

# Hidden Springs 2023 Town Council Candidate Statements

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**Travis Knutson**

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Hi, my name is Travis Knutson. I'm running for Town Council to help create positive change to the neighborhood. I have lived in Hidden Springs since 2010 and am married to Allison Knutson and we have two children, Kolton (9) and Kaelin (11). I've work in the construction industry for over 20 years. I am responsible for managing numerous multi-million-dollar projects. My experience in navigating tough contracts, budgets, and difficult conversations suits me to help the Town Council succeed. I believe in the use of common sense and "facts, not feelings" approach.

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**Ryan Luke – 2022 Town Council Member**

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**Biography:** I was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho and have lived in five states and a foreign country before returning home to Idaho in 2017. I was raised in both Eastern Idaho and Eastern Utah and have a degree in Linguistics and later earned an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management. Since 2012, I have worked in the automotive industry and currently work for Nissan North America. I also worked for the National Security Agency and the Larry H. Miller Group. I have been married for more than 14 years to Christi and they have two sons Dylan and Ethan who are both eight. I love the outdoors and spend time riding trails, skiing at Bogus and exploring the mountains.

**Relevant Experience:** As a member of the current town council, I have been involved in a number of important decisions facing Hidden Springs and the Hidden Springs Sewer Company. I have held managerial positions within National and International companies as well as served as a volunteer leader on a school board, and my church. I have experience in politics having volunteered in strategy planning for local Ada County candidates. Experienced in Geo-Political Economics, I have worked with companies to create equitable solutions for problems and found ways to make sure all sides felt heard and had a voice. I work from a home office and have the flexibility to meet, attend and spend the necessary time required for the Town Council.

**Length of Residency/Community Service:** We have lived in Hidden Springs since June of 2017 and have enjoyed getting involved and volunteering for the Fourth of July Parade, bike-park, the Community Farm, and Schicks Ostolasa Farmstead. I helped with recent restoration efforts at the historic farmstead, replacing the roof on the horse barn. And lend a helping hand to new and old neighbors moving in and out of the neighborhood.

**Goals:** My goals for the duration of my service are as follow: 1- Be a strong voice of reason on controversial issues. Having worked with Hidden Springs Sewer Company and the issues that have accompanied it, I understand the need for diplomacy. 2- Be available and communicate with the community more effectively. This means instead of just waiting for someone to approach the council or guess what the community would like, I proactively talk to members to learn what the community wants.

**Plans/Projects:**

It has been and continues to be my primary focus, to create and facilitate frequent town halls, forums and opportunity for community conversations. As a part of this, there needs to be an incentive to: open emails, give feedback, get involved and take more ownership. By more frequently holding forums, speaking engagements and overall transparency from a town council perspective, this creates a sense of common-

place need. The community will feel that the communication is normal and is a part of the day-to-day community experience and adopt it as a resident of Hidden Springs.

**Additional Info:** During my time living in Hidden Springs, I have seen a shift take place. There has been a massive turnover and it feels as if the “small town” sense of community has weakened. What makes Hidden Springs so unique and special is our connection to each other and community we call home. This needs to be priority #1. While you cannot legislate behavior, we can absolutely promote and encourage it.

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**Dixie Milliken**

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My family and I have been fortunate to have lived in Hidden Springs since March, 2007. Ed and I both grew up in Idaho, graduated from local high schools and have lived in several places in the Treasure Valley. We decided on Hidden Springs because it is such a special place for raising kids. I love the small-town feel, the access to outdoor activities, community events, and amazing people we get to call neighbors and friends. We have enjoyed the benefits of living here for 15 years and I am grateful for the people and experiences that have come along with being here. With that, I would like the opportunity to serve this great community as a member of the Town Council.

In my professional career, I have held several individual contributor and leadership positions with hp, Intel, and currently Micron. I have experience in program and project management, human resources, and most recently after graduating from the University of Idaho College of Law, joined Micron’s legal team working on compliance, ethics and data privacy matters. I am also currently serving the State of Idaho as commissioner at-large for the Idaho Commission on Aging. I can understand the complexities and nuances within an organization that can lead to continuous process improvement and a focus on fiscal responsibility. I can also appreciate the fragile and powerful dynamics of human connections, and the greater good we enjoy because of our shared desire to keep our community safe and strong.

My goals for this role are:

- Support ongoing community events
- Analyze and evaluate new opportunities as they come up for discussion
- Maintain our open spaces and access
- Develop a deeper understanding and connection with this amazing community
- Embrace all ideas as we plan for the future

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**Nicolle Sansotta**

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My name is Nicolle Sansotta and I have been a resident of the Hidden Springs community since 2015. I am married to David Sansotta and we have two sons, Ben and Ethan. I am looking to join the town association as I wish to take a more active role in this amazing community in which we all live. I am currently the Vice President of Product Management for a vacation rental company and I look forward to the opportunity to leverage my experience in bettering our community.

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**Brad Shafer – 2022 Town Council Vice President**

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My name is Brad Shafer; we moved to Hidden Springs in December of 2020. My Wife, Brenda, is originally from Boise and graduated from Borah HS. Her parents moved to Boise in 1985 and have lived here since. The driver for our move was to ensure our children had the opportunity to spend significant time with their Grandparents. We originally chose Hidden Springs because we love the smaller-town atmosphere, culture

and safety. I was raised in a similarly-sized town, have fond memories and appreciate its positive influence on me. We have had a fantastic experience with our immediate neighbors, other residents, town events, Smart Start, The Merc, the Library and Hidden Springs Elementary.

I attended the University of Nebraska for undergraduate and graduate school (both in Education) and also hold a law degree from Creighton University. I worked in Higher Ed. Fundraising for nearly 25 years and now consult in university fundraising space.

I've served for the last year as the VP of the HSTC, have enjoyed getting to know the other members, many residents. I've learned a lot about our policies, our issues and procedures. This experience has been valuable and included a learning curve.

I've lived in several states and have witnessed/lived the pros and cons of strong/weak town boards and served as a member at large on our neighborhood council in North Carolina. I've also served on and led several volunteer and non-profit boards and committees, continuing some of those roles today, one of which is 2 years running.

Goals:

- Spearhead pursuance of local/state/federal grants for which HS is eligible.
- Continue operational activities toward securing the consultant-suggested reserve amount.
- Ensure new website is as informative and interactive as possible.
- Continue to seek and receive resident input, in both formal and informal settings and make decisions that are in the best overall interest of Hidden Springs.
- Drive increased engagement from HS residents in town events
- Be a catalyst for creating reasonable policies that result in positive outcomes.
- Ensure growth is managed in an intelligent manner that acknowledges multiple views/interests
- Endeavor to keep HS safe, friendly, tight-knit and forward-thinking.

I appreciate your consideration of my interest to continue serving on the town council.

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**Garry Stanislaw – 2022 Town Council Secretary**

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I would like to express my interest and desire to continue as part of the Hidden Springs Town Council for the year 2023. This would afford me an opportunity to continue giving back to the community I love in the most meaningful way.

### **Personal background**

I have lived in four States: born in New Jersey, moved to Rhode Island at the age of 13, then out to California when I was 16, which is where my 35-year career in Transportation/Safety occurred, and finally to Idaho for retirement in 2018 at the age of 55. I am married to my Junior High School sweetheart: we have two adult children and three grandchildren. My son and daughter-in-law and their two children live here in Hidden Springs.

### **Professional Background**

I worked for 35 years at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in a variety of positions, working my way up from part-time bus driver to executive management (the agency's Safety Manager at retirement). During my career I drove buses and light rail trains, served as a Transportation Supervisor in the Operation Control Center for Light Rail, became a Rail Technical Trainer, and was then promoted to supervisor of Technical Training, where I built the training department from the ground floor, after which I moved up to Transportation Superintendent for the light rail division. For the final 3 years of my career, I served as the Safety Manager for bus, rail, highway and Bay Area Rapid Transit construction projects, civil aviation, and facilities. I served on many Committees and Boards, chairing several high-level functions. I managed a multi-million-dollar budget for 13 years.

## Community Involvement

I'm currently a member of the Hidden Springs Town Council, serving as Recording Secretary. I was a core member of the Dry Creek Fire and Emergency Medical Response Committee, a grass-roots group of concerned citizens who attended North Ada County Fire and Rescue (NACFR) Board meetings, applying pressure, and eventually working with a consulting firm hired survey and evaluate how NACFR's annual budget was allocated, ultimately leading to our community's fire station being staffed full time. I routinely volunteer for community events, such as Cruisin' Hidden Springs, the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration (providing water and electricity at no cost to residents for the water blow-ups to ensure the neighborhood children have a great time), and music events. I have also volunteered for Dry Creek Historic Society events

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### **Stephanie Wright – 2022 Town Council Treasurer**

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We have lived in Hidden Springs since November 2017. My husband and I have been married for 17 years with 3 children, Henry (9), Samuel (5), and Madeline (3). We've always enjoyed taking very active and productive roles in our community. I have chaired our community turkey trot each year, I've assisted with community fitness events and try to give back by filling the gaps when and where needed.

I was appointed to the Town Council April 2022 to replace a Town Council member who resigned for personal reasons. I have spent the last 6 months reviewing the financials, over-seeing the transfer of the Associations book keeping from Quick Books to Caliber (HOA Management Software) for improved functionality and reporting features for the Association.

I have enjoyed my time on the Council and look forward to continuing in my role as treasurer, guiding the community given my extensive finance management, accounting, auditing, and business leadership background. My business experience includes, Lead Expense Accountant for AOL-Time Warner in Virginia, Controller and Human Resource Director for The Ranch at Rock Creek and Accountant for Tompkins & Peters in Montana, Senior Accountant for Alps Corporation and Lynn Weir CPAs.

As the treasurer, my goals are focused on making sure our financial balances are secure, operating within budget and protecting the assets of the community. As Treasurer I focus on operating within budget and protecting the assets of the community. As the community ages, funds need to be spent sensibly, with adequate reserves set aside, to maintain the community's many amenities we enjoy, from the trails and open spaces to the pools, Clubhouse, Community Barn and necessities like the Waste Water Treatment Facility.

It is important to me to be a part of a leadership team who is looking out for the community as a whole, considers and makes decisions based on the guiding principles of HSTA and the CC&R's in order to maintain the quality of life we experience in this wonderful community and protect the value of our greatest investments.

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