

About me

For those of you who do not know me, I would like to give you a little bit of my background. I grew up in the western Black Hills, particularly in St. Onge, South Dakota, where my grandparents were ranchers and dairy farmers. I moved to Newcastle with my parents as a young lady and attended Junior High and High School in Newcastle.

I met my husband, Richard at school and we have been married 46 years. We continue to be blessed by our three daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. We are a Christian family with strong conservative values. I am proud to say most of our family lives in the county and have continued to call Weston County home for seven generations.

I have been a Realtor in our county for almost 17 years and owned my own business for 13 of those years. Besides realty, my work background includes 12 years in financial institutions working in all facets of banking including customer service, internal auditing, and oil and gas lending. While working at Kennecott, Jacobs Ranch Mine (8 years), I worked in human resources (certified by SHRM, Society for Human Resources Management) and worked with Engineering and Maintenance as an assistant. While taking a break from real estate, I was fortunate to be employed by our County Assessor for two years. During that time, I learned the basics of our county's tax system and how the structure functions to keep our tax base balanced and working for our citizens. I also learned the importance of the county entities, boards, and offices working together to keep county business running effectively.

Accountability and Transparency

Now more than ever, the people of Weston County have concerns about their representation. Serious issues have arisen regarding our commissioners' ability to communicate with the citizens and the decisions made while representing the county. Ultimately, we must find the root cause of this discord so that we can work together toward a proper solution. Ralph Nader once said, "*Secrecy destroys accountability.*" Leaders must be accountable for decisions and in turn, take responsibility for their actions.

Along with that, the validity of some procedures has been questioned and serious legal actions are ongoing or have taken place. We must find a way to come together with reason and respect so we can continue a positive path going forward.

Open Communication

If I earn your vote, as your County, I will look for ways to better the communication between the County Commissioners and the citizens in hopes of finding common ground in dealing with the decision-making and future challenges we face as a rural county. Our citizens have the right and should have the opportunity to participate in our government's actions. All decision-making processes should be open to the public. Together, we can rebuild trust in our local government.

"By mutual respect, understanding, and with goodwill, we can find acceptable solutions to any problems which exist or may arise between us."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Understanding the Commissioner's Role

A big part of understanding how our county's many facets of government function come from understanding the County Commissioners' role. Commissioners take the position of the overall management of county functions while making sure tax dollars are used in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. It is truly a complex and difficult job. I feel that the year-round cycle of budget decision-making should be transparent to all. I also feel there should be more oversight of each individual budget that is included in the allocation of funds. We are all feeling the pinch as we purchase gas, groceries, and other necessities for our families. Examining and improving the budget system should be treated like we are balancing a personal checkbook.

If elected, I will do my best to listen to and respect the views and opinions of the people who live in our county and use the ideas put forth to the best of my ability. I will make every effort to spend tax dollars wisely looking out for our citizens' best interests.

"That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part."-Thomas Jefferson.

As Your Commissioner, I would strive to

- Recognize the need for and develop better communication between the County Commissioners, citizens, board members, and other entities who work within the county government and benefit from county taxes.
- Ensure transparency and accountability are always a vital part of the County Commissioners' and board members' service to our county and its citizens.
- Utilize new tools and technology for meetings making budget decisions and information clear and accessible.
- Determine new ways to address fiduciary responsibility in funding and budget decisions using regularly scheduled reviews in addition to more oversight of the budget process for all entities.

Commitment, Character, Community -

I am running for commissioner because I love our county and the people who live here. I do not consider myself a politician. Like you, this is my home. Together we live our lives and raise our families in this great county. We hope to leave our children and grandchildren the wonderful legacy that is Wyoming. I am asking for your vote in the August primary and the general election in November. I am humbled by and grateful for your support.