

## Questions for Missoula City Council Candidates

Ward 3, Bob Jaffe

1. Are you a Democrat?

In the context of D and R, I am definitely D. On national issues I find the party has moved a little too far to the right for me. If there were a viable progressive alternative I would support it. On local issues I find myself pretty closely aligned with the Democratic Party principals.

2. Are you seeking Missoula County Democrats' endorsement, why? Will you be seeking any other political party endorsement this election?

Yes, I am seeking the Missoula County Democrats' endorsement. I am not seeking any other political party endorsements. Even though this is a non-partisan election, a party endorsement is an indicator of whether the candidate is more progressive or conservative. Many issues that come before the council and are important to the community are affected by that left or right leaning view of the world. The party endorsement helps the voting public, when they are just taking a quick glance, understand which candidate is more aligned with their own political outlook.

3. What have you done in the past to support or work for Democratic candidates, local, state, or national?

I have worked to support a number of Democratic campaigns over the years with money, volunteer efforts, and the commercial services of my software company in data management.

4. How much or little do you agree with the following statement? Stewardship—acting now to maximize the well-being of future generations—is the primary responsibility of government and the lens through which policy making in areas as diverse as energy, transportation, education, health care, human rights and taxation should be focused.

I agree very much with the statement. Often times on council we are called upon to make decisions that have very painful short term consequences but serve the long term greater good. I'll refer back to this statement as a reminder for why we are making those difficult choices.

5. The Central Committee recently ratified the enclosed document, written by Missoula Democrats, that states our shared values. How will your work in local government reflect those values?

The issues raised in the policy statement don't really have much to do with the work of City Council. But the general theme of conservation and looking towards the future are things I believe in.

6. With respect to the issues caucus document, which positions (if any) on local, national or international issues do you disagree with? Why?

I didn't see anything I disagree with.

7. What should government's role be in managing growth?

The city council has the ability and the responsibility to make policy that encourages smart growth principles. I believe that the primary driver of growth will always be market forces. But through regulation those market forces can be influenced and mitigated where necessary.

8. What should local government do to facilitate Missoulians consuming less energy?

The main thing we can do is enact growth and transportation policy that encourages and provides the means for people to use less energy. We can also support higher standards in energy efficiency in our building codes. We can also make the right choices in the areas we do have direct control over such as municipal buildings and projects.

9. Discuss how you would balance expanding road capacity and adding transit or bike-ped options when making transportation policy.

I am a big supporter of bike-ped-transit options. I am also a believer in the induced demand concept. I have little interest in making roads bigger so we can have more lanes of traffic. There is plenty of evidence that you cannot build your way out of traffic. This goes back to the earlier policy statement about stewardship. Those added lanes may make the road nicer to drive on today but it will make the community less livable in the long term. Bigger roads are also incredibly expensive and bring marginal increases in efficiency. People just have to get used to traffic if they want to drive all the time. There is no way around it. Expecting the nation to expend its treasure so folks can save a few seconds of commute time is an insanity that we need to put behind us.