

## **Huckleberries interviews Democratic Commission candidate Bruce Noble 9.3.14**

**Huckleberries:** What gives you optimism that a Democrat can win a seat in the Republican-controlled Kootenai County Courthouse:

**Bruce Noble:** I'm running on a platform that appeals to both Democrats and Republicans. It's nonpartisan that will bring professional management & better leadership to Kootenai County. Moderate Republicans will see me as an alternative to the more radical wing of their party.

**Huckleberries:** Do you think your Republican opponent, Marc Eberlein, belongs to the radical wing of the GOP?

**Bruce Noble:** Without question. He's associated with the Northwest Property Owners Association that I would identify as a Tea Party organization. It's basically an organization that was formed to oppose uniformed land-use code. It has morphed into a very conservative organization. It's obvious from the primary that he's associated with the Tea Party. He was able to get that support and upset Todd Tondee who was supported by more moderate Republicans.

**Huckleberries:** Haven't you run for a commissioner's spot before as a Republican?

**Bruce Noble:** Yes. I've run as a Democrat and as a Republican and now again as a Democrat. What is important is that — my message in all three elections, my message, is the same. When I ran as a Republican, I was endorsed by North Idaho Political Action Committee. It represents the moderate win of the Republican Party. Their endorsement means that they thought my message was correct for Kootenai County. I got spanked in the primary by Todd Tondee, though (in 2012).

**Huckleberries:** What will be the key issues in your campaign?

**Bruce Noble:** The jail overcrowding. The uniform land-use code, of course. They're really symptoms of real problem in Kootenai County — the lack of professional management and lack of leadership to bring professional management to Kootenai County. If we can get better management, those symptoms that are issue will be taken care of. I would introduce a commission-management form of government. I would like to see the board expanded to five commissioners on a part-time basis. I also propose that they be elected by geographic district rather than countywide.

**Huckleberries:** What's the difference in views between your opponent and yourself on the county's land-use?

**Bruce Noble:** The county's land-use plan has to balance rights of private property owners while creating clear & understandable path for land use and land development. The current unified land-use code is cumbersome. It doesn't protect private property rights — and it doesn't have clear path for development and land use. Having practiced as a professional engineer and land surveyor since 1992 in Kootenai County, I have the experience to guide the preparation of a land-use code that will protect private property rights. My opponent has no positive statements about anything. He says let's get rid of the land-use code — and doesn't say what he wants to do.