

THE COMMUNITY PAGE

Idaho Falls City Elections

Idaho Falls residents will elect a new mayor and three city council members to regulate the affairs of Idaho's third largest city. With a population of over 52,000 and growing, these new leaders will shape the future of Idaho Falls for years to come. As voters make the weighty decision of which candidates to support, there is typically a blizzard of ads, flyers, or coffee shop talk to sort through. Today's Community Page allows each of these candidates solicit your support in their own words. They are deserving of your attention as you prepare to go to the ballot box this Tuesday.

Mayor's Race



Bill Shurtleff

Thank You Melaleuca for making this space available to candidates. I am Bill Shurtleff and I am running for the Mayor of Idaho Falls. On November 8th the voters will select a new Mayor. The person selected will be responsible for 585 full-time employees, many departments, and a \$147 million dollar budget. This is a big

job with numerous responsibilities which require leadership, and financial and management skills!

My qualifications are: a B.S. degree and a Masters in Business. I have owned and operated my own business for thirty-five years. I served on the Bonneville County Commission for six years and was Chairman for four years. During that time we built the Bonneville County jail. We brought this project in under budget. We built the Three B juvenile detention facility, which was a major accomplishment and needed in order to help with our youth programs. We set up the agreement between the City of Ammon, Bonneville County and the City of Idaho Falls to rebuild the Sunnyside Road Project. We did all of this and still lowered the property tax levy by twenty-four percent over the same period of time..without reducing services. I have served on the Idaho Falls City Council for the past four years where I have worked to provide the many needed services, while lowering the property tax levy. In a political campaign, many things are promised and political rhetoric abounds, but I have the record which proves that I can do the job. I want Good Government for all of us. I would appreciate your vote on November 8th.



Louis Sheppard

Bringing people together, so we can grow together. Hello, I am Louis "Huggie Bear" Sheppard, mayoral candidate for the city of Idaho Falls. I know that I am the diverse leader who will bring a new voice, look, and change that is needed for Idaho Falls and the people who reside in the Idaho Falls community. As mayor of Idaho Falls, I would like to promote the diverse backgrounds

and cultures that exist in the city of Idaho Falls today. I would also like to bring the diverse population of Idaho Falls into a united community to achieve the goals of you, the people.

When I moved to Idaho, I felt isolated and alone. Being a black man from New York, I was treated by many as an outcast. Young children would stare at me and ask me about the color of my skin. My first intention was to endure the miserable feelings of isolation and loneliness for six months and then get out of Idaho. However, because of my job at the radio station I was thrust into the public eye and was able to become known for who I really am (not just a black man from New York). After time on the air I was soon embraced by many people of the community and began to feel the love and beauty that really does exist within this community of Idaho Falls.

Idaho Falls is growing and will continue to grow at a rapid pace. This city is a beautiful place to live and has much to offer. The people of Idaho Falls have tremendous potential that has yet to be recognized. We as a community need to make an effort to embrace those around us, take the time to learn about and understand each other, and learn about others without judgment. Then our city will be able to grow and flourish both economically and socially. Idaho Falls will be a city that people will be proud to call home.

To the people of Idaho Falls, let me be your leader, your voice for tomorrow's Idaho Falls. I, Louis "Huggie Bear" Sheppard will be the leader from the outside, to direct Idaho Falls and you the people into the future, again to bring people together so we can grow together.



Jared Fuhrman

Our community is on the brink of achieving great things. Unprecedented growth and opportunity are in our future. To manage our future, I have identified six areas of focus for my administration.

1. Strategic Planning. We must have a strategic plan outlining the direction Idaho Falls should take. I will form a committee comprised of city and business leaders, and a broad cross section of citizens.
 2. Economic Development Summit. I will convene an Economic Summit, bringing together those groups dedicated to improving growth and strengthening Idaho Falls' economy. It is crucial to be on the same page to avoid duplication of services and competition.
 3. Taxes. Taxes are too high. We must first look within to ensure that the city is operating as efficiently as possible. I will organize an Efficiency Committee consisting of taxpayers to audit each city division.
 4. Youth. Over 30% of our population is under 18! I will form a "Youth Advisory Council" to identify needs and provide opportunities for young people to contribute to our city. Youth sports also have my full support.
 5. Open Government. I want to bring city government to the people. My administration will hold neighborhood meetings throughout the city.
 6. Quality of Life. I will lend my support to additional greenbelt development and to sustaining the rich variety of cultural arts and recreation we enjoy in our city.
- My entire platform revolves around building partnerships to provide the best service possible. Together we can achieve great things for Idaho Falls.

Council Seat Races

Council Seat #2



Brian Morris

I was talked into running for the City Council by friends and acquaintances who believe that I bring a great deal to the table. I have about 30 years of administrative experience in my local Union, including responsibility for finances, contract negotiations, health and safety issues, and OSHA training.

The status quo hasn't accomplished the things that will enable this city to move forward into the future. We cannot do the same things and expect different results. And we do need some results. So, how do we do that?

Idaho Falls needs to become RV friendly. There are more than one million RVs passing our city every season and we need to get them to stop and shop. This is a very large cash flow concept, privately owned, financed, and full service.

If RVs stop and shop, they need a quality public transportation system that will get them to the mall and downtown. With gas prices being what they are, we also need it. Working people need to save their gas money for recreational activities. We work to live not the other way around.

Our children desperately need a privately funded sports complex.

If we rethink how we spend our taxes and other incomes, we can make Idaho Falls very attractive to businesses that pay not just minimum wages, but a living wage. Employees need to make a decent wage where they are able to patronize our local businesses and keep the cash flow in town.

I pledge to you all that if elected, I will work extremely hard to bring a bright future to our city.



Joe Groberg

The City Council sets the policy, makes the rules, establishes the budget, and plans for the future of Idaho Falls. I am running for City Council because I want to lead in these areas. I am a consistent advocate of lowering property taxes, which remains a pressing task. We don't accomplish this by reducing services.

We accomplish it by strategically broadening the tax base, removing subsidies from things that can and should pay for themselves, sharing costs with other jurisdictions whose residents use those services, and by using public/private partnerships. An equally important task is to work out agreements with the county and other municipalities to coordinate infrastructure and services, including roads and traffic, parks and pathways. If we don't get this done, the entire area will suffer.

I have a degree in economics, a law degree and a master's degree. I have been married to Jeanne for 38 years. We have 4 children and 11 amazing grandchildren. I want to enhance the quality of life in Idaho Falls and make sure it is always a great place to raise a family. I love working on the tough decisions the city council has to make. Our job is not only to make the city a great place to live but also to keep the cost a bargain.

Council Seat #4



Steve Vuovich

I am running for City Council Seat # 4 because I am concerned about the direction Idaho Falls is heading. I think we are at a critical point where we have to make a change in the overall spending attitude of our elected officials as well as the skill sets they bring to this job.

We have a city government that has doubled in size (\$41mil to \$85mil) in the last 10 years while our population has only grown 8%! I guarantee the tax payer has not seen the quantity or quality of their city services increase 100%. I bet our city workers haven't seen a doubling of their wages!

The cost per person to operate our city is now \$1,634 per person, per year. Other progressive cities such as Nampa and Twin Falls operate theirs at almost half of ours, \$875 and \$855 respectively. Considering

that Twin Falls grew at almost three times our population rate and Nampa grew twelve times our rate in the last ten years, our bloated budget is even that much more concerning.

Our utility costs have gone up 60% in the last few years. The once positive position our city held compared to other locales in recruiting new business has been shattered by poor management, run away government spending, and high utility bills.

We the residents and business owners of Idaho Falls cannot afford, literally, to maintain the status quo. I cannot imagine where this city will be in ten years if we continue on this path. We need people with the experience and education to make the change. On November 8th, make the SWITCH....Vote VUCOVICH.



Ida Hardcastle

I am running again for the council because of encouragement from many who have a concern for the integrity of the council. Idaho Falls is a quality city and this council, along with past councils, has worked hand in hand with residents to make it so liveable.

Most people feel safe and our crime rate has dropped 27%. Our power rates are among the lowest in the nation and the water, sewer, and sanitation rates are envied by many. We have a beautiful airport remodeled with user fees and 2 new airlines. The investment in a city wide fiber optic network has and will continue to attract economic development. Our golf courses are first class and operate in the black. The zoo dubbed "The Best Little Zoo in The West" and the greenbelt are great assets. All of this and more add to our quality of life.

This council has lowered the tax levy by 10% and is committed to reducing it further, responsibly. I welcome any questions or comments concerning any city issue. I am committed to this city and if re-elected will continue to spend all the time needed to fill that trust.

Council Seat #6



Brett Manwaring

As the voters of Idaho Falls go to the polls on November 8, they face real choices. After 30 years of tax and spend mayors and City Council members whose concern is not what is best for the taxpayer, but what might get them re-elected, we're now feeling the results of their work.

So now we enjoy 58% higher utility bills than just 4 years ago, and everyone's property tax is higher - some as much as 100% higher than 10 years ago. Responsible government officials should collect the least amount possible in taxes, expend the least amount possible for government, and encourage growth and development of our city with a strong private sector. Government doesn't make money - it only spends it - and it comes from you and me.

I will work for lower taxes, my main opponent will not. I will work to reduce wasteful spending, she thinks the current budget is about right. I believe families and businesses should keep more of their own money, that's what improves "quality of life."

I believe in discouraging abortion whenever possible. My opponent has said she "supports a woman's right to choose." I believe marriage is between a man and a woman - that doesn't deprive anyone of any rights - my opponent supports the action of Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson to give benefits to "life partners" of city employees.

I want Idaho Falls to be a more affordable place to live, as well as provide good employment opportunities. The choices are clear. They are yours to make. Vote November 8th.



Bill Keith

I decided to run for City Council for several reasons. Since my arrival I watched our electric bill go up 65%. I felt such a huge increase was unwarranted and unjustified.

My next concern is the city budget. Over the past 10 years, the city budget has doubled in-fact, last fiscal

year the budget was \$140,891,589. This fiscal year we watched it grow to \$147,077,988. That's a single year increase of \$6,186,399. Our property taxes are one of the highest in the state, higher than Boise, Nampa, Twin Falls, or Pocatello. When businesses are looking to relocate they look at the tax structure before making a decision.

I will advocate for our police, fire and emergency medical services. We need these professionals to be safe in and around our homes and businesses.

I will insist on a balanced budget, with no budget overrides. All departments will be rewarded for their money saving efforts; I will advocate for a rewards program where the department employees will receive a percentage of the saving as an incentive bonus.

I will insist on a priority listing of all municipal projects and insist that all projects are brought in at cost and on time.

I will insist on honesty in all things.

Together, we will continue to build a strong community; honoring all our commitments, to our selves, all our citizens, our city employees and our neighbors."

I hope you share my concerns and if you do please cast your vote for me.



Karen Cornwell

I will insist that carefully planned growth of the city be a top priority. This will entail efficiency at all levels of city government, fiscal discipline in setting budgets, and long-range planning to ensure a good quality of life for our citizens while encouraging growth.

Idaho Falls is a vibrant, growing community. I want to be part of ensuring that it meets the needs of ALL its citizens. You can expect me to be available to listen to all my constituents' concerns.

I will support not only good roads and good public services, but also a safe, healthy environment in which to live and raise families. I believe the excellent educational opportunities offered by Eastern Idaho Technical College and the institutions at University Place are important to the continuing health of our community, and I will be a strong proponent of those institutions.

I will be a strong advocate for the Tautphaus Park Zoo, the Aquatic Center, the Museum of Idaho, the Eagle Rock Art Museum, the Colonial Theater, and all the venues that provide our citizens with art in the form of music, theater, and dance.



Frank Breen

Age - 62 years
Occupation - retired Engineer
Leadership - Electrical Quality Engineer at the Reactor Technology Center
Education - Bachelors Degree in Industrial Technology at University of Idaho

Family - Married 36 years with four children

As an American citizen I would like to be on the City Council and part of the process of government. I am a candidate for Seat 6 on the council because I feel this city is facing several important decisions. I want to listen to the people of Idaho Falls and be a voice for them. I am qualified by virtue of my awareness of issues, my ability to apply a logical thought process to problems, and a talent for brainstorming to find solutions. Additionally, I have always had a desire to listen to various viewpoints with an open mind. As a retired Engineer, I would see my work on the City Council as a full time commitment. If elected, I look forward to being of service to this city.