Official On-Line Voters’ Guide

Baker County

Primary Election

May 19, 2020

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Loran Joseph

Baker County Commissioner, Position 1

Occupation: Wind Turbine Technician; Co-Owner of Sweet Wife Baking

Educational Background: University of Oregon – Bachelor's of Science in Psychology 2006; Baker High School – Graduated 1998

Occupational Background: Audio Engineer; Entrepreneur; Woodworker; Counselor; Hotel Manager

Prior Governmental Experience: Baker City Mayor – January 2019 to present; Baker County TLT Committee Member – May 2018 to present; Baker City Parks Board Member – January 2017 to present; Baker City Councilor – July 2016 to December 2018; Lane County TLT Board – Spring 2007

Candidate Statement: I grew up in the Sumpter Valley and after college my wife and I returned to raise our family. We value the people, landscapes, and quality of life that Baker County has to offer. There truly is no other place I would rather be, and that feeling is what inspires me to run for office. I believe that the Board of Commissioners has a need for someone with the energy, enthusiasm, and attention to detail that I have proven to possess. I would like to help Baker County by focusing on local issues, doing the homework and legwork necessary to understand those issues, and taking care of business.

Thank you for reading my statement, please feel free to reach out to me with further questions. I look forward to being your County Commissioner.
Bruce Nichols

Baker County Commissioner, Position 1

**Occupation:** Baker County Commissioner, Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

**Educational Background:** BS Business & Economics, Eastern Oregon State College (now EOU)

**Occupational Background:** Baker County Commissioner, CPA, United States Air Force

**Prior Governmental Experience:** County Commissioner, Governmental, Non-Profit, and Private Business Auditing, Governmental Budgeting, Managing and Consulting

**Candidate Statement:** As a current county commissioner and CPA, I believe I am well suited for managing the business of Baker County. My government and private business experience coupled with fiscally conservative management will serve Baker County well. The commissioner position requires strong leadership and a well-managed team approach striving to reach common goals.

My years of experience working with government agencies and agricultural land owners gives me the insight that agriculture, timber, and tourism are the backbone of Eastern Oregon’s fragile economy. Baker county needs to expand it’s opportunities with small businesses and mid-sized manufacturing businesses. I will continue to encourage state, county and city officials to reduce unnecessary restrictions and costs on businesses in order to help establish a stronger small business economy.

The key to successful business and industry is the availability of a quality workforce. A quality workforce requires sound educational opportunities that lead to career type jobs capable of supporting a growing family. I strongly support continued partnering with regional community colleges, adult and high school education programs that specifically target the needs of our businesses and citizenry of Eastern Oregon.

I will continue to be an advocate for:

- Fiscal responsibility, economic development, use of our natural resources, additional irrigation water storage, and water quality.
- Proper management of our public lands including open access, roads, timber management, mineral utilization, livestock grazing, wildlife and scenic beauty.
- Veterans, law enforcement, health care, and our senior citizens.
- Partnering with federal, state, and local governments to achieve common goals.
- Respect for other’s points of view.

(This information furnished by Bruce Nichols.)
Greg M Baxter

Baker County District Attorney

Nonpartisan

Occupation: Baker County District Attorney

Educational Background: Florida Coastal School of Law, JD 2012; Brigham Young University-Idaho, Bachelor's degree 2008; Baker High School 2003


Prior Governmental Experience: None

Candidate Statement: I ask for your vote for me to continue to serve as the Baker County District Attorney.

I am an experienced prosecutor. I returned to Eastern Oregon after graduating from law school. I worked as a deputy district attorney in Wallowa County and then in Union County for over seven years. The last two years in Union County I served as the Chief Deputy District Attorney supervising the other attorneys in the office. Since December 2019, I have served as the Baker County District Attorney. Throughout my career, I have handled a wide range of cases including domestic violence, sexual abuse, manslaughter, and murder.

My family has deep roots in Baker County. I grew up in Baker City and am a 2003 graduate of Baker High School. I served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brazil from 2004-2006. My wife and I have been married for 13 years and we have four children ages 11, 8, 5, and 3.

I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve as the Baker County District Attorney. I love it here and will work hard to protect and represent the citizens of Baker County. I would appreciate your vote.

(This information furnished by Committee to Elect Greg M. Baxter Baker County District Attorney.)
Measure 1-93 – Pine Eagle Health District

Caption: Local option tax rate for Pine Eagle Health District

Question: Shall District impose 0.85 per $1,000 of assessed value local option rate for general operations for five years beginning 2020-2021?

This measure renews current local option taxes currently in place.

Summary: The main function of the District is to provide healthcare within its boundaries. The District will use the revenue from the local option tax rate for general operations to ensure that a medical provider be available at the Pine Eagle Clinic. Without this additional revenue the Clinic will not be able to ensure a medical provider is available to the residents of the District.

This measure proposes a local option tax rate, not to exceed $0.85 per thousand, beginning fiscal year 2020-2021.

The proposed rate will raise approximately $140,000 in 2020-2021, $143,600 in 2021-2022, $147,100 in 2022-2023, $151,000 in 2023-2024 and $153,500 in 2024-2025, for a total of $735,200.
Measure 1-95 – Vector Control

Caption: Four Year Local Option Tax for Vector Control General Operations

Question: Shall Baker County levy $140,000 annually for four years beginning fiscal year 2020-2021 for vector control services? This measure renews current local option Taxes.

Summary: This is a special levy outside the County’s Tax base for general operations within the vector control district, which will include expenses for contractors and pesticides, as well as other operating expenses, to eradicate public health vectors within the district. The taxes needed for the four years total $560,000, which will be levied in equal amounts of $140,000 in each of the four years beginning 2020-2021 and ending in fiscal year 2023-2024. It is estimated that the proposed tax will result in a rate of $0.1537 per $1,000 assessed valuation based on the 2019-2020 estimate.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the County Assessor at the time of the estimate.

The tax levy is subject to the limits of section 11(b) article 11 of the Oregon Constitution. All revenues to be raised will be used exclusively for general operating purposes.
Measure 1-96 – Weed Control

Caption: Four Year Option Tax for Weed Control

Question: Shall Baker County Levy $100,000 annually for four years beginning in fiscal year 2020-2021 for roadside and noxious weed control? This measure renews current four-year option taxes for General Operations

Summary: This is a special levy outside the County’s tax base for the destruction of roadside and other noxious weeds and to prevent the seeding and spread of such weeds as may be declared to be noxious according to the law. The taxes needed for the four years total $400,000, which is to be levied in annual amounts of $100,000 for each of the four years, beginning 2020-2021, and ending in fiscal year 2023-2024. The approximate tax rate will be $0.0585 per $1,000 assessed valuation based on the 2019-2020 estimate.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based upon the best information available from the County Assessor at the time of the estimate.

This tax levy is subject to the limits of section 11(b) article 11 of the Oregon Constitution. All revenues to be raised will be used exclusively for general operating purposes.
Measure 1-99 — City of Baker City

Caption: Give City Council the authority to sell a 1995 Backhoe

Question: Do citizens of Baker City wish to approve the sale of a 1995 Backhoe for a sum that exceeds $10,000?

Summary: The current City Charter says that the Council shall have no power to sell, abandon, grant or otherwise dispose of any property of the City other than real property, the fair market value of which exceeds the sum of $10,000 without referring the same to a vote of the people at a special or general election.

The Case 580 4X4 Backhoe has been deemed surplus by the City Council and by the Baker City Charter needs to be approved for sale by the citizens of Baker City.
Measure 1-100 – City of Baker City

Caption: City Charter amendment allowing the Council to sell surplus equipment.

Question: Shall the City Charter be amended to allow the City Council to approve the sale of surplus equipment?

Summary: The current City Charter says that the Council shall have no power to sell, abandon, grant or otherwise dispose of any property of the City other than real property, the fair market value of which exceeds the sum of $10,000 without referring the same to a vote of the people at a special or general election.

The ballot measure would amend the City Charter to say “Surplus equipment may be disposed of by a majority vote of the City Council with all proceeds going to the appropriate City fund to be used for future equipment replacement.”

This measure to amend the City Charter, if approved by a majority of persons voting, would take effect immediately.
Measure 1-101 – City of Baker City

Caption: City Charter amendment removing Councilor pay.

Question: Shall the City Charter be amended to make Councilor positions non-compensated?

Summary: The current City Charter says that Councilors will be paid ten dollars ($10) per meeting and no more than $150 per year to any individual.

The ballot measure would amend the City Charter to say “Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their duties as elected officials.”

This measure to amend the City Charter, if approved by a majority of persons voting, would take effect July 1, 2020.