

ELECTION2014

Koochiching County Board

Below are the questions The Journal sent to candidates for the Koochiching County Board. Their responses follow below. In the uncontested District 2 Commissioner race, the incumbent was asked to provide a 250-word biography.

1. Briefly summarize your personal background and experiences.
2. Why are you the best candidate for this office?
3. What do you see as the biggest issue facing International Falls and how would you address it?
4. How would you work to spur economic growth in International Falls?
5. What is the biggest thing you hope to accomplish during your term?

DISTRICT 1



WADE
PAVLECK

1. Wife Carol; Falls High School; U.S. Army Veteran, Vietnam; Associate degree, Rainy River; Blandin Leadership Program graduate; Koochiching County Commissioner, elected 1992; County representative on many local and regional boards; Minnesota representative on the National Association of Counties Environment Energy and Land Use Committee.

2. I have always felt gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility to those who have elected me. I have gained the knowledge and experience that comes with time in office and helps me to be effective. I do not seek endorsements and have never accepted financial contributions. I owe no favors to special interests other than those who have elected me to represent them.

3. Every community in Koochiching County experienced job loss or disruption during the past two years as major area employers reduced their work force, faced reorganization, relocated or closed. Consequences of regulations to protect the environment impede development. Federal funding for projects has become extremely difficult to obtain.

4. Low taxes, controlled spending and infrastructure investment are what I promised when first elected to office and I remain committed. These, combined with a quality educational environment, help create the foundation for jobs and drive the record new construction investment and escalating property values we saw in District One and Koochiching County until the recent recession. We have also seen a large increase in federal employment, providing a strong contribution to the local economy. Moving forward, we need to continue investing in critical public infrastructure projects when funding is available so we can attract investment, employment, diversify the economy and secure our future.

5. My first priority has always been county financial stability. Koochiching County has remained in excellent financial condition during my years in office and I feel it is my most im-

portant responsibility. We enjoy healthy reserves and the lowest per capita county tax burden in Minnesota. We have an excellent workforce. Other priorities include but are not limited to; Ranier rail and access issues; Littlefork Medical Center improvements and service expansion; Northome assisted living initiative; Big Falls peat project start up; International Falls Airport renovation; Island View waste water treatment project; MnDOT County Area Transportation Projects; wetland mitigation relief; protection and expansion of our forest and renewable resource industries and many other issues I am involved with are on my list of goals and priorities.



BARRY
"WOODY"
WOODS

1. Long-time fishing guide/business owner in Ranier. Real estate salesperson specializing in waterfront properties for Lakehomes.com Realty.

Married to wife LeeAnne, two school age sons, Brule and Mackenzie.

2. My candidacy is an option to the status quo. If elected my constituents can expect a very serious, frank and public discussion on the issues facing Koochiching County.

3. Skyrocketing costs of local government goods and services are vastly outpacing the Koochiching County (one of Minnesota's poorest) median wage of about \$20,000 for those that are working. One example is we have arguably the highest municipal water/sewer rates in the country.

We have an abundance of some of the cleanest and best naturally tasting water in the world on our doorstep. Something is wrong when we can't deliver to our people great drinking water at a fair price.

4. The way to spur economic growth is to cut costs. My first motion as a county commissioner would be to cut commissioners salaries by 25 percent. It is paramount in these trying times to identify areas that can be trimmed or eliminated. As a commissioner I would encourage the city of International Falls to eliminate the city police force and merge with the county. With many federally funded border patrol staff we have a very secure town. I would

also encourage the Falls to eliminate the full time fire department and go to a part time fire department that could merge with the rural fire department. There is too much duplication of government services. The county probably has less than 2,000 students yet we have four school districts with all the duplication of expenses. Why not encourage the districts to merge and have one super school system?

The elimination of KEDA has to occur. Government cannot create private jobs. The county could sell the cold weather testing facility and move on. The Donahue Farm project is pie in the sky. Northland Tackle recently left with some 50 jobs for a warmer climate.

They left behind a heated 7,600 square foot building zoned industrial in Ranier. Why not fill that before we spend any more taxpayer money on an industrial park? Now we are talking about a rail spur that will likely cost the taxpayers a million dollars with no guarantees.

Millions of taxpayer dollars were spent building the beautifully paved Sturgeon River Road (Cty RD 31) west of Big Falls to harvest peat. I need no fingers or toes to count the jobs created to harvest peat. Local governments need to get out of the job creation business and let entrepreneurs take the reins. And they will in a business friendly environment.

5. Complete transparency. Meetings should be held in the evening so most people can attend. The meetings should be locally televised so people who can't attend can record and interpret for themselves how their interests are being cared for.

DISTRICT 2



KEVIN
ADEE

I was born and raised in Int'l Falls and graduated from Falls Senior High in 1978. I went to Vo-Tech in Brainerd and Hibbing and then started work at First National Bank in 1983 and worked for them for 13 years. When I left the bank I went into business for myself selling insurance, investments and refinancing mortgages for seven years.

In 2002 I decided to run for

commissioner as the district was up for election that year and did so successfully. It has been a tremendous education and experience in itself having participated on many boards and committees. Some of the more local committees I sit on are Koochiching Aging Options, Con-Con committee, Big Fork River Board, Rainy/Rapid River Board. I also sit on two community action boards which are Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and Kootasca and several joint powers boards with other counties. One of those is Arrowhead Counties which I am currently the chairman. For the last four years I have been chairman of the district for the Association of MN Counties representing the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Koochiching, Lake, Pine and St. Louis. Since being a commissioner I also sit on the Health and Human Services Policy Committee for the state association.

DISTRICT 4



ROB
ECKLUND

1976 Falls High School Graduate
1976-1979 United States Marine Corps

1980-1982 Attended Rainy River Community College
1982-1988 Maintenance Worker Voyageurs National Park

Married to Joan for 30 years, we raised three children

Boise employee — 25 years
President USW Local 159 — 9 years
Recreation Hockey coach — 17 years
Little League coach — 8 years
Recreation Football coach — 2 years
Avid hunter and fisherman
Current County Board Chair

2. I would like to begin by letting the people of Koochiching County, especially the residents of District 4, know that it has been an honor and privilege to represent them for the past four years. I have experienced a tremendous learning curve in dealing with all of the issues that are important to the members of our community. I believe that I am the best candidate for this office because no matter what I do, or have done in the past, I commit completely to

the job that needs to be done. I have returned every phone call and email I have received from the people that I represent, and I will continue to do the same if I am fortunate enough to be re-elected.

3. I feel that the biggest issue facing Koochiching County is its aging population. We need to be proactive in searching for, and finding the right mix of business and industry options to develop and relocate in our county. If we are able to gain development opportunities in our county, we can start to retain the young people that have grown up here, and care for the aging population that resides here.

4. Spurring economic growth in any community is a very challenging process. We must be ready to engage all of the resources that are available. A prime example is the expansion of our cold weather testing group. When the city and the county made resources available on a loan to KEDA, that office was able to leverage a grant from DEED, and we were able to build a new cold box that has been booked to capacity for the past three years. KEDA has made yearly payments back to both government units and the loan will soon be paid off. This is an example of how government units, working together, can be of assistance in our economic development.

5. My biggest goal for the upcoming term is to work productively with all the local government units in Koochiching County. We must engage all city government units in a proactive manner to ensure that any chance of economic development anywhere in the county, is sought out aggressively. Any new jobs in our county would be a bonus for all of our residents. It would broaden our tax base, and make our county more desirable and attractive for people to relocate here.

Thank you to the residents of District 4! Your faith in me is greatly appreciated, and I hope to continue to serve you!

DEBBIE BOWMAN

1. 40 years of health care experience, administrator, social services, advocacy, marketing, budgeting, business owner, 15 years experience with court systems Minnesota and Wisconsin. On the board of many organizations.

2. I believe we have forgotten that government works for us. I am hard working,

honest and we need to be honest about our challenges and limited growth. We need to roll up our sleeves and make some tough choices and quit making the taxpayers carrying an ever increasing load. My sleeves are rolled up.

3. Over lapping services, budget, focus on government growth and competition against private sector growth. We have the same people on every committee, Same people. Same ideas. We need to involve more citizens in our future. Limited problem solving skills, many problems could be averted by reaching out, making the call, having a meeting. Government keeps growing, wages and benefits are not in line with the average taxpayers and we need to grow in order to support all that we have or look at reductions.

4. We need to shore up our foundation in order to grow. We need to appreciate the tax payers that make up that foundation, protect them, learn more about their needs. Promote private sector growth by getting the government out of competition with tax paying businesses. We need to look at what we need and encourage businesses to respond to those needs. We need to get out of the mind set of "if we build it they will come" and work on today so we can be ready for tomorrow.

5. I hope to open the door to citizens to give them back their voice by changing meetings to the evenings. Change the makeup of the committees to include more tax payers and less board members, I would advertise openings and job descriptions to get more people involved. I would change the Board of Equalization to include tax payers as it currently is only board members. I would show appreciation of those who live, work and face the challenges here. Happy citizens are your best billboard. I would open the door to the cities of Ranier and International Falls and others across the county and find a way to work together because we are all in this together and any job is easier if you work together. We have lots of talented people with a true love for where they live and work that are frustrated by government rules, regulation and increasing costs and decreasing respect for who we are. It is time for us to change, if we keep doing what we are doing we will keep getting the same result.

Koochiching County uncontested position

The Journal asked candidates in uncontested races for Koochiching County recorder, attorney and auditor/treasurer to provide biographies about themselves. The following are their responses:

RECORDER



PAM
ROONEY

As a single mom with two small girls, I was pleased to be hired as Deputy Recorder in 1983. Deciding to retire early, Recorder Pat Stillar recommended I complete his term and I was appointed County Recorder in September, 1993. In 1994, I was elected County Recorder and have held the position since then.

My girls are grown up now. One daughter will be married this November, and the other daughter is married with three small children of her own. I married Mark Rooney in 2006 and live in the country near Loman.

Not only has there been changes at home in the past ten years, but changes in the Recorder's Office as well.

In 1989, everything was done by hand, writing in large, heavy bound books. We used typewriters and microfilmed documents on an enormous camera.

Today, computers and scanners make recording and researching documents more efficient. Documents can now be easily accessed through online subscriptions. We also serve you with births, deaths, passports, marriages and notaries.

Conferences, webinars, emails and meetings keep me up-to-date on the many changes and I am certified by the Minnesota County Recorder's Association.

The Recorder's office is run efficiently with the help of two great deputies whom I am pleased to share the office with. We work closely with many courthouse staff,

attorneys, banks, title companies and customers — I appreciate them all.

I enjoy being the County Recorder and will do my best to serve another four years for Koochiching County.

ATTORNEY



JEFF
NAGLOSKY

It has been an honor to serve the residents of Koochiching County for the past five and a half years. While I grew up a "cheesehead" in Wisconsin, I first moved to Minnesota for undergrad at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. I received my J.D. from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. I practiced with a small law firm in Cloquet, Minnesota out of law school,

but was fortunate to begin my career as a prosecutor here in International Falls.

In my time here I have strived to work closely with the many agencies and departments in the county. I am proud of the relationships that I have forged with law enforcement, social services, court staff and other county department heads. These relationships include an excellent working relationship with the City of International Falls.

When I first ran for office four years ago I listed two of my priorities as safer communities and fiscal responsibility. In my first term in office we have successfully prosecuted a homicide case, sentenced sex offenders to a combined term of over 70 years in prison and taken pounds of illegal controlled substances off the streets. We prosecuted one of the first welfare fraud cases in over a decade and ensured

that your tax dollars are spent wisely.

I was humbled by your support four years ago. I respectfully request the opportunity to serve as your County Attorney for another four years. I look to be in this office many years beyond that if you'll have me.

AUDITOR/TREASURER



BOB
PETERSON

It has been my privilege to serve the residents of Koochiching County as the Auditor/Treasurer since 2003. I am seeking another term for that position in the upcoming general election. Koochiching County has played a big part of my life. I was born in Littlefork, graduated from Falls High School

and owned and operated Ace Hardware for over 30 years. I presently live on Rainy Lake with my wife, Pam. We have two sons, David and Alan, their spouses, Shawn and Sarah, and four grandchildren, Marin, Michael, Alex and Jake. I have been active in our community at Zion Lutheran Church, the Elk's Lodge, Strive Mentoring program, and the International Falls Chamber of Commerce. The Auditor/Treasurer office is responsible for property tax, elections, and managing the County investments. Improvements have been made, but there are still more to be done. Next year we will be implementing online tax payments, and improving election equipment for the 2016 elections. The Auditor/Treasurer also works with and supports the policy makers of the County. Your continued support would be greatly appreciated on November 4th. Thank you.