Creating the political environment to protect the natural environment.
Dear fellow conservation voter,

Conservation Voters for Idaho is proud to present our candidate endorsements for Idaho’s upcoming 2019 election on November 5. We hope you find the following Conservation Voter Guide as a useful tool before heading to the polls and making your vote count for Idaho’s natural environment.

The November 5 election comes at a unique time in Idaho’s environmental history. Our incredible outdoor heritage and vast outdoor recreational opportunities have always made Idaho an amazing place to live, work, and raise a family, but because of that, we’ve experienced unprecedented growth in our communities. Growth that places enormous pressure on our open space, public land access, and clean air and water. Idahoans need to ensure we elect bold leaders in local government who will fight to protect what makes Idaho...well, Idaho.

Like you, all of us here at Conservation Voters for Idaho share a deep passion for protecting Idaho’s environment and, like you, we know that the best chance we have in that endeavor is to elect strong conservation champions to office.

In our nearly 15 years of conducting political work, we’ve had to make some difficult endorsement decisions and this year, in particular, has proven to be our most challenging yet with an unparalleled number of conservation supporters filing for candidacy. We are ecstatic that more and more pro-conservation candidates are entering local politics - Idaho’s public lands, water and air will benefit tremendously by having more voices at every level of government fighting for their continued protection. Of course, that makes our job more challenging.

As the only organization in Idaho working to elect pro-conservation candidates to office, Conservation Voters for Idaho’s Board of Directors takes our endorsement decisions very seriously. Each candidate was thoroughly evaluated using a multi-step review and voting process and criteria set by our Board of Directors. We strongly believe these candidates not only bring the passion for conservation values but the experience and know-how to enact bold change for Idaho’s environment.

It is up to each of us to exercise our right to vote and to support those candidates who will work to protect Idaho’s healthy lands and clean water. Please make a plan to vote, and make sure that your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues remember to vote! Idaho’s public lands, water, air and robust democracy depend on it.

For Idaho,

Mike Lanza
Board Chair
Conservation Voters for Idaho
WHO WE ARE

Conservation Voters for Idaho (CVI) is the only statewide organization that works on both sides of the political aisle to protect Idaho’s natural heritage. By electing pro-conservation candidates, advocating for sound environmental policies and holding politicians accountable for their votes, we work to create the political environment to protect the natural environment. In 2020, Conservation Voters for Idaho will be celebrating 15 years as the leading political voice for conservation in Idaho. Every year, we empower more than 100,000 Idahoans to become more involved in the issues they care about to ensure Idaho remains a great place to live, work and raise our families.

WHAT WE DO

• Elect pro-conservation candidates to office;
• Advocate for environmental policies related to public lands, clean energy and climate change;
• Hold politicians accountable for their votes on conservation issues;
• Provide independent information to voters.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Lanza, Chair
Julia Page, Secretary
Courtney White, Treasurer
Patrick Bageant

Heather Kimmel
Saul Seyler
Emily Erickson

ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

To ensure we endorse the best possible conservation candidates, our volunteer Board of Directors, with staff support, conduct a multi-step review process and criteria for selection.

Candidates are evaluated along the following criteria: knowledge of conservation issues, electability, potential effectiveness to advance conservation issues if/when elected to office and propensity to be a true champion on our issues. “Best” conservation candidates are not just those candidates who represent themselves as the most pro-environment, but who will best advance the effort to protect Idaho’s environment. As a bipartisan organization, we select candidates regardless of political party.

Our endorsement begins at the staff level where campaign staff distribute questionnaires to candidates across the state, along with our “Issues Briefing” document, which outlines Conservation Voters for Idaho’s policy priorities. All candidates are invited to participate in the process and fill out the questionnaire. Questionnaire responses are evaluated by our Endorsement Task Force, which is composed of select members of the Conservation Voters for Idaho Board of Directors and supported by staff. If the task force needs further clarification from the questionnaire responses, follow up activities occur, which could include in-person interviews or reference checks.

Based on the questionnaire responses, the personal interview, candidate’s platforms on conservation issues and other criteria guidelines listed above, the Endorsement Task Force vote on their endorsement recommendations. Those approved recommendations are then taken to Conservation Voters for Idaho’s Board of Directors for a final vote.
In our nearly 15 years of conducting political work, we’ve had to make some very difficult endorsement decisions but we faced our toughest decision yet in this year’s Boise mayoral race. But, we also understand Boise faces some unique challenges that desperately need to be addressed in order to help solve the climate crisis. In the past four years, the issue of climate change has become more dire and we know that in order to make bold action for our climate, we need bold leaders.

Now more than ever, Boise needs rapid political action. Now more than ever, we need to ensure we elect bold leaders in local government who will push the envelope on clean energy, public transportation and open space. We strongly believe Lauren McLean is that leader. Through her strong track record on conservation issues and her undeniable passion for enacting positive change for our environment, Lauren McLean has repeatedly championed our issues, even going above-and-beyond of what has been asked of her - sometimes, even surprising us as to what can be both dreamed of and achieved.

We believe the proposals put forth by Lauren demonstrate the type of change Boise needs, such as:

- Beat the City of Boise’s goal of going 100% clean energy by 2035.
- Set a goal of a carbon-neutral municipal government by 2035.
- Double the goal for reducing single person car trips by 20% by 2029.
  - Bring a fresh approach to the transportation issue in Boise.
  - Seek new solutions to engage with and listen to all communities.

We need a daring leader who will live and breathe conservation. A leader who understands that conservation should underline every decision we make from here on out. A leader who enthusiastically and boldly fights for conservation policies - a true conservation champion. It for these reasons that Conservation Voters for Idaho endorses Lauren McLean for Mayor of the City of Boise.
BOISE CITY COUNCIL

PATRICK BAGEANT - SEAT 1

Clean Energy: With specific, ambitious policy ideas and the experience and know-how to get them implemented, Patrick Bageant’s candidacy sets a new standard for Boise’s climate champions. He is focused on ensuring all energy, not just electricity, is 100% clean.

Open Space: Recognizing that open space protection goes beyond the foothills and levy financing, Bageant is approaching the issue from a city-wide, fully integrated perspective to ensure that both market incentives and city priorities are aligned to protect open space.

Democracy: Bageant recognizes the need to be an advocate for those most affected by institutional voting barriers, break down said barriers and expand the City’s civic engagement to underrepresented communities within Boise.

MEREDITH STEAD - SEAT 3

Clean Energy: Meredith Stead recognizes that heating, cooling and transportation are critical issues to address in our fight to protect our climate. She’s an advocate for sustainable growth and pro-climate building codes that raise the standard for new development.

Open Space: Throughout her time on the City’s Planning and Zoning commission, Stead has been a steadfast advocate for open space protections. She has continually made conservation a priority in her votes, an city councilor, she will bring those experiences to the table to ensure the environment is always prioritized in city decisionmaking.

Democracy: Stead recognizes that it is the city’s responsibility to connect with residents and that we must do better to invite underpresented community members to the table and amplify their voices.

ELAINE CLEG - SEAT 5

Clean Energy: Council Member Elaine Clegg has been an outspoken and long-term advocate for clean energy proposals that not only encompass electricity production, but also transportation and heating and cooling.

Open Space: Throughout her tenure on the council, Clegg has integrated conservation principles into every decision. She has cast countless votes that limit aggressive foothill development, protect Boise’s public land and water and sought to expand outdoor opportunities to South and West Boise. As Boise grows, Clegg’s conservation leadership and experience will be a critical asset.

Democracy: Clegg has been a strong supporter of government outreach to spur more engagement in city decision-making.
EAGLE

STAN RIDGEWAY - MAYOR

Clean Energy: Mayor Stan Ridgeway has been a strong advocate for energy resiliency during his time in office. The Mayor and the Eagle City Council are working hard to make pro-climate policymaking a permanent priority, ensuring the protection of Eagle’s fragile ecosystem and residents’ quality of life.

Open Space: Ridgeway has added 75 acres of new parkland to the city, expanded trail access and used impact fees to further finance conservation efforts.

Democracy: Ridgeway specifically mentions that Eagle’s civic engagement process has benefitted from providing transportation to polling places and encouraging absentee voting. He will work towards increasing these types of voter participation with local government.

JILL MITCHELL - EAGLE CITY COUNCIL

Clean Energy: Council Member Jill Mitchell has led Eagle’s efforts for energy independence and been an outspoken advocate for clean energy. We are confident Mitchell will continue her environmental stewardship of Eagle’s natural resources.

Open Space: Mitchell has always prioritized the value of outdoor recreation access and protected the public lands that feed Eagle’s economy and sustain a high quality of life.

Democracy: To protect Eagle’s way of life, residents must retain their ability to engage in the voting processes that define America’s republic. Mitchell is an outspoken advocate for government transparency, civic service and voter outreach. She has proven her commitment to ensuring that her community’s voices are heard.
SAM LINNET - CITY COUNCIL SEAT 3

Clean Energy: Sam Linnet has called upon Hailey to transition to clean energy by 2030, knowing the city can set an example for other small cities throughout the state. He also supports reinstating the sustainability coordinator position that was eliminated in 2017 to begin work on getting Hailey to this goal.

Open Space: Linnet directly calls out the need for developments to consider open space additions and offers practical policy ideas that ensure small cities can plan for sustainable growth while preserving their environment, cultures, and quality-of-life.

Democracy: Linnet is an advocate for getting more people involved and inspired in local politics. He supports and advocates for measures that make voting easier, like early voting, vote-by-mail, and more.

JUAN MARTINEZ - SEAT 4

Clean Energy: Juan Martinez is a strong advocate for rooftop solar to help accomplish ambitious clean energy goals and believes continued work to build a clean energy consensus in the community will help accelerate Hailey’s transition to 100% clean energy.

Open Space: Martinez specifically mentions the need to preserve parks, preserves and greenways. He is also a proponent of mitigating light pollution to preserve the city’s night sky.

Democracy: Martinez is fighting for more Latinx representation in government decision-making. Over 30% of Hailey is Latinx, but the community has been historically underrepresented in local government. He plans to engage with the Latinx community to build a bridge that unifies the community around shared goals.
KETCHUM CITY COUNCIL

MICHAEL DAVID - CITY COUNCIL

Clean Energy: Council Member Michael David wants to lead the city in passing a resolution to surpass current clean energy targets. David, during his time on City Council, initiated a sustainability committee and wants to promote alternative modes of transportation.

Open Space: David will continue to be a steadfast advocate for public land access surrounding Ketchum. He specifically mentions his work to support public access to the Bigwood, Warm Springs and Trail Creek rivers in Ketchum.

Democracy: David clearly identifies the need for more Latinx engagement by the city and the need to work to help the Latinx population feel safe in engaging with local government.

MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL

ELIZABETH STRADER - SEAT 1

Clean Energy: Elizabeth Strader has deep ties to Meridian’s business community and will work to promote clean energy as the best economic choice for the growing city. Strader says that clean energy will bring jobs and investments while improving air and water quality.

Open Space: Strader supports smart development principles that ensure new growth is paired with the preservation and expansion of open spaces.

Democracy: Strader is committed to reshaping local political outreach to match the needs of the population. She knows that people don’t want empty promises - they want results. She also wants to ensure young voters can access information and turn out to vote.
ANNE ZABALA

Clean Energy: Council Member Anne Zabala has reinvigorated the clean energy discussion in North Idaho, exerting leadership in both the Moscow city government and in her community.

Open Space: Zabala believes that open space should be distributed in a way that serves all communities within a city and is an advocate for smart growth that includes open space requirements.

Democracy: Zabala is dedicated to improving youth turnout in elections. Being a young person herself, she is aware of the obstacles to engagement that must be addressed. Student turnout is important to her, and she wants to ensure that there is a polling location at the University of Idaho campus to help facilitate student voting.

MAUREEN LAFLIN

Clean Energy: Maureen Laflin has led an esteemed career in public service. As a mother, community organizer, lawyer and mediator, we are confident Laflin has what it takes to advocate for strong conservation values in city decision-making.

Open Space: Laflin identifies density and infill as a priority in land use and zoning to help mitigate the city’s impact on the environment. She wants to protect parks, greenways, and trails while ensuring they are accessible to all.

Democracy: Laflin believes the government needs to listen to both sides of issues, encourage open communication with its citizens and be conscious of the immediate and long-term impacts of its decisions.

SANDRA KELLY

Clean Energy: Sandra Kelly’s work at the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) gives her a strong jumping-off point to get started on meaningful municipal work on clean energy. She sees the effort to combat climate change as a holistic one that must be addressed with both clean energy and sustainability improvements throughout Moscow’s infrastructure and community.

Open Space: Kelly is an advocate for smart development principles that prioritize open space and water.

Democracy: Kelly identifies voter registration as a top priority, recognizing that environmental work must also be reflected in the ballot box.
JENNIFER SALMONSEN

Clean Energy: Salmonsen wants to work to find an economically feasible path forward on clean energy for Star, which includes alternative transportation pathways.

Open Space: Star is one of the fastest growing cities in Idaho. With the Boise River flowing through Star, Salmonsen wants to ensure the City’s precious asset is protected and accessible to all of Star’s families and future generations. She believes the river is a critical aspect of Star’s way of life and is deeply committed to protecting it.

Democracy: Salmonsen believes more people must be involved in the process and is committed to sharing information with the public and engaging with voters.