



Candidate Survey 2022 General Election

Surveys were emailed to all candidates for Jackson Town Council, Teton County Board of Commissioners, House Districts 16, 22, and 23, and Senate District 17. The responses we received are provided below without edits.

Jackson Town Council

Arne Jorgensen

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

Out of a long list of possible impacts; I would highlight four, more frequent extreme weather events, increased wildland fire risk, reduced snow level, and increased costs on our more vulnerable residents.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

Of course. This being said, I am cognizant that there are three main drivers behind this question 1) actions that will have direct impact on turning back the rate of climate change at a global level, 2) actions that will address and reduce local effects of climate change - greater community resilience, and 3) actions that show leadership in a wider community that has a platform and can afford to invest in action. I am most focused on the latter two drivers.

Local Effects actions include:

- Local governments should continue investing in basic infrastructure of stormwater, water systems, and wastewater treatment to increase capacity and resiliency.
- Increasing the levels of community wildland fire awareness.

- Continue to invest in the capabilities of Jackson Hole Fire/EMS.

Leadership actions include:

- Implement community solar opportunities building on the current pilot program allowing our residents and businesses access to investments in solar photovoltaic systems.
- Increase purchases of electric vehicles in our public fleets.
- Creating publicly accessible dashboards that track our energy use and reduction efforts.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

There are two areas of priority 1) A strong focus on transportation given that these represent the majority of locally impacts and 2) Reviewing changes to our Land Development Regulations and Building Code requirements.

Transportation:

- Depending on access to appropriate funding, we should build on the current increases in levels of START service including a transition to fare free service.
- Working with the State Legislature to permit the creation of High Occupancy Vehicle/Transit Priority lanes.
- Creating mechanisms for full mitigation of carbon footprint impacts of both commercial and private airplanes using the Jackson Hole Airport.

Land Development Regulations and Building Code:

- Continue to use updated Energy Codes as part of our Building Code package.
- Create an Energy Mitigation Program for the Town of Jackson that would build on the program currently in place in the County.
- Require electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new construction.
- Explore incentives that reward projects with reduced levels of energy use.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

The Town of Jackson faces significant budgetary challenges, over time, our expenses are increasing faster than our revenues. The vast majority of our budget is invested in the provision of the community's basic Core Services and there is not a significant amount of funding available within our current budgets.

There are generally four areas of local funding, listed by priority: mitigation programs, sales tax such as SPET, leveraging efforts such as bonding, and property tax depending statewide changes.

Jonathan Schechter

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

The region's ecosystem has evolved in response to long, hard, cold winters. Global warming puts at great and increasing risk all of the ecosystem's essential qualities and functions.

Locally, the details of what we can anticipate are spelled out in the publication "The Coming Climate," which I envisioned, contributed to, edited and published in 2015. <https://charture.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/The-coming-climate-sept-2015.pdf>

Global warming has been a concern of mine since 1980, when I helped design and teach the first course Stanford University ever offered on climate change. Sadly, tragically, despite the efforts of so many, the planet continues to warm at increasingly alarming rates.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

The stark realities of global warming make it clear that we cannot rely on industry alone to address the issue – government action is vital.

To have a meaningful effect, the most significant actions have to be taken at a national level, ideally by nations synchronizing their efforts. In a perfect world, there would be a carbon tax. Unfortunately, the political will for such a tax is not there. Biden's current proposal (which the Senate is scheduled to vote upon tomorrow) is a big step in the right direction. Unfortunately, while it's the best we've ever done, it's not enough.

Locally, we need to continue taking actions while acknowledging two major constraints – one relating to building-related energy use, and the other to transportation:

1. Because LVE belongs to the BPA, our electricity is among the nation's cheapest and least-carbon intensive. We also levy relatively few taxes.
 - a. Combine these two, and we have far fewer local incentives to move people to tools like rooftop solar than a place like Berkeley CA (which has high electricity costs, a lot of tax-related levers to pull, and more carbon-intensive electricity than ours).
2. Because we have so few people who need to travel over such a large area, a wildly disproportionate amount of local carbon emissions come from transportation (my 1% for the Tetons effort helped envision and fund the community's initial greenhouse gas emissions study).
 - a. While we are expanding START service and will continue to do so, the simple reality is that these efforts are limited by our geography and low population density.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

We must be clear-eyed in acknowledging that, regardless of what Jackson Hole does or does not do, we cannot have a meaningful effect on the planet's overall carbon emissions. That noted, we need to do all we can – not just in our actions, but the in the model and message we provide for our visitors. This is especially important given the threat global warming poses to the Comp Plan's vision of preserving and protecting our area's ecosystem.

Given the previously mentioned facts that our electricity is relatively low-emission, and that such a disproportionately high share of our overall emissions come from transportation, the most efficacious step we can take is to support START's board in its efforts to expand the transit system and its use. If re-elected, the most efficacious step I can to toward that end is to continue doing what I have been doing – working closely with the START board and staff to grow START, and with local and state transit agencies (e.g., WYDoT and local public works folks) to improve not just our transit system, but the depth and breadth of our non-motorized transportation options.

Beyond that, I hope to serve another four years as the town council's liaison to ECW, and in so doing help that agency expand its efforts to conserve residential and commercial energy use.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

As noted above, Ideally we would have a federal carbon tax. That would be the fastest, most efficient way to conserve energy and in so doing reduce emissions. A cap-and-trade system would also be worthwhile, but of course we have no local ability to implement either.

Closer to home, two simple realities shape any effort local government might take.

First, Jackson Hole is a 21st century community with a 20th century operating system. The way we fund government is increasingly disconnected from our economy, making it increasingly difficult to find the money we need to address the community's ever-growing, increasingly complex challenges. If re-elected, I will continue my efforts trying to get the legislature to approve new funding mechanisms better aligned with our 21st century economy (e.g., a real estate transfer tax).

Second, local government has neither the time nor expertise to come up with new ideas for funding carbon reduction (or other necessary conservation steps, for that matter). What we can and must do is look to others in the community – be they the START board, advocacy organizations such as the Climate Action Collective for suggestions about both new policies and new funding mechanisms, or others whose passion and expertise is needed to help tackle our thorniest challenges.

As a result, my hope is that the CAC and others will come to us with suggestions for funding sources. This will be the fastest, most effective way to deal with the challenge.

Devon Viehman

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

Water and unpredictable, extreme weather are at the heart of climate change's impacts and we see its effects in Jackson Hole manifest as feast or famine snowfall patterns, accompanied by faster thaws and spring temperatures that warm more rapidly than before. This results in heavier snow melt run-offs that do not last long enough into the summers causing our region to get drier and drier. We can physically see it with Jackson Lake both last year and this year, and we see it with our region's extreme wildland fires that result in devastation to our flora and fauna and serious health risks with dangerous Air Quality Indices.

Locally, car and plane travel are our biggest emitters of greenhouse gasses which is all the more reason we need to invest in START and other multimodal forms of transportation and house our local workforce to help mitigate commutes. Focusing on these areas would not only be a win for our environment, it'd be a win for the heavy traffic that all of us hate.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

We all have an obligation to address climate, no one sector or group can go at it alone. Our government makes policies and investments, for example, with land use regulations and building codes, and in affordable housing and transportation. Government must take practical and bold action to address a multitude of issues at once. Fast-tracking affordable housing in town so fewer people need to commute long distances to work is a necessary solution. Expanding START bus routes and completing the bike pathways system is integral too. Partnership is essential and working with the county to address our wastewater issues is overdue. Sewage overflows not only pollute our fresh water systems, they also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

As a part of the mountain town collective, MT2030 Solutions Project, we have and will continue to acquire new resources, ideas, and guides from partnering mountain towns to help us navigate different issues and determine which protocols make the most sense for our community.

The forthcoming Climate Action Roadmap for Teton County will be another tool to determine which actionable steps can be taken right away and which might be more complex to implement.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

Addressing affordable and workforce housing is my highest priority. Immediate zoning regulation changes must happen. Local zoning, regulation and permitting processes have become so cumbersome that no one can build affordable housing units without losing money. That is why more luxury townhomes and hotels continue to be built: no one can build anything different and turn a profit. If we immediately address the red tape and reassess our current policies, we will see faster change, keep more of our community members in our community, and see fewer people commuting long distances to get to work. Smart-growth is good for the community, climate, economy. Our housing emergency affects our economy, the environment, and mental health. It's all interconnected, and it must be our highest priority.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

The Council recently contracted with a consulting firm that specializes in accessing federal and state funding and grants. It was well overdue. Money was being left on the table. There are so many climate-linked grants that span sectors from green, affordable housing construction to transportation. The dollars are there, and we need to keep looking for creative ways to get to it.

Teton County Board of Commissioners

Wes Gardner

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

As more people experience the dangers of climate change, wealthy buyers have looked to the mountains for escape. The consequent real estate boom has caused housing prices to skyrocket, and rental prices have more than followed suit. Not only have dozens of homes, which historically supplied market-based affordable workforce housing, been transformed into often-empty second homes, but as the inventory of affordable beds has shrunk, tenants have seen rents increase dramatically. This has caused many in our community to move down the road, and has forced many to simply move away.

Otherwise, increasing temperatures are impacting the health of our fish, sustained droughts are fueling more contentious water rights issues downstream, and wildfire remains a constant threat in the forests that surround us.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

Absolutely. When it comes to the issue of climate change, I see a lot of people who want to be a part of the solution, but who are stuck being part of the problem. Good governance provides the best path to changing that

If we are going to reduce the footprint of Teton County, our attention must focus on reducing the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs) by our residents, our commuters, and our visitors. Recent studies have shown that nearly 80% of our community's greenhouse gas emissions result from folks in cars.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

As a member of the START board, reducing VMTs is always front of mind. As we emerge from COVID, riders will find some changes at START starting with more frequent and reliable service. Many will find that opportunities to engage with the transit system exist from their own driveway (START On-Demand). There is a long way to go- particularly when it comes to commuter service- but there is a lot to be proud of at START right now. Continuing this trajectory will take sustained commitment and support from our representatives. If chosen to be your County Commissioner, I will work my ass off to reduce VMTs in and around our valley.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

Great question. I applaud the Town and County for their recent commitments, funding and hiring positions fully committed to sustainability and climate change. These positions are funded out of the General Funds, an appropriate source for these positions. For now. If we want to grow our community into a "City on the Hill" (of Mayflower fame), where we commit to and attain zero-emissions as soon as possible, it would be nice to find a more sustainable source. If Cheyenne were to allow for the passage of a Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT), I would support a structure diverting some revenue to supporting a Sustainability Department for the community. With nearly \$3B in real estate sales in 2021, Teton County could have easily generated \$30M with a conservative (1%) rate.

Peter Long

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

We are seeing the effects of human impacts in Teton County, from rapidly emerging water quality issues to rising emissions to changing wildlife patterns.

Perhaps most alarming is contamination of our waters, which is happening, literally, in our backyards—high E.coli and bacteria levels in Fish Creek and Flat Creek, and unsafe drinking water in neighborhoods like Hoback. One in eight wells in Teton County tested positive for bacteria last year.

The integrity of our groundwaters and the Snake River Aquifer are vital to the health of our environment and our residents. This is an issue we cannot afford to kick down the road.

I support the development of a water quality plan to guide implementation of a county-wide sewer and wastewater treatment system—as well as practical steps, like a septic remediation fund and mandatory septic inspections upon home sales.

Sustainable funding is critical. The SPET proposal on the ballot this fall is a good start, but water quality should also warrant a long-term budget item.

If elected, I will work to ensure that addressing our immediate water quality problems and long-term water infrastructure investment are a priority. Because we cannot afford to push off these challenges any longer.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

Yes. Particularly, pragmatic steps to address our most immediate needs, educate the public and raise awareness, and incentivize changes to behaviors that contribute to climate change.

Addressing contributing factors will require a whole-of-community effort: embracing good opportunities to house our workforce here in Teton County; improving public transportation via HOV / bus lanes, more frequent routes and reliable service; expanding our pathways system; and incentivizing energy efficiency and reduction.

Our County government (the largest employer in Teton County) is uniquely positioned to lead on these efforts. As such, I support setting emission goals for government buildings and vehicles to reduce emissions and providing incentives for homeowners and renters to reduce and/or mitigate carbon footprints.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

Addressing our water quality challenges and reducing emissions should be top priorities for our County.

Commuter vehicles are the biggest driver (no pun intended) of local emissions. If we are serious about reducing carbon emissions, we must embrace good opportunities to house our workforce here in Teton County. That means zoning more housing that will

provide affordable housing and rental options and working with stakeholders throughout our community (landowners, builders, non-profits and charitable organizations) to get housing in the ground.

We must also implement comprehensive traffic solutions that will encourage public transportation use and reduce congestion on our roads, like HOV lanes and smart lights. Because time spent stuck in traffic is not only costly to drivers (fuel costs, time lost with families, etc.), it also contributes to high emissions.

If elected, I will fight for housing that benefits our working families and reduces commuter traffic (some 10,000 daily commuter trips). I will work to bring together stakeholders to develop, implement and fund county-wide water infrastructure. And I will support full-picture traffic solutions that encourage drivers to use alternative transportation options.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

Sustainable funding is necessary to address and mitigate human impacts and protect our valley's rugged natural beauty for future generations.

The Water Quality SPET initiative is a good example of dedicated funding to specifically address a need critical to the health of our community and environment. But water quality, like other issues (emissions reduction, energy efficiencies, etc.) are not one-time costs; they will require long-term funding.

I support building targeted line items into the County budget for needs (like water quality) and priorities (like building efficiencies and emissions reduction). Such funding should be directed towards specific uses, to ensure taxpayers' dollars are employed efficiently—that is, that these investments move the needle and don't simply fall into a general fund or get reappropriated into unrelated spending.

Teton County is also the most philanthropic county in the country, which presents a real opportunity for the County to work with stakeholders to address climate challenges. Energy Conservation Works—which has helped many families here reduce their carbon footprints with low-cost energy upgrades—is a great example of how public-private partnerships can address climate needs, often more effectively than unilateral government action.

If elected, I pledge to continue to build these public-private partnerships, to raise community awareness and to support targeted funding to reduce and mitigate local contributions to climate change—and to preserve Teton County's rugged beauty and natural resources for future generations.

Kasey Mateosky

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

Water quality and lack of water is a huge concern. Steady warming, snowpack decreasing and temperatures and evaporation increasing, future conditions are expected to be drier, stressing vegetation and increasing the risk of wildfires. Inclement weather is more common. It has been hotter and windier than ever before. Cutting greenhouse gas emissions is a must or this cycle will continue to worsen. The rise in temperature allows for insects like the bark beetle to wreak havoc year round. Loss of forest and dying trees hurt two fold, by not helping to reduce carbon emissions.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

Yes. There are many great plans and programs in the works. Some executive actions mainly appear to provide more funding to or otherwise strengthen these existing programs.

I also believe the work being done by the Teton County Comp Plan so far in reducing carbon emissions has been very good. I look forward to reviewing the first draft of the Climate Action Roadmap in late August to continue to address and raise awareness towards a more sustainable community and becoming a more carbon neutral County.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

Conserve energy through waste management and water conservation.

Positive actions are being taken by Teton County in cutting greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation, improved efficiency, renewable energy, public transit. I support things like adopting the ICC building codes requiring greater insulation values in new construction, water saving fixtures and high thermal efficient doors and windows, installing solar panels on it's buildings, electric Transit system (START), electric cars and bikes for staff, and connecting a user friendly pathway system for walking and biking. I'd like to see the efforts continue in striving to become carbon neutral. I believe educating, encouraging, incentivizing and executing the plan will help get all the individuals of this community on board for a better outcome for our town, County, State and Country.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

Federal and State Grants like the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) passed in April. A program that provides states and local agencies in both urban and rural areas funding needed to reduce emissions and build a more sustainable transportation network.

EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) research focusing on a few important aspects of how climate change affects air, water, the environment and human health.

Mark Newcomb

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

The most significant impacts of human caused climate change are widespread ranging from impacts on the ecosystem to direct economic impacts.

Impacts to the ecosystem most significantly include increasing probability of longer, hotter, drier fire seasons that have a commensurate increase in probability of bigger, hotter, faster moving wild fires that both impact the ecosystem and threaten human structures, especially in the Wildland urban interface. Infestations such as pine bark beetles will likely increase. Ungulate migration patterns may change; water temperatures in lakes, rivers and streams may increase stressing native fish species and reducing angling opportunities; flora will bloom earlier and invasive species (for example cheat grass) are more likely to flourish.

Impacts to the economy could include reduced tourism due to wildfires and warmer, shorter winters with more rain events. However ironically Teton County could see increased visitation and increased demand to live here because, as a high, alpine valley our climate remains cooler relative to many other resorts and tourist destinations. As National Parks elsewhere, especially in the Southwest, become too hot to visit, visitors may increasingly focus on Yellowstone and the Tetons with attractive cold water lakes, rivers and streams. As well, people who can afford to move or can work from home will increasingly look to higher, colder mountain communities as alternatives to areas prone to become hotter and drier or in some cases (hurricane prone areas) catastrophically wetter. This migration of well-to-do will further exacerbate growth related issues in Teton County, especially housing, but also causing more direct emissions from the new population of wealthier people who can afford larger homes, bigger cars, drive more, etc.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

Yes, I support government action. One of the most important actions we can take is planning and zoning so that as much of the new housing built in the county is built near services and transit eliminating as much as possible the need for the residents of those new houses to drive. Zoning in town already allows for significant amounts of new housing, and thoughtful planning and zoning of Northern South Park could also provide substantial opportunities for the right housing the right location, dramatically reducing vehicle miles traveled per capita. On a more subtle front, whenever the county rezones parts of the county we should reduce building dimensions. When we rezoned the area

east of 390 I pushed for a reduction in max building heights but unfortunately lost due to lack of support from other commissioners. I made a similar effort when we rezoned Hog Island but lost again for the same reason. The county should also electrify our vehicle fleet. We're starting to do so, but procurement has been challenging. And we need to increase EV charging infrastructure. START is doing a pretty good job with the help of federal grants, and we need to keep that momentum going. Finally, new housing subsidized with public dollars should be built to the most energy efficient standards within reason and without fossil fuel based items like gas ranges. The more we build efficiently, the more costs for energy efficient technologies and techniques will come down. Northern South Park is our biggest upcoming opportunity to do so. I've done extensive research on construction and HVAC technologies (passive solar, thermal envelopes and heat pumps) that could dramatically decrease energy consumption and hope to bring those ideas into discussions around new development in Northern South park.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

I think I've answer this above: planning and zoning appropriately to ensure any new housing has as small a carbon footprint as possible. This includes location to reduce or eliminate the need for single occupancy vehicle travel and utilizing building standards to reduce per-capita transportation carbon footprint and housing-related (building size/heating/cooling/cooking/etc) carbon footprint. EV charging infrastructure needs to be built out. Energy mitigation fees should remain in place and be reviewed as ways to further incentivize reductions in fossil fuel consumption related to new construction. All new county buildings should be constructed to the highest standards for energy efficiency.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

We need a mix of local tax revenue, some of which could come from the specific purpose excise tax, some of which could come from general revenues. Energy mitigation fees should remain in place. Federal grant funding should be aggressively pursued. And the commitment of the Community to address climate change could provide some philanthropic support to match government efforts through public private partnerships.

Luther Propst

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

As reported in many scientific studies, evidence of anthropogenic climate change is indisputable. The impacts are and will be significant, affecting a broad range of ecological and social conditions. Climate analysis also highlights the complexity associated with anticipating and mitigating the impacts of climate change. As I consider

the implications of climate change in Teton County, Wyoming, I organize my thinking with two interrelated categories: biophysical and socioeconomic.

On the biophysical side, I recently read Steve Fuller's observations as a long-time winter keeper in Yellowstone National Park: "*warmer winters and fewer extended deep-freeze conditions, wetlands shrinking in their outlines, whitebark pine in the high country turning to ghost trees, longer fire seasons and warmth and dryness lasting longer*" (quoted in Todd Wilkinson, *Ripple Effects: How to Save Yellowstone and America's Most Iconic Wildlife Ecosystem*, p 215).

These observations apply in Jackson Hole. Other studies (and direct observations) point to:

- earlier spring run-off,
- warmer water temperatures in the Snake River and its tributaries,
- higher likelihood of rain-on-snow events and resulting floods,
- disruptions to wildlife habitat and migration patterns as ungulates encounter more difficulty "surfing the green wave" of spring vegetation and other less charismatic species, such as song birds and amphibians, face similar disruption.

Like the rest of the world, climate change promises to deliver more extreme weather and weather-related events to Greater Yellowstone Area and the Tetons. Perhaps the most significant from the perspective of immediate human impact is wildfire seasons that are longer, with more and longer burning wildfires, and more intense and unpredictable fire behavior.

On the socioeconomic side, the impacts are perhaps equally diverse and interconnected. For example, more wildfires throughout the West are likely to result in more days with severely compromised air quality and the resulting impacts on public health.

Changes in snow and ski conditions to the south (e.g. Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Tahoe) could result in more winter visitation.

In combination with other factors (e.g. state and federal tax policy), negative climate impacts in other parts of the country (e.g. warmer summer temperatures, increasing wildfires, coastal and riverine flooding) may well continue to increase the demand for and price of luxury homes in Teton County for retirement living, second/third/fourth home ownership, and remote work.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

Yes.

I support a full range of local, state, and federal action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In the interest of space, I will focus my response to the two most promising short-term opportunities for progress.

At the federal level, I strongly support the climate change provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (aka “Build Back Manchin”), which presents an extraordinary opportunity for federal climate funding and action. The Senate bill is not perfect, of course, but it is an opportunity to reverse course.

At the county level, I want to focus attention on the most important short-term opportunity to make a significant difference: two measures on the November 2022 SPET ballot. The first is \$5 million for Energy Conservation Works Projects and the second is \$15 million for Multimodal Transportation Projects. Both of these measures will leverage significant federal funds and advance Teton County toward a more climate friendly future.

More generally, in anticipating the inevitable surprises that come with climate change, it is essential for local government to be responsive and adaptive to emerging priorities. This suggests the need to broadly recognize the seriousness of the climate crisis, be responsible stewards of our ecosystem and community, and show leadership in how a mountain town can respond.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

The two local strategies that seem very achievable are:

- Increase the percentage of our year-round electricity supply that comes from clean, fossil-free sources – with special emphasis on meeting winter electricity demand (when the value of solar is lower) and lowering peak energy demand. At the top of the list is to generate more clean, renewable energy throughout the grid, including solar and wind energy as well as energy sources with higher winter value, such as hydroelectric, geothermal, pumped storage hydropower, and advances in energy storage. Also high on the list is to invest in improving the energy efficiency of buildings, which reduces demand for electricity in the winter.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of our local transportation system, including improving commuter bus service and continuing to press for conversion to electric buses. We need to increase the daily number of commuter bus runs from four to more like 20. We need to take a suite of measures to make it more convenient and economical to ride the bus than to drive a single occupancy vehicle fueled by an internal combustion engine. We also need to increase the convenience and viability of electric vehicles by adding more superchargers in the region.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

Addressing the climate crisis requires a full range of funding sources – local, state, federal, and philanthropic, as well as private investment. My immediate priority is to pass the two SPET measures discussed above, which will lead to significant leverage of federal funds.

Tom Segerstrom

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

If we simply limit the scope of this question to how climate change will impact human activity and human preferences the most significant impacts will be wildfires, shifts in snowfall patterns, elevated water temperatures, and dramatic weather events. That said, climate change will significantly impact the biotic and abiotic systems of Teton County with deep complexity and uncertain ecological outcomes. These impacts are too numerous to summarize in this questionnaire.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

Our air is considered a “shared commons” necessary for the well-being of all. Therefore climate change caused by human activity is an appropriate arena for government involvement. Teton County’s on-going support for energy conservation, composting, conservation incentive programs, appropriate development, building codes and promotion of renewable energy sources should be continued under the existing joint powers boards, public/private partnerships and other County department initiatives.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

The most significant role Teton County plays in global climate change is that we currently represent a large carbon “sink” that is naturally absorbing and sequestering volumes of carbon and producing oxygen. Maintaining landscape-scale, complex and intact native vegetation communities and agriculture should be our number one obligation. Actions that degrade our wild landscapes and viable agriculture should be minimized and/or mitigated using zoning, building codes, improved natural resource protection regulations and conservation incentives. I would also advocate for repeating the countywide vegetation mapping to understand the effects of our current development patterns.

Secondarily our past air emission inventories, while imperfect, should be repeated in order to measure emission reduction successes and prioritize new actions. We should expand on our past successes such as the achievements of the Energy Conservation Works with Lower Valley Energy and Government featuring the expansion of Green Power investments, private energy audits and subsequent energy conservation upgrades. Teton County is also well positioned for electric vehicles due to Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities initiatives with vehicle charging stations. The creation of residential and commercial food and wood waste composting programs by Teton County's Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling with the private sector have been strategic and exemplary. Finally, the pending actions and achievable, coordinated, carbon reduction goals being developed by the Climate Action Collective are welcomed.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

Funding for the Energy Conservation Works (a Joint Powers Board) has been an effective conduit for action. Similarly, funding Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling and "enterprise" efforts to sequester carbon have been successful. Partnerships with the private sector and Teton Conservation District regarding native vegetation, restorative agriculture, and energy conservation is a logical sharing of current taxpayer funds.

Infrastructure improvements are appropriate for Special Purpose Excise Taxes, and perhaps Travel and Tourism Board appropriations. From the private sector, perhaps habitat loss mitigations should also include carbon sequestration components to offset development carbon emissions over time.

Wyoming Legislature

House District 22

Andrew Byron

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

The most significant impact of climate change on Jackson Hole that I see is the weather pattern change. Human caused climate change is directly related to our drought, our extreme temperature swings (both cold and warm!). Sadly, as an avid river user, it is hard to watch how our lack of snowfall in recent years resulting in low runoffs really

hurts the greater ecosystem. Additionally, as a wildland firefighter, we are flirting with major regional fires year after year and although the rain came this year, we cannot count on it in future years.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

I do support government action to address climate change. I believe we have done an acceptable job at the county level and strongly believe we have work to do as a state. As someone who rode public transportation for 15+ years I would love to see a more efficient system put into place that eventually ties in outlying neighborhoods to reduce our carbon footprint and limit our congestion. I support incentivizing those that do use renewable energy sources as well as larger businesses that opt into those programs.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

I will lean on elected officials to promote fuel efficiency relating to transportation. I will support renewable energy infrastructure legislation. I will champion the continued research into carbon capture and support carbon removal projects at the state level. I think low hanging fruit needs to be explored quickly such as promoting electronic buses not only for START but also in our school district and beyond.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

I do not think we can completely abandon our legacy energy industries and I would support using taxes generated from those industries to continue to fund the UW School of Energy Resources. Prioritizing education and science to continue to work on our carbon issue is very important to our future but more importantly our climate. Ultimately I believe we will need a combination of all energy sources, change in human behavior, and accountability to help mitigate climate change.

Bob Strobel

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

Influx of new residents fleeing other parts of the country. Then impacts of Ticks - Mosquitos - Smoke - Less Snow - Drought - Just to name a few.

I think it's important to say something along the lines of - climate change is real and if we're causing it we need to do something about it and if we're not causing it we need to do something about it.

We know the climate is changing and we need to work on it no matter how it's being caused.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

- Promote green energy
- Wyoming has an amazing opportunity to be an energy innovator and leader - we all need to get behind this.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

- Solar panels on our homes for offsetting and get the government out of our way on this.
- I'm a big fan of renewables and I also think there's bridge technology as it relates to nuclear and micro nuclear plants that replace coal fired plants. There's pilot in Kemmerer that's going to be built in the next five years.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

Public and private and also I think there may be a "Blockchain utility in digital assets" that can potentially be used to offset and create green carbon crypto that the fin-tech world could get behind? Seems like a trustless platform could ramp up private funding much faster. Just thinking out loud here.

House District 23

Liz Storer

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is experiencing several impacts of human caused climate change that are the result of more fires, drought and floods. These include:

- Warmer and dryer winters
- Warmer and dryer summers
- Lower water levels in reservoirs, rivers and lakes with higher temperatures, affecting fish and other aquatic species

- Longer, more active and more intense fire seasons
- Poorer air quality due to smoke from wildfires in neighboring and Pacific coast states
- Floods due to intense weather events such as the one in mid-June that hit northern Yellowstone
- Influx of new visitors who previously recreated in other states that are now experiencing drought, poor snow years, wildfires, water shortages, higher temperatures
- Influx of residents from other areas across the country who are seeking a more favorable climate and environment

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

I support local, state and federal action to address climate change.

Local:

- SPET items to fund Energy Conservation Works projects and Multimodal Transportation projects. Additional efforts to make Jackson a carbon-neutral community

State:

- Increase revenues for conservation and protecting wildlife on state trust lands
- Create better transportation options to reduce automobile traffic and carbon emissions
- Update regulations and implement state and local financing programs to assist homeowners in upgrading septic systems as their impact increases with growth and climate change

Federal:

- I support the Inflation Reduction Act and other efforts to curb greenhouse gasses and keep the US moving forward in reducing our carbon footprint.
- I believe the federal government should provide debt relief for electric cooperatives to incentivize the transition to non-fossil fuel energy as sources for their customers across rural America

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

- Developing more clean, renewable energy sources, incentivizing increased use of clean renewable energy
- State funding of wind and solar energy projects
- Increasing funding to START so that we can increase and improve commuter bus service Increase funding to add electric vehicle superchargers across Teton County, in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and across the state to help incentivize electric vehicles
- Tax incentives for research on batteries to make the transition to renewables more practicable

- Reducing Wyoming’s production and reliance on fossil fuel for its economy and as its primary revenue source

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

- Local: SPET and state sources
- State:
 - Funding for the carbon reduction strategies noted above
 - Overhaul Wyoming’s tax policy so we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels
- Federal: revisions to the federal tax policy to increase taxes on high income individuals and corporations while making the transition to clean fuel easier for low- and middle- income families.

Senate District 17

Amanda Padilla

1. What do you see as the most significant impacts of human caused climate change on Jackson Hole?

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the country. Living in such an outdoorsy community we could face many major changes in our environment in the coming years. What we can imagine that we will see is more extreme weather and weather events, rising temperatures, fluctuation of snow and water levels, that can all lead to increased fire risk. Being surrounded by so much beautiful open space, we want to be able to protect the climate and make sure that it is preserved for years to come. Climate change is such a large global issue, Jackson can only do so much and that is why it is important to address from a local community level all the way to the global level.

2. Do you support government action to address climate change? If so, what actions do you support? If not, why?

I believe that there should be support from the government to address climate change. It is important to preserve our beautiful home. This community recognizes the importance of protecting its natural environment. As Jackson, we are already on a better path than the rest of the state. From our recycling program, idle free zones, electric car charging stations, along with the coming Climate Action Roadmap. Another great example is Slow Foods of the Tetons, and their dedication to using only reusable plates, and cups at each event. While they also supply many garden spaces to locals in town. Solar energy is beginning to become more widely used around the town and county. All these examples show how the community can rally together to mitigate human impact.

This cannot be placed on just one section of government. We need to work together as a town, county, state, and nation to help lay the path to address climate change. Locally it will also be vital to address the housing crisis. The local housing problem leads to a

very high percentage of our local workforce that must commute every day. Housing needs to be addressed to lower the miles traveled by our workforce as well as the emissions. By housing our workforce, or more of it, we will be able to get more cars off the road. If we could expand the existing routes of START we would be able to offer more of this community the opportunity to use the bus system.

3. What carbon reduction strategies do you see as highest priority, and what steps will you take if elected to implement them?

On one hand I recognize that our state's economy leans heavily on fossil fuels. There are many opportunities to utilize alternative sources of clean energy. If elected, I will work with the legislature to make sure that all options are made available to every citizen in Wyoming. That way we can prove to other states that are equally if not more reliant on fossil fuels what changes can be made and what can be done to improve our state and its energy sources.

4. What funding sources do you support for carbon reduction priorities?

Funding sources need to come from the public and from private equity to invest in clean power initiatives. This is an issue that is bigger than party, or level of government. This is a human issue that will affect everyone on our planet. With the statewide change in energy collection there seem to be a couple of great opportunities to use Wyoming's retiring coal plants, including Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS), as well as nuclear energy in Kemmerer, Wyoming. This will bring both revenue and carbon free power to our state.