

As an Independent candidate, I'm not on your ballot until the November General Election!

My independence from the 'same ole, same ole' frees me up to really represent the interests of Blaine County citizens first and foremost. And I am very concerned that so many Blaine residents have been thrown out of work and shut down their businesses with no clear future in sight for our Valley. My goal is for us to survive and thrive as a safe, economically viable, and vibrant community in the post-pandemic future.

I call on the County Commissioners to reduce their \$112,764 salary plus benefits by at least 30% at this time.

The County's cash reserves will be drained by the economic hit this pandemic will have on our recreational Valley economy and now is the time to cut plush County expenses so that we can provide the vital County services through many years of recovery.

— Kiki Tidwell

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Blaine County Commissioner Candidate

- On March 10, I spoke up at the BC Commissioners meeting alarmed that we had direct flights landing daily from the virus hot spots of Seattle & SFO and urged the Commissioners to screen/test everyone coming into our Valley.
- On March 11, in the Public Health Preparedness meeting, I asked the S Central Health District about the availability of testing as it seemed that S. Korea with its extensive testing was doing a much better job of controlling the spread.
- Blaine County's first Covid-19 case was diagnosed March 14.
- In the March 17 Commissioners meeting, I asked the County to help Blaine citizens to file their unemployment claims; provide extra phone support from County staff for citizens at the bare minimum. I also asked at this meeting for the Commissioners to pursue extensive testing & use our geographic isolation and small population as strengths to test everyone here.
- The County ordered a Shelter in Place March 19.
- On April 7, I asked the County to start modeling the potential effects of a range of various virus scenarios on County revenues and expenses. I asked the County Commissioners to leverage County staff and resources to help small businesses and sole proprietors to apply for the SBA PPP loans and EIDL loans. I noted to them that one third of Blaine citizens make less than \$50,000 per year, could not afford an unexpected \$300 expense, yet had been out of work for a month with no summer season in sight.
- On April 14, I asked the Mayor of Sun Valley and the Commissioners to ask construction and landscaping workers who were going back to work for voluntary testing and also for contacts in advance so that if a worker should get sick, the contacts could quickly be tested. Any virus flare-up could be tamped down immediately. My fear is a new wave of infection that grows unchecked again and we have to shut down again.
- I continue to advocate that anyone coming back into our Valley should also be tested. There are \$10 15 minute blood tests with a finger prick for antibodies, and active virus quick test swabs. Yes there are lots of unknowns about the antibodies immunity and testing, but this is the least we can do, rather than just open up our community to the virus again without a plan to mitigate.

Rather than focusing on what may divide us, let us all pull together to make this Valley safe from the virus and get people back to work.

