



# North Ada County Foothills Association

One voice. One goal. One plan.

To: All in the NACFA Network—and their friends and neighbors in Eagle and Star  
Re: Eagle and Star Elections  
Date: October 9, 2007

The four-member NACFA elections task force unanimously recommends Eagle residents support Sandra McDavid (mayor), Michael Huffaker and Al Shoustarian (two Council seats), running as a slate under the slogan "Preserve Eagle." Attached is their response to the NACFA election questionnaire as well as the response of mayoral candidate Julie Barthlow. The following candidates did not return completed questionnaires: Phil Bandy, Jason Pierce (mayoral candidates); Derek T. Smith, Scott Nordstrom (Council candidates).

Generally, we support the Preserve Eagle slate (see [www.preserveeagle.com](http://www.preserveeagle.com)) because of their philosophy and responsiveness and, equally important, their strong skills and experience. We believe they represent the best choice to guide Eagle through the upcoming era of growth, with its attendant complexities.

Equally importantly, we urge all Eagle residents to discuss with friends from Star the upcoming mayoral and council races next door. We recommend that Star voters seriously consider supporting Jason Rowley (mayor) and Gary Smith (council). Reelection of Nate Mitchell as Star mayor will open the possibility that the M3 Companies will withdraw their application to Eagle if they are displeased with Council action and submit it to Star, where Mitchell has reportedly promised M3 quick approval. In our opinion, the M3 proposal carries substantial risk of current residents subsidizing significant developer costs through property taxes, payments to fire districts and new Meridian School District bonds in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The M3 proposal is, at present, a bad deal for taxpayers both in Eagle and Star.

CJ Thompson  
[seajayt@clearwire.net](mailto:seajayt@clearwire.net)  
208.938.0418

## Response from McDavid, Shoushtarian, Huffaker slate

### 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](http://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](http://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.**

## Response from Julie Barthlow

Thank you for your interest in the Eagle City Mayor race.

Due to time constraints, I am unable to answer your specific questionnaire. However, I would like to provide you with the following synopsis of my philosophy and views. For further information on this and other issues, you can check out my website, at [www.juliebformayor.org](http://www.juliebformayor.org). Additionally, personal information about me can be found on my website.

I am Julie Barthlow and I'm running for Mayor of Eagle City. As a City, we need to quit zoning for dollars, and stop building on a foundation of sand. Elected officials must be responsive and inclusive.

I am running for this office because I want to help steer Eagle City back in the direction it was headed when I moved here over 10 years ago. We've lost sight of the original vision.

Key issues include: (1) for managed, sustainable growth, no development approvals without provisions for basic infrastructure in place; (2) zero-based budgeting to stop and prevent wasteful spending; (3) preservation of Eagle's lifestyle; (4) government that is responsive to all citizens; and (5) leadership that is future-focused, transparent and inclusive.

We need to reach out to those who make Eagle their home and actively involve them in City decisions. I want Eagle first and foremost to be known as the City that helps its residents and businesses to flourish, while preserving our signature rural character and irreplaceable open spaces.

When I first moved here, there were significant water issues. Ten years later, we are still faced with water problems – only the problem is tenfold. Let me repeat: As a City, we need to quit zoning for dollars, and stop building on a foundation of sand.

When landowners seek rezoning so that they can sell their property for higher values, we must work together to craft an agreement that strikes a balance between fairness to the landowner and vision to our community, that is consistent with the global plan for the Treasure Valley, and has the least amount of impact on our collective future.

We have a fantastic start towards achieving sustainable communities with the Blueprint for Good Growth and Communities in Motion. We need to be fair, consistent, and refuse to bend under pressure tactics when making development decisions. Eagle cannot grow in isolation – we must be a better neighbor to adjacent communities.

Let's ensure that Eagle is known for quality, sustainable growth, and for regional cooperation.

The current administration fails to listen to the public. It is the duty of elected officials to listen and allow for proper consideration of their constituents' input.

Taxpayers were forced, after voting it down multiple times, to pay for a City Hall that is not cost efficient. The huge salary increase for the Mayor, set to begin in January of 2008, is way out of line with other similar cities and is a glaring example of wasteful spending. Zero-based budgeting is one simple way of gaining control of wasteful spending.

I do not have all the answers but am fortunate to know a wide variety of people and, through experience, have learned to seek out and work with others who can each bring a piece of the puzzle to the table.

If you are satisfied with the way things are going, please vote for one of my opponents. If not, I would appreciate your support.

Learn more about me at [www.juliebformayor.org](http://www.juliebformayor.org)