

P43 Liberty Candidate Survey

Email *

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Option 1

Name *

SHARON MARGARET ULLMAN

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Phone number (Won't be shared): *

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Address (Won't be shared) *

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Party affiliation and for how long?

Republican since about 1994. Ran as an independent in 2006.

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How long have you lived in Idaho?

First moved here in 1990. My husband's job took us to Utah for a few years during the "20-teens".

The position you are running for?

Ada County Commissioner – the District 3 seat, in a countywide race

What is your reason for running for office?

Government spending is out of control. During my two terms (six years) as an Ada County Commissioner, I was able to make a dramatic difference for county property taxpayers. In government, there is no place for wasteful extravagance.

We also need to ensure the county upholds the U.S. and Idaho Constitutions, and protects and preserves individual rights, freedoms, and liberties, including the Second Amendment.

Promises made to the public should be promises kept. Having lived in the Southwest Community when promises to the public were first made, I am passionate about seeing that the Murgoitio Park property not be developed into housing. Almost \$11 million of parks impact fees have been collected in the 83709-zip code area. We need a legal determination regarding whether those fees have been misappropriated for use in downtown Boise.

What experience do you have that would help you in office?

Wanting to lower property taxes and cut wasteful spending is one thing; having the actual experience of delivering on those promises to taxpayers is another.

Upon arriving in Boise in 1990, I put my BA to good use. I first began advocating on behalf of taxpayers on issues such as sewer installation rates with Boise City, and water rates with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. I regularly attended county meetings and hearings and was chosen by the Board of Ada County Commissioners (BOCC) to serve as the citizen representative on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

I have decades of local government knowledge, hands-on experience, and the expertise to analyze the budget with a fine-tooth comb to find savings, while still fulfilling the county's legal obligations.

Please see this page of my website for more on my accomplishments as an Ada County Commissioner:
<http://sharonu.com/accomplishments/>

Who do you most similarly pattern your policies after and why?

I don't. I look at things from the perspective of a taxpaying citizen, as I am one myself. If I had to define my brand of local governance, I would call it "empathetic, penny-pinching, pragmatism."

What is the greatest issue Idaho faces today?

The greatest local government issue (one that commissioners would have some ability to control or address) is skyrocketing property taxes.

By using zero-based budgeting – periodically reviewing every budgeted county expenditure to see whether it is justified – it is possible to find ways to ensure the efficient, effective, provision of services while still cutting wasteful and unnecessary spending.

Property taxes are impacted by several different factors, not just county spending. For example, in 2000, 53 percent of the taxable value of property in Ada County was residential. By 2021, that figure had shot up to 73 percent. I plan to work with the Idaho Legislature to again link the Homeowner's Exemption to the Housing Price Index – or use a similar methodology - to bring the residential share of property taxes back down to a more reasonable level.

Who did you vote for for president in the last three elections? (Optional)

What is the proper role of the Federal Government?

I believe the Tenth Amendment provides the answer to this question:

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

If you could change one thing the current Idaho State administration has done this past year and a half, what would it be?

For Ada County, if I could get a second vote to undo things done by prior Boards, I would:

- Try to cancel the unconstitutional \$46.6 million morgue lease-purchase agreement
 - Try to sell the \$15 million parking garage located in a privately-owned building
 - Not pass a resolution to add to the forgone balance
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What is your stance on law enforcement?

I am, and always have been, pro-law enforcement and have never suggested we de-fund the police (or in this case, the Sheriff, and his office.)

I was pleased to learn that Commissioners Beck and Davidson put a stop to a jail expansion that was apparently going to take place without the constitutionally required 2/3 vote of the taxpayers. (See Article VIII, Section 3, of the Idaho Constitution for more.) The proposed jail expansion can obviously move forward if the Sherriff is able to obtain that 2/3 vote from the taxpayers who will pay for it.

I did find it interesting that when Covid hit, the reportedly overcrowded jail was able to let so many people out.

The Ada County jail capacity is 1224 inmates. Through a public records request I learned that the number of inmates on 1/1/2020 was 1053 but the number of inmates on 4/21/2020 was down to 777.

Once afforded due process and found guilty in a court of law, rapists, murderers, child abusers and other violent, dangerous, or out-of-control criminals should be locked up. Repeat offenders, who have shown no sign of rehabilitation, same thing.

If someone has committed a non-violent, victimless crime, I do not see the benefit to society of locking the person away at taxpayer expense. I am a huge advocate for alternative sentencing.

How would you reduce taxes in Idaho? or From your elected office?

Advocate for "right-sizing" county government. For example, in 2020, the county had nine people in various public relations (PR) and public information officer (PIO) positions. I was already talking about consolidating some of these positions when through a public records request I learned that the county now has 13 (THIRTEEN!) people in these types of positions. This kind of growth in local county government is absurd and shows that the county needs someone like me to push back against the unnecessary bureaucratic expansion.

I would use of zero-based budgeting and ask questions, lots of questions. I would get to know the elected officials and county department heads (those I don't already know) to figure out who is frugal and who is frivolous with their budget requests.

I would work with the Idaho Legislature to ensure homeowners' share of the property tax burden decrease to a more reasonable level.

Idaho is a Right to Work State, do you support Right to Work?

Yes

No

How would you help Idaho grow it's economy and exports?

I don't see this as a county responsibility but will offer this: it might be beneficial to the folks who are already here if we would stop advertising Idaho as such a great place to live, work and play!

What is your stance on 2A, Assault Rifles, Constitutional Carry?

When I was a commissioner, we received a report that there was an open-carry group at the Western Idaho Fair. Know what we did about? Absolutely nothing!! They had every right to do what they were doing. When it became apparent to this group that we didn't intend to "do anything" about them, they lost interest and left.

With appropriate safety measures in place, gun shows should be welcomed back to Expo Idaho.

How would you best describe your stance on personal liberties such as: masks, vaccine mandates, freedom of speech, 2A etc...

There should be no mask or vaccine mandates by Ada County. (I can't say "in" Ada County. County government in Idaho does not have that kind of legal authority within city limits or over private business owners.) These mandates run contrary to our core beliefs.

Free speech should be protected, to the greatest extent possible, with reasonable exceptions such as not yelling "fire" in a crowded room – unless it's on fire.

Personal liberties should be maintained and protected, to the greatest extent possible, up to the point that they unreasonably infringe upon the personal liberties of someone else.

What is your take on the current state of education in the state of Idaho?

Education falls under the purview of the State of Idaho, local school boards, and parents. Ada County should stay out of other political subdivisions' business, unless those subdivisions are doing something that directly impacts the county and/or our taxpayers – like spending the parks impact fees (many of which were collected with the county's authorization) outside of the area in which they were collected.

What do you know about campaigning in Idaho? Are you prepared to work to be elected?

I've won some elections and I've lost some. Working hard to reach constituents is part of working hard on behalf of constituents.

I believe in any competition one must conduct oneself with honor and integrity. Spreading falsehoods about one's opponents is not acceptable and does not demonstrate integrity.

It's rewarding knowing I have been successful with my efforts to undo the false narrative put out about me by the nonconservative folks who aren't fans of those of us who want to keep government in check and keep more of taxpayers' money in their own pockets.

Although I do not seek endorsements, I am happy to provide responses to questionnaires and meet with folks who are interested in my race. I do not accept PAC or special interest money, money from county contractors, or contributions from county employees or elected officials, although I have been offered all of the above. I am primarily self-funded, and grateful that my husband and I have the necessary resources to put into this race.

Additional information you wish voters to know.

Although we have a lot of newcomers here, Idaho is not just like any other state, and our laws, processes and even organizational structures are different.

When I first took office in January of 2001, I didn't face the "long-learning curve" often talked about by new commissioners in Idaho because of my many years of involvement in local government issues and prior attendance at (literally) hundreds of county meetings and hearings. I simply moved from one side of the table to the other and finally had a vote.

Please look at my actual record, and decide based on facts, not the false narrative put out by my detractors.

For a proven effective leader, with a record of delivering on campaign promises to leave more of your money in your pockets, please vote for Sharon Ullman.

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