

About myself: My name is James Steffensen, I am 43 years old, and I have lived in Post Falls since 2011. My wife and I moved here after we had our first child, she grew up in CDA and wanted to move back closer to family and friends. Both my kids are now in middle school. My family and I like to be outside when we can, that includes trips to the beach, camping at local campgrounds, hiking, or biking on some of the local trails. I currently work for Banner Bank as a Project Manager for the Deposit Operations Department.

1. I do not have experience as an elected official.
2. I prioritize conservative principles such as limited government intervention, individual liberty, and fiscal responsibility. I have typically supported Republican candidates who align with these values. However, I believe in evaluating candidates based on their qualifications, policies, and track record rather than solely along party lines. In the past, I may have considered candidates from other parties if their stances resonated with me and aligned with my core beliefs. Ultimately, my goal is to support candidates who I believe will uphold the principles that I hold dear and work towards policies that I believe are in the best interest of our country.
3. The purpose of government is a fundamental and multifaceted concept that can vary depending on the political ideology, cultural context, and historical circumstances of a given society. However, there are several common objectives that governments aim to achieve:
  - Maintaining Law and Order
  - Protecting Individual Rights
  - Promoting Economic Stability
  - Providing Public Goods and Services
  - Fostering Economic Development
  - Environmental Protection
  - Emergency Response and Disaster Management

The specific balance and prioritization of these purposes can vary widely depending on the political system, ideology, and societal values of a given country. Some governments prioritize individual freedoms and limited intervention, while others focus on social welfare and greater government involvement in various aspects of citizens' lives.

4. I am running for the office of City Council because I believe in the power of collaboration and practical solutions. My decision to run is driven by a deep commitment to my community and a desire to bring people together to address our city's challenges. I've seen that divisive politics can hinder progress and prevent meaningful dialogue. I want to bridge those gaps and create a more inclusive and effective local government. My focus is on problem-solving and innovative thinking, free from the constraints of party dogma.

I am committed to bringing fresh perspectives and a collaborative spirit to the council, working towards pragmatic solutions that make a positive impact on the lives of our residents.

In essence, I'm running for city council for unity, accountability, and a focus on results. By working together, I believe we can build a stronger, more vibrant city for everyone.

5. I have volunteered for different organizations over the years. I have done everything from being Vice President of my children's PTO at school, held different positions with Toastmasters as I worked on the speaking skills and coached various sports for my kids over the years. Currently I serve as Chairman on the Planning and Zoning Commission for Post Falls. Been on that commission for almost 5 years and been Chair for the past 5 months.

I personally volunteer for positions like this because they reflect my personal values, interests, and desire to make a positive impact in the community.

6. I consider myself to be fiscally conservative. To me, fiscal conservatism means advocating for responsible and prudent management of government finances. It involves prioritizing balanced budgets, reducing unnecessary government spending, and promoting policies that encourage economic growth and individual prosperity.

Fiscal conservatism recognizes that a strong economy is essential for providing opportunities for all citizens. By keeping taxes reasonable and avoiding excessive government intervention, we create an environment where businesses can thrive, leading to job creation and increased revenue for the government without burdening taxpayers.

This approach doesn't mean cutting essential services or neglecting important investments, but rather making sure that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively. It also means addressing long-term financial challenges, such as entitlement programs, to ensure their sustainability for future generations.

Fiscal conservatism is about finding a balance between the necessary functions of government and the need to minimize waste, inefficiency, and unnecessary bureaucracy. Ultimately, by maintaining fiscal responsibility, we can help foster economic stability and ensure that our country's resources are used wisely for the benefit of all citizens.

7. I do consider myself socially conservative. To me, being socially conservative means upholding traditional values and cultural norms that have played a significant role in shaping our society. I believe in the importance of strong families, personal responsibility, and moral principles as foundations for a stable and prosperous nation.

While I recognize the importance of progress and adapting to changing times, I am cautious about rapid shifts in social norms that might undermine the values that have been central to our culture. It's essential to maintain a sense of community, shared values, and respect for our cultural heritage.

Being socially conservative doesn't mean being closed-minded or rejecting diversity. It means valuing the principles that have proven to contribute to strong communities and a cohesive society. It's about finding a balance between preserving our cultural identity and respecting individual freedoms.

8. I would say I am more of the middle of the road but lean towards Republican on a lot of issues. From the Republican Party, I appreciate the emphasis on limited government intervention, fiscal responsibility, and individual liberty. These principles resonate with my belief in a free-market economy and the importance of personal responsibility.

The Democratic Party's focus on social justice, equality, and support for social programs is commendable, as these goals reflect my concerns about addressing inequality and providing necessary support to vulnerable populations. However, I may have reservations about certain economic policies that could potentially stifle entrepreneurship and innovation.

I appreciate elements from various party platforms but recognize that none fully encapsulates my range of values and perspectives. I value open discourse and collaboration across party lines to find solutions that best serve our society's diverse needs. I remain committed to evaluating policies based on their merits and potential impacts, with the goal of promoting the well-being of our nation and its citizens.

9. I do not have any tax liens, criminal records, bankruptcy or conflicts of interest that may affect futures decisions to be voted into office.
10. I am committed to being an accessible and dedicated representative for my constituents. Open communication and active engagement with the community are crucial to effective governance. I plan to implement several strategies to ensure that I'm available and responsive to the needs and concerns of the people I serve.

First, I will attend regular city council hall meetings and community forums where constituents can voice their opinions, ask questions, and share their ideas. These gatherings will provide a platform for open discussions about important issues facing our city.

In addition to in-person interactions, I will leverage email to keep constituents informed about city developments and upcoming council decisions. This will enable residents to easily reach out to me, provide input, and stay informed about my positions on various matters.

When it comes to voting as their representative, I will adhere to the values I have stated, including fiscal responsibility and social conservatism. Each decision I make will be guided by a commitment to maintaining balanced budgets, promoting economic growth, and supporting policies that align with our city's traditional values and cultural identity.

Having fortitude in my decision-making means I will remain steadfast in upholding these principles, even when faced with challenging or controversial issues. I will thoroughly research each matter, consider input from constituents, and weigh the potential impact on our community's well-being.

I understand that there may be differing perspectives among constituents, but I am dedicated to representing the collective interests of the city as a whole. I will approach my role with a sense of duty and integrity, advocating for policies that align with our shared values while also being open to constructive conversations with those who hold differing views.

In summary, I will prioritize transparency, accessibility, and the values I've outlined. My goal is to be a responsive representative who votes with conviction and fortitude, while always keeping the best interests of our city and its residents at the forefront of my decision-making.