

## View results

Respondent

1

Anonymous

84:49

Time to complete

## 1. Name &amp; office you are seeking \*

Brandi Atanasoff, Missoula Mayor

## 2. New development activity has an impact on home cost, access and ultimately affordability. In 2019 the City of Missoula Office of Housing and Community Development presented a city housing policy outlining several private and public sector regulatory reform and development incentives. As Mayor, what specific policies would you pursue to address the community's housing shortage? \*

Missoula has attracted alot of attention in recent years. Several developers from out of state have been investing in housing, for several years, because our prices were still accessible and the developers were able to make a profit. If the process streamlines itself too much when prices are high a bunch of investors will have a hard time making the profit they would like on projects. I prefer to let the process create it's own lines.

I am not going to attempt to be an authority of an area people have spent a lifetime mastering. The committee of wise residents, employees, and leaders have created these policies with a massive amount of collective knowledge. I will refer to the ones using their wisdom in the field to address the policies they designed to protect our town, collaboratively for several years.

I believe that this process has already been put into play and should be respected. If elected as Mayor I would request that educational outreach be sent to the general public to help all policy transitions and alleviate any stress caused by change.

3. Missoula is currently undergoing zoning "*code reform*"; what three changes would you propose for the update? \*

I believe that the people that run the departments within the city, the people that use the zoning daily for their jobs, and the people that are directly affected by zoning changes should lead the Mayor's opinion of what changes are needed.

If elected to mayor I would prefer to get to know people through collecting information they have passionately collected. Publicly collecting information on this topic if elected also gives the town the opportunity to get to know me.

Without an agenda, I am more approachable to all parties in the conversations. Right now many residents are complaining about not feeling heard, and that is what is important for me to address.

## 4. A quarter of Missoula's workforce lives outside Missoula County. It is estimated that the lost property tax from commuters is in excess of \$6.6 million per year. As Mayor what would you do to encourage people to live within the City? \*

People are always going to want to live in the country and commute to the city for work. The only way to make someone that likes open space want to live in town is to protect open space and single family units with yards.

The only way our current development goals can attract a country person, is to make retirement villages that make city living look easier than maintaining their big yard. The residents in our town are currently really worried about their ability to live sustainably in retirement. Focusing on affordable 55+ housing would calm the town, give us the opportunity to make sure our friends are protected after we retire, and create what is needed for everyone's future.

5. State Law provides for tax increment financing (TIF) and urban renewal districts. TIF is used within urban renewal districts to combat blight and promote economic development. However, critics of TIF say that these urban renewal districts can be in place for many years, and TIF diverts property tax revenue away from schools and local governments. What changes to TIF statutes would you recommend, if any, to respond to citizen concerns? \*

I believe the only way to address this topic is to have a public conversation with leaders in town with diverse perspectives and a couple of the residents that spent time putting together all the documentation about why they are against it.

The amount of negative publicity this topic has brought to our town can only be addressed by having an honest public conversation about the pros and cons of TIF and urban renewal districts.

6. Do you support the City's anti-discrimination ordinance? How would you support Fair Housing for all in Missoula? \*

The ordinance states that we do not discriminate in Missoula. Which means if anyone discriminates for any of those given reasons there is a structure that we follow.

I believe that our town leads by how we conduct ourselves and regulate our collective choices as a group. If there was ever an issue with an individual or group going against the ordinance, addressing it with strategic public education is the correct way for the city to use the ordinance.

7. Property taxes are the primary source of funding for Montana cities. The City of Missoula's property tax rate has steadily increased over the last decade, putting additional financial pressure on the cost of housing. Given limited funding opportunities how would you prioritize city services? \*

I think that this topic gives our town the ability to show the state that we understand what matters to the majority of the states voters, which I believe will give us a more respected stance on the topics that the town is collectively passionate about.

If elected as mayor I would match the state's budget choices as close as possible so that our town can continue to scream it's authentic voice loudly. I believe that government money should only be spent on needs and any excess should be used to decrease the equity difference we have seen caused by the change in housing options. The recent report from the County Commissioners shows that our town will need heavy housing subsidies for our peers to be able to just have a roof over their heads. Currently the section 8 housing vouchers are our main form of supplementing the difference between what a place costs and what our residents can actually pay.

Other than looking at all subsidy options and how we can implement programs that help that topic, I will want to see how amazing my peers are by listening to what they think is important.

8. What, if any, local option tax(es) would you support? \*

I would like to pause all conversations about taxes and challenge my peers to find ways for us to be more sustainably stealthy within the budget we have.

9. As Mayor what do you believe should be the top three priorities for the City? \*

1. Developing public education for topics that cause residents stress.

2. Address all infrastructure issues that cause the residents stress.

3. Find and publish all possible ways this town can decrease the cost of living. That way all of the town's leaders can verbally state what has and is done to protect the residents. Our town is currently in the middle of a housing transition and options that most of the residents once had are no longer available. I am running for mayor to use my communications degree to help walk everyone through that topic specifically.

10. Given the upcoming zoning code reform project, what are the two to three resources that you will use to make informed decisions? \*

If elected, before making choices and decisions I will be referring to the actual structural laws, the city employees within the affected departments, and the leaders in the town that shape the town with the decisions made with the zoning code reform project.

## 11. Treasurer's Name, Address and Phone Number \*

I will not be accepting donations. What I put into my campaign will be out of my own pocket. I want to be able to give my opinions on topics without offending a donor.

## 12. Will you accept REALTOR® Political Action Committee campaign contributions? \*

☐ Yes

☒ No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.