

BCRCC Candidate Questionnaire

Roger Rudd

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As a candidate for Bonner County Clerk, I bring a lifetime of loyalty to the Republican Party: I registered as a Republican at 18 when I registered for Selective Service and have proudly stayed with the Grand Old Party ever since—no other affiliations. My wife Cindy and I have been residents of Idaho since 2006 and moved to Bonner County in mid-summer 2020 and have made our home in the Clagstone Precinct. We love this area, our neighbors, and the values that make North Idaho special, and I'm running to protect and serve them with the same steady commitment I've always shown.

Questions:

1. What kind of professional, volunteer, or elected experience do you have that would prepare you for this position?

A. I proudly volunteered to serve in the United States Marine Corps in 1987 and retired honorably in 2017 after a 30-year career. This extensive experience in leadership, operations, and high-stakes decision-making has equipped me to handle the diverse responsibilities of Bonner County Clerk, including elections, court administration, recording, and public service. Throughout my career, I led diverse teams in challenging environments, honed strong communication and collaboration skills, and maintained strict attention to detail and compliance—skills directly transferable to managing accurate records, ensuring fair elections, and serving the community effectively. I enjoy working with people from all walks of life and am committed to continuing the strong legacy of public service in Bonner County, building on the foundation laid by outgoing Clerk Mike Rosedale.

2. What is the role of government (particularly the government for which you seek office)?

A. The role of government in general is to serve the public by maintaining order, protecting rights, providing essential services, enforcing laws, managing resources, and promoting the common good. At our Bonner County level, the clerk is responsible for public records recording, elections, budget and auditing, serving as exclusive Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for their meetings, and court records and operations.

3. What are the responsibilities and the duties of the position you are seeking?

A. The Bonner County Clerk is one of Idaho's most diverse elected county roles, holding five key titles under state law (Idaho Code) and overseeing a team of over 40 deputies to serve the public.

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The Clerk serves as the central hub for accurate records, fair elections, financial oversight, court support, and community governance in Bonner County. Five key titles: Clerk of the District Court, Ex-Officio County Auditor, Ex-Officio County Recorder, Clerk to the BOCC, and Chief Elections Officer.

4. What is the source of authority for the position you are seeking?

A. The Idaho Constitution Article V, Section 16: establishes the office of the Clerk of the District Court and provides for its election every 4 years. Article XVIII, Section 6: Makes the Clerk of the District Court ex officio the County Auditor and County Recorder.

Also, Idaho Code offers more detail to the Clerk roles and responsibilities. In particular Title 1, Chapter 10, Title 31 Chapter 7 §31-707 to §31-709: Recording board proceedings, minutes, resolutions, tax levies (Title 31, Chapters 15-17), and other duties like §31-708. Title 31, Chapter 23. Title 34 (Elections) and Title 31, Chapter 52.

The sources of authority reinforce the five distinct roles of clerk of the district court, auditor, recorder, clerk to the BOCC, and chief elections officer.

5. What made you decide to run for this position?

A. I am running for Bonner County Clerk because the incumbent is not running for election again and this role aligns directly with my skills, experience, and passion for public service. I am confident that I will excel in this position and deliver outstanding results for the residents of Bonner County. The Clerk's office is a critical function-overseeing elections, recording, courts and more, and I see this as an ideal opportunity to serve our community effectively. I was honored to be personally recruited by the incumbent Clerk, and we have met a few times to discuss county politics, the responsibilities of the Clerk's office, and the importance of the right people in key roles serving county residents. These thoughtful conversations reinforced my decision and highlighted the need for strong, capable leadership in this office.

6. What would you like to achieve if elected?

A. If elected as **Bonner County Clerk**, I would aim to achieve the following key goals:

1. **Maintain and enhance fair, secure, and accessible elections** — Building on the strong foundation left by outgoing Clerk Mike Rosedale, ensure every eligible voter can participate easily while upholding the highest standards of integrity, accuracy, and transparency in voter registration, ballot processes, and vote counting.
2. **Deliver exceptional public service and efficiency** — Further streamline operations across court records, property/recording services, financial auditing, and board support to make interactions with the Clerk's office even faster, more user-friendly, and responsive to community needs—reducing wait times and improving access for residents in Sandpoint, and throughout Bonner County.

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3. **Promote fiscal responsibility and accuracy** — As ex-officio Auditor and Recorder, prioritize meticulous financial oversight, precise record-keeping, and compliance to protect taxpayer dollars and safeguard property rights.
4. **Foster strong teamwork and staff support** — Leverage my 30 years of Marine Corps leadership to lead and empower the office's deputies and staff, creating a collaborative, high-performing team focused on excellence, communication, and putting people first.
5. **Continue the legacy of reliable, non-partisan service** — Serve all residents impartially, emphasizing discipline, attention to detail, and collaboration to keep Bonner County's government operations running smoothly and trustworthily.

In short: I will uphold excellence in every duty—elections, courts, records, finances, and governance—while making the office even more effective and approachable for our growing community.

7. What does it mean to be conservative? Please provide examples applicable to the office you are running for.

A. Being conservative generally refers to a worldview that emphasizes preserving traditional values, institutions, and practices while favoring limited government intervention, individual responsibility, fiscal prudence, free markets, rule of law, and personal liberties. Rather than an example for all five distinct roles, I'll provide one for Election Integrity and Rule of Law: As Chief Elections Officer, conservatism could mean rigorously enforcing voter ID laws, verifying registrations, and securing ballots to prevent fraud while making voting accessible to eligible citizens. An example: Continue implementing audits of election equipment and processes post-vote (as allowed under Idaho law) to uphold the "one person, one vote" principle, resisting external pressures for unproven changes like widespread mail-in voting without safeguards, and focusing on in-person options to preserve traditional democratic practices.

8. What makes you a good candidate for this position?

A. What makes me a strong candidate for Bonner County Clerk is my proven track record of leadership, discipline, and service—combined with a deep commitment to the community's values and the office's core duties. As a resident of Bonner County, I'm invested in our county's future. I've previously served as a Precinct Committeeman, showing my commitment to civic engagement and understanding of local processes.

Thirty years of dedicated service in the United States Marine Corps: This career honed my ability to lead diverse teams in high-pressure, high-stakes environments; maintain strict attention to detail and compliance; communicate clearly and collaborate effectively; and execute complex operations with integrity and efficiency. These skills directly translate to managing the Clerk's multifaceted responsibilities—overseeing elections with accuracy and

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security, handling court and financial records meticulously, auditing county finances responsibly, recording legal documents precisely, and supporting the Board of Commissioners reliably.

In summary, my extensive leadership experience equips me to handle the Clerk's diverse roles—elections chief, court clerk, auditor, recorder, and board clerk—with the discipline, reliability, and people-focused approach Bonner County deserves. I'm ready to serve impartially, efficiently, and with excellence to keep our government trustworthy and effective for everyone.

9. What guides you in your decision making?

A. In essence: I ask, "Does this decision uphold the law, serve the public trust, protect resources, and promote excellence?" If yes, I move forward decisively. This approach has guided me through decades of service and will ensure the Bonner County Clerk's office remains a model of reliability, integrity, and community-focused governance if I'm elected.

10. For the government office you are seeking, what is your opinion of our current structure of the governmental agencies and centralization versus decentralization – do you think there should be any changes?

A. I strongly believe government works best when it is closest to the people it serves. That's why I support decentralization and local control over unnecessary centralization from Boise or Washington, D.C. Bonner County's current structure is good to go. We have an independently elected Clerk (with the five statutory roles defined by Idaho Code), a three-member Board of County Commissioners, and other constitutional officers — all directly accountable to local voters every four years. This setup keeps decision-making at the county level, where officials live, pay taxes, and understand our rural North Idaho way of life. It's a good example of decentralized government that promotes efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness.

That said, I am concerned about the steady creep of centralization. State and federal mandates, one-size-fits-all regulations, and unfunded requirements often tie the hands of local officials and add unnecessary bureaucracy and cost — especially in areas like elections, records management, and court operations.

11. Please explain any disagreements you have with the Idaho Republican Platform by Article and Section number.

A. I would add to Article IX Private Property Right: "Property taxes are fundamentally flawed because they act as an annual rent payment to the government on property you've already purchased with after-tax dollars, undermining true private ownership and turning citizens into perpetual tenants of the state. Therefore, I would suggest that the Idaho

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Republican Party support significant reductions, reforms, or even eventual replacement of property taxes to better protect private property rights and ease the burden on homeowners.

ARTICLE I. RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT Section 2. Taxation C. As noted above I disagree with homeowner property taxes and believe they should be phased out over a determined period of time to provide a stable, dependable source of income for governmental needs.

Section 5. State Legislature E. States opposition to term limits. I'd propose this: We affirm the right of voters to choose their representatives and the importance of experience in office, but we believe reasonable term limits are beneficial to fostering a true citizen legislature free from career politicians. We support the adoption of term limits for state legislators and call for a constitutional amendment limiting the Governor to two terms.

ARTICLE XVII. NATIONAL DEFENSE – SECURING THE BORDER Section 8: Non-Interventionism. I disagree with the way this section is written, its premise is that we wittingly sacrifice our children and meddle in affairs for no reason. Section 9 Declarations of War is not the same as a preemptive strike to protect forces, interests and assets, so as written I disagree with Section 9.

12. Have you received any endorsements from other people or organizations? If so, please list.

A. Yes, I've received endorsements for my campaign for Bonner County Clerk from two key figures in our local Republican community:

- Mike Rosedale, the current incumbent Bonner County Clerk, has publicly supported my candidacy and expressed confidence in my ability to continue the office's strong tradition of service.
- Scott Herndon, Chairman of the Bonner County Republican Central Committee (and a former State Senator), has also endorsed me, highlighting my conservative principles, leadership experience, and dedication to the country and the county.

These endorsements mean a great deal—they reflect trust from someone who's held the office for years and from a leader in our local GOP organization. I'm grateful for their support and committed to earning the confidence of Bonner County voters through integrity, efficiency, and impartial service.

I've also received endorsements from fellow precinct committeemen and numerous Bonner County voters.

13. Are you affiliated with any political groups, clubs, or organizations?

A. Church, MOAA, VFW, Marine Corps League, American Legion, Back Country Horseman of Idaho and Kootenai County Veterans Treatment Court.

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14. Feel free to share anything else you'd like voters & the BCRCC to know about you.

A. My faith is the foundation of everything I do: I believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit—Three in One. I married my high school sweetheart, Cindy, 38 years ago, and together we've been blessed with one son and daughter-in-law, one daughter and son-in-law, and eight wonderful grandchildren—all settled right here in beautiful North Idaho. Cindy and I share our home with our German Shepherd and two gelding horses. We couldn't be more grateful for the blessings of living in this incredible place, surrounded by the family and friends we love. This deep-rooted faith, family, and love for our community drives my commitment to serve Bonner County with integrity, humility, and dedication as your next Clerk.