

*News release from Kootenai County Prosecutor Barry McHugh:*

Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney Barry McHugh announced today he will seek re-election. “Over the past seven years I have worked to build an office that provides consistent excellent service. Recent successful prosecutions in difficult cases demonstrate increased effectiveness.”

McHugh has used state funding to benefit Kootenai County citizens. Through an agreement with the Idaho Attorney General’s Office, an investigator position was created to investigate and prosecute individuals who prey on children. Other fiscally conservative practices have kept the budget for his Criminal Division under that of the Public Defender’s Office.

McHugh noted his office transitioned to a paperless file management system over a year ago, both to move from an antiquated paper file system and to be prepared when the courts’ state-wide paperless file management system is implemented.

“I promised to create an office that would effectively prosecute the difficult cases, and that goal has been accomplished. Still, there is more to do to retain quality attorneys and staff to prosecute the increasing number of violent crimes.” McHugh noted he has been able to keep experienced attorneys in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions and continue to provide excellent service in changing times.

“I grew up and have lived in Kootenai County most of my life. Keeping our communities as safe as possible motivates me every day. I am committed to the principles of strong law enforcement and the prudent use of taxpayer dollars. With the voters’ support, I look forward to serving another four years.”