



**Community Impact Team**

# **VOTER GUIDE**

**General Election November 4, 2025**

Members of the Community Impact Team collected the following information from Candidate Questionnaire responses and two publicly available summaries of the City of Bozeman Water Adequacy/Affordable Housing ballot initiative. Please call Jim Goveia at 579-6805 if you have any questions.

## Candidate Questionnaire Responses

### City of Bozeman, City Commissioner, 2 Open Seats

**Emma Bode**  
**Trevor Nameniuk**  
**Alison Sweeney**  
**Emily Talago**

<b>THE ISSUES</b>	<b>Eli Anselmi</b>	<b>Roger Blank</b>	
<b>1) The city should not adopt cultural flags that may require the city to expend taxpayer funds for legal fees and/or lose federal funds.</b>	Supports - City should support unity and treat everyone equally.	Supports - City policy should be to treat all people equally without preference or prejudice. Official displays of civic engagement should represent unifying principles which unites us; not divisive displays that favor politically preferred groups.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>2) Budget deficits should be addressed by implementing budgetary reductions rather than tax increases.</b>	Supports - Tax increases should be a last resort. Reduce staffing and accountability for all.	Supports - Fiscal responsibility and the stewardship of our tax dollars is primary.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>3) City departments should support and cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).</b>	Supports	Supports	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>4) Only legal citizens should be allowed to vote in local, state and federal elections.</b>	Supports	Supports	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>5) It is inappropriate for the city to use taxpayer funds to provide legal representation for tenants against landlords.</b>	Supports	Supports - I oppose the creation of any right to counsel plan for those facing eviction.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>6) Public assistance should not be available to all persons regardless of immigration status.</b>	Supports	Supports - Illegal aliens should not receive any public assistance benefits. Bestowing such benefits only serves to incentivize more illegal immigration.	Did not answer questionnaire.

<b>7) Current election laws are adequate to safeguard accurate and secure voting in municipal and state elections.</b>	Current laws are not adequate for secure elections.	Opposes - We can and should be taking additional measures to safeguard the integrity of all our elections. I've previously been a volunteer election integrity attorney, there's a lot more to be done to ensure the public can have confidence in our election results.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>8) House Bill 536 should be made law to require Montana businesses to verify employees have legal immigration status or forfeit their business license.</b>	Supports	Supports	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>9) Human trafficking (sexual exploitation and forced labor) in Montana is an increasing problem that should be addressed by increased state and local efforts.</b>	Supports	Supports - Human trafficking and sexual and labor exploitation is a significant element of illegal immigration. Getting a handle on illegal alien immigration will go a long way to addressing this issue.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>10) Women and girls should be protected by not allowing biological men and boys in women and girls spaces or sports.</b>	Supports - 100% in support of this.	Supports - I support Riley Gaines and her advocacy to keep women's sports for biological women only and support ensuring girls and women's separate spaces are for biological women only.	Did not answer questionnaire.

## **Summary of Emma Bode's Voting Record**

### **Appointed to Commission, June 4, 2024.**

7/9/24 - Voted to approve The Guthrie (despite the neighborhood appeal to reverse the Director of Community Development's administrative decision)

8/6/24 - Voted to approve the Baxter 80 annexation and zoning request of R-4 and R-5 on 81.619 acres

10/1/24 - Voted to approve using up to \$2.056 million of TIF for the Wallace Works project that would designate 7 units of the project as "affordable housing" (out of a total of one co-housing cluster (4 apartments with shared kitchen), 21 studio apartments, 21 1-bedroom apartments, and 3 2-bedroom apartments for rent and 11 row homes and 5 live/work units for sale)

10/8/24 - Voted against Ordinance 2172 (the ordinance that prohibited urban camping on public property and public right-of-way and established a permit system for limited camping with a sunset on urban camping by November 2025)

11/26/24 - Voted to neutralize gender language in city policies and municipal code

12/10/24 - Voted for up to \$3.67 million of TIF funds for the Bozeman Yards project, which will have 37 market-rate condos with 2 workforce housing condos for sale

2/11/25 - Voted to adopt the updated Affordable Housing Ordinance

4/8/25 - Voted to approve the Fowler Lane annexation and R-4 zoning for 10 acres

4/15/25 - Voted to approve The Guthrie's second application

7/8/25 - Voted to approve the 5211 Baxter Lane annexation and zoning of R-3 and R-5 on 163.98 acres, saying that approving R-1 now would end up with R-1 all the way between Bozeman and Belgrade, and that's not the vision she has for the community

7/15/25 - Voted to approve using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from HUD to pay for tenant right to counsel

7/15/25 - Advocated for and voted to approve adopting the pride flag as an official city flag.

## Candidate Questionnaire Responses

### City of Bozeman, Mayor, 1 Open Seat

THE ISSUES	Brendan O'Connor	Douglas Fischer	John Meyer
<b>1) The city should not adopt cultural flags that may require the city to expend taxpayer funds for legal fees and/or lose federal funds.</b>	Supports - I believe there are other ways the city can show their support for certain groups.	Supports - In general, a city symbol should represent, as broadly as possible, the aspirations of our residents.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>2) Budget deficits should be addressed by implementing budgetary reductions rather than tax increases.</b>	Supports - It depends on if there is room to make cuts, but generally I agree that cuts should come before tax increases.	Opposes - Budget deficits are complex. My first approach will be reductions, but sometimes both are needed.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>3) City departments should support and cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).</b>	Decline to Respond - If ICE is enforcing immigration law fairly and with due process, the city should cooperate. However, this has not been the case recently, and cities should avoid being implicated in potential violations of due process.	Decline to Respond - I expect our employees and departments to follow the law.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>4) Only legal citizens should be allowed to vote in local, state and federal elections.</b>	Supports - Absolutely, just as I cannot legally vote in a different city's local election.	Supports - Our elections must be secure and fair. Non-citizen voting is vanishingly rare across the United States. Repeated audits of elections across the U.S. – including by Republican secretaries of state – confirm this. The Montana Secretary of State has repeatedly said Gallatin Co. Elections are secure.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>5) It is inappropriate for the city to use taxpayer funds to provide legal representation for tenants against landlords.</b>	Opposes - I am strongly in favor of taxpayer funded representation for tenants, as long as there is a clear review process before allocating funds.	Opposes - Going to court for an eviction is expensive for all parties. I support a limited eviction prevention program that helps resolve landlord/tenant conflicts and reduces the number of	Did not answer questionnaire.

		evictions in Bozeman.	
<b>6) Public assistance should not be available to all persons regardless of immigration status.</b>	Supports - Only legal citizens, including immigrants who have entered legally, should receive public assistance.	Opposes - Public assistance should prioritize citizens while ensuring basic dignity and safety for all.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>7) Current election laws are adequate to safeguard accurate and secure voting in municipal and state elections.</b>	Supports	Supports - Montana already has strong laws in place that require proof of citizenship to register. Our local officials work diligently to carry out those laws and ensure our elections are fair and secure. Montanans can be confident in our elections.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>8) House Bill 536 should be made law to require Montana businesses to verify employees have legal immigration status or forfeit their business license.</b>	Supports - Yes. Businesses should not be able to operate with employees who lack legal work authorization. If a business knowingly hires undocumented workers, it should not keep its license.	Declined to Respond - This is not a city issue. As Mayor, I want local government laser-focused on issues affecting our town: Affordability, safety and building community.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>9) Human trafficking (sexual exploitation and forced labor) in Montana is an increasing problem that should be addressed by increased state and local efforts.</b>	Supports - I am not aware of the current statistics on sexual exploitation or forced labor but there should be adequate efforts made to combat these horrific crimes when they occur.	Supports - Human trafficking is a growing concern, and Bozeman law enforcement already prioritizes it. That said, our resources are stretched and we must ensure officers have the support to address this as well as other community safety concerns.	Did not answer questionnaire.
<b>10) Women and girls should be protected by not allowing biological men and boys in women and girls spaces or sports.</b>	Supports - Yes, the biological differences between a man's and a woman's body are real and significant. The same logic applies to weight classes in combat sports.	Opposes - As mayor, my responsibility is to ensure every resident feels respected and safe in public life. Transgender women are women. I believe in dignity, fairness, and respect for all Bozeman residents, and I trust our community to live those values.	Did not answer questionnaire.

## City of Belgrade, City Council Wards 1, 2 & 3, and Mayor, 1 Open Seat each

**Renae Mattimoe** (Ward 1)  
**Erin Bell** (Ward 2)  
**Kristine Menicucci** (Ward 2)  
**Jason Guffey** (Ward 3)  
**Michael Meis** (Mayor)

### THE ISSUES

ALL QUESTIONS 1-10	Did not answer questionnaire.
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## City of Bozeman, Municipal Judge, 1 Open Seat

**THE ISSUES** **J. Colleen Herrington**

ALL QUESTIONS 1-10	Did not answer questionnaire.
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## City of Manhattan, City Council, 2 Open Seats

**Joshua Sinnema**  
**Steffan Simpkins**

### THE ISSUES

ALL QUESTIONS 1-10	Did not answer questionnaire.
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## City of Three Forks, City Council, 3 Open Seats and Mayor, 1 Open Seat

Gene Townsend (Council)  
Reagan Hooton (Council)  
Robert Buchholz Council)  
Warren Garret Buchanan (Council)  
Randy Johnston (Mayor)

### THE ISSUES

ALL QUESTIONS 1-10	Did not answer questionnaire.
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## City of West Yellowstone, City Council, 3 Open Seats

Brian Benike  
Brock Wilson  
Jeff McBirnie  
Lisa Griffith

### THE ISSUES

ALL QUESTIONS 1-10	Did not answer questionnaire.
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## City of Bozeman, Water Adequacy for Residential Development Initiative

Supporting Information can be found here:

<https://www.wardbzn.com/>

Opposing Information can be found here:

<https://engage.bozeman.net/>