

## Mayor Appointee Questionnaire

Please provide a typed response within this document to the following questions posed by Council Members. Please use a different font or color with your answer. Expand the document as needed.

1. Do you have any conflict(s) of interest that will direct your path as Mayor?

No.

2. Share your opinion on the City of Nampa potentially transitioning from a Mayoral – managed form of government to a City Manager - managed form of government and the reasons for supporting or not supporting.

I do not recommend transitioning Nampa to a City Manager-Council form of government. Instead, I would like to see the Chief of Staff position continue to evolve with the qualifications and authority necessary to assist in recruiting, hiring, supervising staff, balancing the budget, drafting legislation, overseeing city departments, and recommending departmental leadership appointments.

Based on my observations, our current Chief of Staff appears qualified and capable of partnering with the Mayor and department heads in carrying out these responsibilities.

A study by IBM Global Business Services found that the efficiencies associated with a City Manager-Council form of government results in an average cost savings of approximately 10 percent. By utilizing and empowering the Chief of Staff in an expanded role, I believe Nampa could potentially achieve similar or greater efficiencies without the added expense of hiring a City Manager.

3. a) Please share your opinion on running an override levy for police funding needs and a second one for infrastructure replacement (water, sewer, storm drain, intersection upgrades), and whether you would support a levy override and encourage the voters to pass them.

I support both levy overrides, provided they are presented separately rather than combined into a single measure. Infrastructure improvements represent significant long-term capital investments, while additional police staffing creates ongoing operational expenses. These are fundamentally different funding needs and should be considered independently.

I would favor a tiered approach that allows citizens to vote on each proposal separately rather than an all-or-nothing measure.

b) Please share your position on taking foregone (tax value not previously taken in previous years).

Generally, I am not in favor of taking foregone revenue. However, I would support holding a public hearing to consider it if levy overrides fail and the following conditions continue or can be clearly demonstrated:

- Rising inflation and Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases
- Budget shortfalls resulting from growth and state-imposed revenue limitations
- Documented infrastructure maintenance needs
- Documented Public Safety staffing and operational needs
- Unforeseen scenarios

4. Please explain the duties of Mayor and the time commitment required to complete these duties.

The primary duties of the Mayor include:

- Providing executive leadership and oversight of city departments
- Executing city ordinances and resolutions
- Preparing and submitting the city budget to the City Council
- Representing Nampa before other governmental entities, including neighboring mayors, Canyon County Commissioners, and state legislators
- Creating opportunities for citizens to be heard through town halls and public engagement efforts
- Maintaining communication with downtown businesses and community stakeholders
- Attending ribbon cuttings, celebrations, and community events that reflect Nampa's values
- Collaborating with the Nampa Chamber and Nampa Development Corporation
- Ensuring that the principles reflected in our community values, including "In God We Trust," remain central to leadership and decision-making

Regarding the time commitment, I do not yet know the exact number of hours required to fulfill the role effectively. However, throughout my career I have consistently gone above and beyond to perform every job with excellence. Early mornings are not a concern for me, and I am prepared for 6:00 a.m. start times when necessary.

While I remain committed to maintaining time for faith and family, I understand the demands of public service. In fact, I am willing to forgo my family vacation this June if selected, recognizing that the transition period would be critical. Depending on the season and responsibilities involved, I anticipate work weeks ranging from 30 to 70 hours and understand that the Mayor is effectively on call 24/7.

5. Have you ever taken a public position on a controversial issue? If so, what was the issue and why did you choose to speak out?

Yes, on several occasions.

Perhaps my most significant public statement occurred in August 2021 when I spoke in favor of individual freedom of choice regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and mask usage. As expected, there was criticism,

name-calling, and misrepresentation on social media. However, I was also encouraged by the many messages of support I received, including support from four of the five City Council members at the time.

One particularly meaningful response came from Rev. Bill Roscoe with the Boise Rescue Mission, who told me, "Darl, you are right on point. Hold your ground."

I spoke out because I believed it was important to advocate for personal choice and individual liberty. Looking back, I have no regrets.

6. In your view, what realistic strategies can an interim mayor implement in the next 17 months to better align development approvals with infrastructure readiness, while working within budget restraints and state limitations on revenue growth?

I believe additional research is necessary before providing a comprehensive answer to this question. That said, placing infrastructure and Public Safety levy overrides before voters will likely be an important part of addressing these challenges. I would also be willing to advocate before the Idaho Legislature regarding revenue limitations that impact growing communities.

Additionally, I believe it is important to review and build upon former Mayor Rick Hogaboam's strategic planning efforts and continue implementing ideas that align with the city's long-term needs and priorities.

7. Do you believe growth is a burden to home/business owners?

Growth can be a significant burden on homeowners, primarily because of the increased costs associated with maintaining and expanding infrastructure and city services. In contrast, businesses are generally less affected, although increased competition can create challenges.

I believe former Mayor Rick Hogaboam summarized the issue well in his March 16, 2025, paper, "The True Cost of Growth":

*"We need to seriously question the cost of growth and ensure that it doesn't compromise our existing quality of life and proportionate cost of service model. Until mechanisms are in place to ensure responsible growth and long-term solvency, I'm afraid we're simply intoxicated by a growth pattern under the false illusion that it will all work out. We must do better, or we will look back on this time as a case study in reckless growth without proper mitigation policies to sustain critical infrastructure."*

One example of protecting agricultural land and limiting sprawl is maintaining restrictions on rezoning agricultural property, similar to what was accomplished with local golf courses. Developers understand that purchasing agricultural land does not guarantee future rezoning. This approach helps preserve property rights for retiring farmers while protecting valuable agricultural resources.

8. What are your thoughts on the current working dynamic between the Mayor and City Council? And, what recommendations would you offer for strengthening collaboration, communication, and effectiveness between the Mayor's Office and Council?

While the relationship appears strained at times, I believe it has improved since Mayor Rick's election. From my perspective, there may be as much tension among Council members themselves as there is between the Council and the Mayor's Office.

Effective collaboration requires respectful communication, even when disagreements arise. Resolution is possible when all parties approach discussions with mutual respect and a willingness to listen.

If selected, I would make it a daily practice to pray for our city employees, elected officials, and Council members by name.

I also believe there is a disconnect between some citizens and their elected representatives. To improve communication and public engagement, I would encourage each Council member to hold at least two listening town halls within their district every year.

9. Should the I2C (formerly the Hispanic Culture Center) be repurposed for City of Nampa department/personnel needs?

Because the City of Nampa owns the I2C, an important consideration is whether the facility is currently generating value or revenue for the community.

If it is not serving that purpose and additional city workspace is needed, I would support repurposing the facility for city departmental needs.

10. Please explain your stance on inevitable growth, replacing old infrastructure, building new infrastructure and keeping up with demands for Public Safety.

My position on these issues has been addressed throughout my previous responses. In summary, I believe responsible planning, sustainable funding mechanisms, infrastructure investment, and adequate Public Safety staffing are all essential to managing growth while preserving Nampa's quality of life.

11. Do you believe Nampa is facing a spending problem or a resource shortage? What is the most effective way to address the balance between available resources and City spending?

I believe Nampa faces both spending challenges and resource limitations.

To address spending concerns, I would support conducting a comprehensive internal review with department heads to evaluate expenditures, including procurement card usage, travel expenses, vehicle utilization, and other operational costs.

Potential solutions for resource shortages have been outlined in my previous responses, including levy overrides and other funding considerations.

12. Please describe how you would balance immediate safety and functionality needs (such as preventing failures in culverts and waterlines) against long-term planning, while working collaboratively with the City Council under tight fiscal restraints.

Please see my previous responses regarding infrastructure prioritization, funding mechanisms, and collaboration with the City Council. My approach would focus on addressing critical safety concerns first while maintaining a long-term strategy for infrastructure replacement and growth management.