurer**



**Lois Reed (R)**

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I have worked in the Treasurer's Office for 18 years, for 17 of those years as the Senior Deputy. I am knowledgeable in every facet of the office from collections, to investments. In addition, I have extensive knowledge of the interworkings of the other 'row-offices' and how compliment each other.

Currently the most pressing need in Idaho is unemployment. As the Latah County Treasurer there is not much I can do to change that. However, I do plan to work diligently within the County to educate each taxpayer about Idaho Tax Code, and how that applies to them. There are exemptions, payment plans and alternative tax laws available to every taxpayer and I plan to make people aware of those laws. Latah County has invested a great deal of time and money to train me and I look forward to paying that investment back.

## Latah County Assessor



**Jerry Coleman (R)**

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I bring over 13 years of experience to the office of assessor along with a business degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Idaho. I believe that smaller government is better government, and the government we require should be a good steward of the trust given it by voters!

I believe that the biggest problem the state needs to address is the problem of spending. The best that I could do as Latah County Assessor is to be an advocate for smaller government and being a good steward of the trust given to state government.



**Patrick J. Vaughan (D)**

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My current experience as the Assessor for over 5 years, and my past experiences as an Army officer for 20 years, as the President of the Boards of Directors of local businesses and nonprofits, owning a small farm in Latah County, and raising our family with Cece for 26 years.

The issue for Latah County is transforming local government--- incorporating new technologies and ideas to provide better services, but doing so in a way that does not grow bloated agencies and higher property taxes. Though local government is not a business, some of the same principles apply: Focus on customer service, listening to taxpayer priorities, vision to apply cost-saving efficiencies, and leadership to challenge the status quo. The result is lean, efficient government that can adapt to change and is responsive to taxpayers. As Assessor, I'll continue to be a strong advocate for transparency and accessibility. Digital technology will transform our mapping and assessment work. Check on your property assessment via internet without making a trip to the Courthouse, renew your vehicle registration from your computer at home, receive your assessments via email, fewer appraisal inspections and less paper files. The result: Better service, small staffs and real cost savings.

## Latah County Coroner



**Catherine Mabbutt (D)**

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As a registered nurse and a lawyer, I have both a medical and a legal background to assist in death investigations. That background along with my training and experiences during the four years that I have served as Latah County Coroner make me qualified to continue as the coroner.

The most pressing issue facing both the State of Idaho and Latah County is the budget. With sales tax revenues down, all areas of government have had to make budget cuts. It is the responsibility of every elected official to run their offices and departments as fiscally responsibly as possible while maintaining quality. I will continue to carefully manage the budget while using necessary resources to determine the manner and cause of deaths occurring in Latah County.