

Assessor Mike McDowell's re-election announcement (2.12.14):

I am announcing that I'm seeking re-election to the Office of Kootenai County Assessor. I have the education, training and experience of more than 36 years in the Assessor's Office. I have served the property owners of Kootenai County as your Senior Deputy Assessor since 1983 and as your Assessor since 2003. I know and understand the many challenges of the office. I place a high value on quality customer service, professional development for staff, and cost effective operations.

Your Assessor's Office is a complex system of many diverse functions with a central mission to insure the fairness of our local tax system. A qualified Assessor must understand appraisal, mapping, vehicle licensing and titling, customer service, and personnel management and motivation.

The Kootenai County Assessor is charged with valuing over 91,000 parcels of property with a net taxable value of over \$11 Billion dollars. The Assessor maintains the single largest database of property information in the county, and maintains over 1,000 digital maps to track property ownership. The vehicle license division of the Assessor's Office registers over 100,000 cars and trucks each year and handles more than \$12 million dollars in annual license revenue.

The primary source of funding for most local services comes from our property tax payments. We could not have police, fire, schools, and roads without them. The fairness of the system that we use to distribute the burden for paying for these services is dependent upon an equitable assessment of all taxable property within our county.

During this next term some primary areas of focus will be to lead our team as we upgrade both our assessment and mapping software, which will improve our efficiency and service delivery to our customers. We will continue to work with our legislators to maintain the balance in our state's tax system and guard against shifting state tax burdens to local property tax payers.

We have a well-trained professional staff in place in the Assessor's Office. We have an experienced group of managers who work well as a team. I plan to continue our long-standing tradition of professionalism and quality customer service that the Assessor's Office is known for, and I pledge that I will continue to have an open door to listen to our property owners in Kootenai County.