

Barry McHugh announces his re-election bid

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The elected county prosecutor for Kootenai County, Barry McHugh, announced today that he will be seeking re-election to the office that he currently holds. The position is before the voters in 2012. His campaign will focus on his accomplishments from his first term in the office, as well as his plans for the future. In particular, McHugh focused on four areas in which he has and will remain committed to providing leadership: 1) A dedication to the safety of the citizens of Kootenai County, 2) Increasing accessibility for the public, 3) Increasing efficiencies in operations, and 4) Creating and environment of trust.

In regards to keeping Kootenai County safe, what McHugh says is his top priority, he points to his record in increasing the tools available for successfully prosecuting impaired driving offenses through blood draw procedures, a recent approximately \$500,000 grant that he applied for and received that will provide interagency cooperation in protecting children for sex offenders, and his follow through from his last campaign promises to ensure prosecution of difficult cases.

McHugh also points to his work on the infrastructure of the office in creating accessibility for citizens and agencies that work with his office: the office now has additional lines, answered over noon hour, as well as monthly meetings with law enforcement agencies, and judges, and post hearing updates online and by phone message for law enforcement members involved in cases.

McHugh also announced that, with the support of the County Commissioners, his office is evaluating hardware and software to convert from a paper file system to a computerized system that will conserve resources and keep the office up to date with current technology. Through similar endeavors, McHugh says that he has been able to make the office more efficient while keeping his 2011 budget below the budget in 2009.

“I am committed to doing what it takes for Kootenai County to be a safe place to live, and to make sure Kootenai County government is operated as effectively and efficiently as possible,” McHugh said.