

# PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER VOTER GUIDE 2008

Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund,  
Park County Environmental Council,  
Bear Creek Council, and Montana Women For ...

invited the nine Park County commissioner candidates to respond to six questions that we intended to include in a voter guide. We asked the candidates to limit their answers to 75 words, and said we would include the first 75 words of each answer, unedited, in the guide. Below are the questions and answers from five of the nine candidates. We thank the candidates that took the time to respond.

*The organizations listed above are non-profit organizations that provide education and advocacy to encourage the participation of citizens in our democratic processes, and do not support or oppose candidates or political parties.*

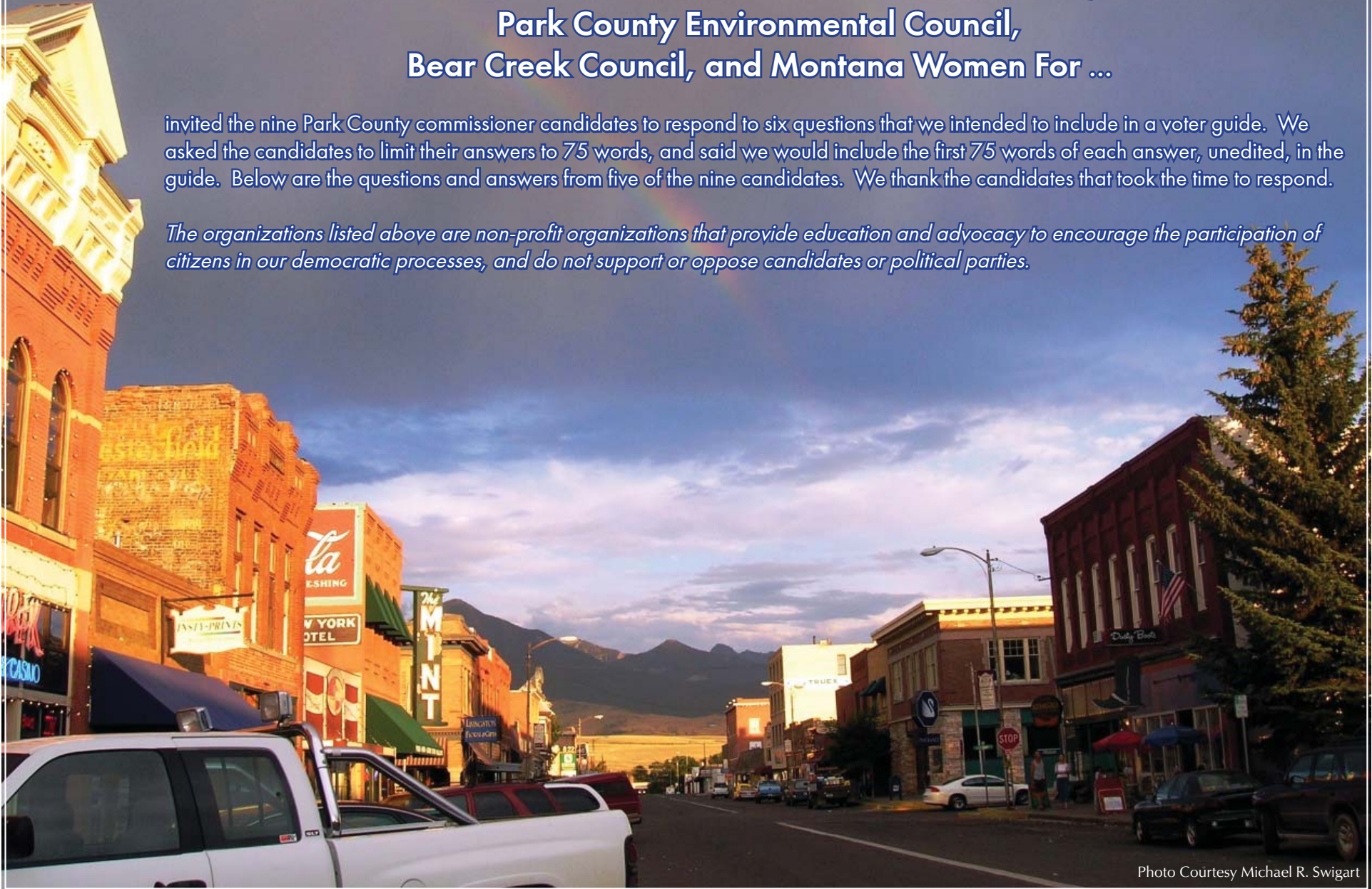


Photo Courtesy Michael R. Swigart

<b>QUESTIONS</b>	1. What is your view of the county growth policy that is on the November ballot, and is there anything in the policy or the process being used to adopt this policy that you would like to see changed?	2. What do you think are the greatest threats to the health of the Yellowstone River and the river corridor, and what do you think needs to be done to address those threats?	3. What role do you think renewable energies, such as wind and solar, have in Park County, and what can the Park County Commission do to address such opportunities?	4. What is your view of Park County's current solid waste system, and what would you propose be done differently with respect to solid waste disposal and recycling?	5. What economic sectors do you think will become increasingly important in Park County over the next ten years and what, if anything, should Park County do to address these components of our communities?	6. What steps will you take to ensure that all views are respected and listened to, that public meetings remain civil and appropriate rules of order are followed, and how will you remain open to recommendations made through thoughtful public processes when pressured by vocal minorities to do otherwise?
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>						
<b>Larry Lahren</b>  P.O. Box 1218 Livingston, MT 59047  Home: 223-3168	Growth Policy document that is on the November ballot does not need any changes. It was created according to state law, democratic procedures and due process. It represents a comprehensive, general, vision that satisfies the scope of a growth policy type document.	Continuous, increasing and cumulative impacts associated with growth and use along the river corridor and in the river. The design of consistent, fair, non-political, development, rehabilitation and use plans are important and necessary.	The viability of solar and wind power still needs to be determined. Park County should stay in the information loop, seek information and data and determine what avenues should be followed to develop alternative energy sources or supplements.	The current solid waste system is inefficient and costly due to the number of collection sites and methods of collecting and sorting waste in Park County. The recommendations in the ZIA study should be followed. However, a current injunction hampers any change in service. Recycling, though important, at the present time, is a subsidized component of the solid waste system.	Continuing economic growth and demographic change will continue to put additional strains on roads, law enforcement, fire safety, solid waste, government administration and other infrastructure needs. The lack of job opportunities for youth results in the migration of youth away from this area, while the population is augmented with retirees, people looking for "a sense of place" and diffusion from Bozeman. Empirical, visionary, planning is necessary for adjusting to 21st century social and economic needs.	I think I answered this question and demonstrated my type of leadership style with my role during the creation of the current Growth Policy. Why else would one vocal minority continually bad-mouth me and try to recall me?

<p><b>Marty Malone</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 152 Pray, MT 59065</p> <p>Home: 333-4745 Work: 223-1302</p>	<p>The Planning Board has the responsibility for developing the Park County Growth Policy. Many people spent countless hours providing public input. The planning board, using this public input, developed a document that represented the views of the public. The Commission should have accepted the growth policy developed by the Planning Board.</p>	<p>Invasive plants are having a great impact on the river's riparian health. A TMDL study needs to be conducted on the river from Springdale to Yellowstone Lake. The Department of Transportation needs to be using new technology for bank stabilization as many landowners currently are using.</p>	<p>The Park County Commission needs to work with various economic development organizations such as RC&amp;D to promote the use of renewable energy for Wind, Water, Solar, and Methane. The County Commission needs to promote the use of renewable energy through appropriate measures.</p>	<p>The current solid waste system needs to be revised. It makes no sense for the city and the county to have separate disposal systems. The Zia study recommended more cooperation between the city and the county. A city-county solid waste district needs to be created with board members from each entity. The commission needs to develop a plan for the future. I am in favor of an incinerator if financially feasible.</p>	<p>Agriculture, tourism, and small business will continue to be important economic sectors very important to the economy of Park County. Park County needs to insure that these businesses remain viable. Agriculture is important to maintain the open space in Park County and maintain a quality environment.</p>	<p>All county boards will be comprised of members representing various interests in Park County. I will work hard to insure that all citizens be allowed to present their views to the commission at public meetings. I will expand the use of electronic media to insure that citizens know when meetings are being held to increase public participation at meetings. All meetings will be conducted with Roberts Rules of Order and all opinions will be heard.</p>
<p><b>John McEvans</b></p> <p>98 Deep Creek Rd., S. Fork Livingston, MT 59047</p> <p>Home: 223-6833</p>	<p>The current growth policy is not the same one originally presented to the planning board. The commissioners altered it. One of the changed passages has to do with how changes to an existing policy can be achieved. The commissioners said in effect that those changes did not have to go to the planning board, but to them directly, which is unconstitutional. The current policy should be voted down and the original version adopted.</p>	<p>Overpopulation. We need to think what we would like this valley to look like 50 years from now and take steps to ensure that controlled growth.</p>	<p>Considering the price of gas these days, I'd say huge. We need to entice private enterprise to invest in our county in the wind solar energy fields. A waste to energy plant is also another viable energy source.</p>	<p>Terrible idea to send our garbage out of this county. Landfills are just another form of pollution. We need to get back to re-cycling and develop a waste to energy plant to deal with our solid waste in a responsible and non-polluting way. We need to have a private enterprise partner in that plant who will have a vested interest in its operation and profitability.</p>	<p>I believe tourism will continue to grow, but I think we need to encourage other businesses that operate year round to relocate to our county. They could be in electronics or the water business to mention two. In this age of over population and pollution, there have to be progressive companies out there that want better for their employees. We need to find them.</p>	<p>I think this commission has been combative and defensive after having many of their illegal practices revealed. Once their paranoid behaviour has been removed, I think fair, open meetings will return. I do not owe anybody favors or need to appease anyone. The taxpayers of this county will guide our actions through majority rule.</p>

<p><b>Daniel Nelson</b></p> <p>46 Chicken Creek Ln. Livingston, MT 59047</p> <p>Home: 222-7649 Work: 220-0446</p>	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.
<p><b>Emily Rahn</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 1016 Livingston, MT 59047</p> <p>Home: 223-5334</p>	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.	Did not respond.
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>						
<p><b>Rick Johnston</b></p> <p>701 N. 12th Livingston, MT 59047</p> <p>Home: 333-2202</p>	The planning board's version is the only one that should be accepted.	I believe one of the greatest threats is that homes are being built too close to the river. Homes need to be set back from the riverbanks.	Renewable energies have great possibilities. Qualified people should study the possibilities and make recommendations based on their findings.	I feel something needs to be done, as the county spends far too much money to ship waste out of the area. A new incinerator and a good recycling program should be implemented.	Park county needs to insure that a combination of agriculture, small business, and tourism is encouraged.	I want to keep all public boards in the communication loop and insure they are kept informed of meetings and discussions pertaining to their areas of expertise. I believe in government by majority rule. I also believe all parties should have opportunity to express their views and that all opinions should be considered before any conclusion is made.

<p><b>Bruce Martin</b> 3 Martin Way Livingston, MT 59047  Home: 222-4816 Work: 222-4141</p>	<p>I believe that the growth policy presented by the Park County Commissioners is illegal by Montana Code in that it has removed the planning board from the review process and left it entirely up to the commissioners. I would like to have the growth policy presented to the people of Park County as it was written by the citizen groups and approved by the Park County Planning board and then voted on.</p>	<p>Over use.</p>	<p>I think that we have an excellent climate to make use of wind and solar power if it can be economically managed and proves to be cost effective. We also need the infrastructure in place to make use of these alternative power sources. The county commissioners can look into that possibility.</p>	<p>I believe that we need to develop an alternative means of disposing of our trash rather than paying to haul it to a landfill and dumping it on someone else. Recycling is a problem because of the population and the distance that it has to be hauled but we may have to cover that expense out of refuse fees.</p>	<p>We need to bring additional industry and jobs to Park County that pay more than minimum wage and would compete with the Gallatin work force level of compensation.</p>	<p>All meetings will be conducted with Roberts Rules of order and by the Montana State Code to insure that everyone has a chance to express his/her opinion and/or ideas.</p>
<p><b>Stacy Sunvison</b>  117 Prairie Dr. Livingston, MT 59047  Home: 222-6787</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>
<p><b>Randy Taylor</b>  1311 E. Gallatin Livingston, MT 59047  Home: 222-7527 Work: 222-4142</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>	<p>Did not respond.</p>