

CANDIDATE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
2007 Eagle Mayoral and Council Positions

1. Describe the role of mayor/councilperson as you see it. What do you see as **the** most critical issue facing the City? What's the first thing you'd work to change if elected? Prioritize the issues you expect to be most important over your term.

The most critical issue facing the city is how we handle growth. Without proper planning we will see an exponential increase in many of the problems that we are experiencing today, such as school overcrowding, water problems and traffic congestion. This will have a far reaching affect on our residents. For instance, when Eagle's arterial roads are gridlocked people will start taking short cuts through our subdivisions.

2. Discuss the Blueprint for Good Growth and your position on issues, including the Adequate Public Facilities ordinance. (See www.blueprintforgoodgrowth.com, "Downloads", September 2006 Phase I report.)

Eagle should be in partnership with Ada County, its neighboring cities, the Ada County Highway District, and the Idaho Transportation Department. Coordinating land use and transportation planning is a part of responsible growth. Growth should be orderly and beneficial for the community's continued prosperity and quality of life. Growth should not be subsidized by the existing residents.

An adequate public facilities ordinance should be enacted, as this is a component of responsible growth. Public facilities and services should be available to our new developments with no adverse impact on our existing developments. There should be no rush to make development decisions that will have a permanent affect on our City.

3. Do you agree with Eagle's plans to annex additional land to the west, north of Beacon Light Rd. toward SH 16, and 32,000 acres to the north, including the foothills north to the County line? Why or why not? Discuss your position on the major issues of water, transportation, infrastructure, open space and density, particularly as contained in the foothills comp plan amendment. (See www.cityofeagle.org, "Foothills", "P & Z Recommendations.")

We are in agreement with the concept of annexing the surrounding areas into Eagle, as long as there is not a negative effect on the existing residents and the annexed development fits within the visions of the Eagle residents, which are to preserve open space, protect water, clean air and wildlife. Eagle stands out as a community for these reasons, and we would want to preserve those elements that make our city a unique place in which to live. No developments should be approved without a thorough water study to ensure there is adequate water for the new development and the existing residents. No developments should be approved without adequate schools and transportation corridors serving to route traffic away from our congested downtown and residential areas. Preservation of open space should be a priority in all foothills development.

4. What level of emphasis, if any, do you expect to place on coordination and cooperation with other jurisdictions and agencies that have influence on or are impacted by development? How do you plan to improve/implement such interaction?

Our great City is a part of a great community. We rely on many neighboring jurisdictions for a smooth operation of our City, and continuing involvement with the Blue Print for Good Growth and Idaho Smart Growth will result in a better city, which in turn results in a better community. An antagonistic approach to these organizations results in a losing proposition for everyone.

5. Describe your vision of what Eagle will look like in 20 years in the following areas:

- Population

Idaho's growth from 2005 – 2006 was 2.6%. The city of Eagle's growth was 6.1%. However if the real estate market with the over supply of homes in our area is any indication, our cities' growth rate during that period was an enigma and not a true indication of a sustainable growth rate. Eagle's population in 2006 was 18,419. We believe that Idaho's overall growth rate of 2.6% is a healthier projection of growth for our area. If Eagle were to follow this trend of 2.6%, our population in 2027 would be approximately 31,000.

- Downtown character

We need to create a downtown character. With what vacant land is remaining we need to encourage retail and restaurant uses and relieve the restrictions that are prohibiting development on these lots. Design standards should be reviewed to allow for the continuation of the Old Western feel of Eagle's heritage in the downtown area.

- Commercial districts

We need more commercial and light industrial districts, where our citizens can work, shop, eat and mingle with friends. We would encourage a pedestrian shopping district filled with unique boutiques and restaurants and adequate city parking.

- Foothills (as incorporated Eagle or in its area of impact)

The foothills are a gem, both aesthetically, for our wildlife and for recreation. Whatever development occurs there needs to preserve those elements.

6. What do you believe to be the desires of current residents regarding the issues stated in question #5?

Most of the residents share our views on these issues.

7. Describe the steps you would endorse to ensure protection of water resources for all residents (city, AOI and foothills).

Large developments will not be approved without a thorough water study. There are many differing views on whether the aquifers can support our existing development, much less adding thousands of additional homes.

Regarding the Eagle Water Company, all of the evidence has not been presented on the acquisition of this company by the city of Eagle. We would consider the input from the citizen committee as paramount in our decision.

8. Describe your vision for open space as a part of Eagle's way of life. Include such things as the types of open space you believe are important, the purpose/use of open space, how much (e.g., percentage of new development) is minimum versus how much is desirable, what types of recreation would occur in open space, etc. State your position re a levy on Eagle/Ada County residents to preserve foothills open space.

We are not a proponent of levies or additional taxes on our residents. However, we would encourage programs which would raise the funds to purchase some of the private lands in the foothills. Open space is a unique feature in Eagle, when compared to some of the neighboring communities, and something we need to fight to preserve. Counting roads and berms in our open space calculation for new developments is wrong. Changing Eagle's comprehensive plan to eliminate the larger home lots north of Floating Feather and creating cookie cutter higher density subdivisions with a small park in the middle is not a vision of open space. A golf course is not a vision of open space. The current city administration has placed a big emphasis on parks, but where are the baseball, football and soccer fields for our children? Where are the riding areas for our large equestrian population? Merrill Park, one of the largest parks with greenbelt access, prohibits horses and attempted to prohibit dogs. We also need additional on and off road bike and pedestrian paths.

9. What factors should govern the placement/configuration of any improvements and /or new roads that are necessary to serve development? What relationship do you see, if any, between patterns/amount/placement of new development and the existing transportation system? How should new development be handled if road improvements necessary to serve that development are uncertain? Do you support a change to state statute to allow local option taxes (e.g., as a method of funding transit)?

We are not a proponent of raising taxes. The City needs to work closely with ACHD, Idaho Department of Transportation and the neighboring cities and communities to plan for growth and the services for that new growth. Large developments with an obvious effect on current city residents should not be approved unless transportation issues are resolved.

10. State your position on how the following issues relate to and should or should not affect development decisions:

- Traffic, road funding and timing

Road conditions and access should be tied to development approvals.

- Impact fees

Impact fees need to adequately represent the impact on our existing residents.

- Mass transit

Mass transit helps attract employees to our Eagle businesses, and provides alternative transportation to our Eagle residents. It is a winning proposition for everyone.

- School funding and timing

Educational facilities should be tied to the development agreements. Our current residents should not be forced to subsidize new development, whether it be through a decrease in services, as we see in today's school overcrowding, or through our tax dollars being spent on new facilities for these new developments.

- Air quality

Idaho is known for its outdoor recreational opportunities. It would be a detriment to the state to allow developments that would compromise our air quality. Eagle residents deserve to live in a healthy air environment.

- Police/fire protection and funding

Police and fire protection should be tied to the development agreement. Our current residents should not be forced to subsidize new development, whether it be through a decrease in services, or through our tax dollars being spent on new facilities for these new developments.

11. Foothills priorities: Please rank the following in order of importance to you (#1 being most important, #12 least important):

We consider all of the issues listed below as important and prioritizing them is difficult, as we are concerned with each one of them. We would work to encourage the implementation of all of these.

- Minimize environmental and social impacts of future development in the foothills.
- Identify alternatives to existing zoning (mix of 10- and 40-acre minimum lot sizes) that will better protect sensitive natural and other resources.
- Direct development towards specific areas and avoid it in others to protect open space.
- Locate most development, and all high-density development, close to highways, major roads and/or other public facilities.
- Provide a range of housing types and lot sizes for future residents.
- Maintain opportunities for rural lifestyles and retain the rural character of the area to the extent possible.
- Avoid development in areas with sensitive resources to protect them and create an interconnected open space framework. Maintain large contiguous tracts of habitat to ensure wildlife is not displaced.
- Continue to provide and/or enhance access to public lands or other areas for non-motorized recreational opportunities.
- Establish a network of trails for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians that is accessible to the public.
- Avoid development in steep areas in the range of the foothills and other visually sensitive areas.
- Ensure that future development has access to an adequate supply of water, without adversely impacting water supplies for existing residents or other users.
- Ensure that new growth funds the cost of public facility improvements needed to serve it (e.g., water, wastewater treatment, transportation, schools, fire protection, law enforcement and other needed services).