

View results

Respondent

10

Anonymous

17489:57

Time to complete

1. Name & office you are seeking *

Sierra Farmer City Council Ward 2

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 a Council Member, what specific policies would you pursue to address the community's housing shortage? *

I believe the city can continue to encourage development by using tools such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. I hope that in the future we can find ways to streamline development through additional grants and other funding sources. During the Code Reform process my hope is we can find ways to streamline development that will make progress on Missoula's housing shortage.

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

The three changes to Missoula's zoning code I would like to see are 1) Eliminate old and confusing regulations that no longer serve Missoula. 2) Align Missoula's zoning code with our priorities and growth policy. 3) Have a more equitable approach to Missoula's zoning.

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 a member of the City Council what would you do to encourage people to live within the City? *

I think Missoula city limits are already a desirable place to live with access to our amazing parks, trails and public transportation. We can continue encouraging people to live within the city by continuing to prioritize access to our public lands and help incentivize affordable development.

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 would like to explore adding different voices to the MRA board and encourage more citizen involvement in the decision making regarding TIF funding. When used correctly TIF can be extremely impactful to projects that can benefit all Missoulians.

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

I support the City's anti-discrimination ordinance and hope that we can continue finding ways to encourage equitable housing policies. Missoula has been very creative in finding solutions to support Fair Housing in Missoula with projects such as the Trinity and the Villagio developments. If elected I would continue to support creative solutions that will help move the needle towards more affordable housing for everyone in Missoula.

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? *

My priorities, if elected, would be citizen safety, infrastructure, affordable housing and transportation. I believe all of these priorities work together and when done correctly the city and Missoulians can thrive.

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

I would support a local resort tax to capture revenue from our growing tourism population as long as we can find a way to offset taxes for local residents.

9. As a member of the City Council what do you believe should be the top three priorities for the City? *

It's hard to narrow it down to three priorities but I believe the city should focus on affordable housing, public safety and transportation.

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 I will rely on the expertise from the consultants hired to assess Missoula's zoning code in addition to hearing from the focus groups comprised of Missoula citizens.

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

Barbara Berens, Sierra For Missoula P.O. Box 5829 Missoula, MT 59806 406-360-1438

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.