Recommendations for Billings City Council

(Are AOC and the Squad coming to the Council? Much new information on several candidates in this revision)

Please forward to friends in Billings

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Find Map of Billings City Wards here.

All documents also available at bigskyworldview.org/resources/library

November 5th, we will make transformational decisions that relate to Montana's largest city. Will we elect more Democratic Socialists and help turn Montana Blue? Will we elect candidates eerily like an AOC and the Squad to our council?

What we are asking YOU to do:

We have endeavored to inform you well – thoroughness, not brevity has been our goal. **Will you be a good citizen** and pass these recommendations on to influencers and those who can vote in Billings? What happens in Billings, doesn't stay in Billings.

No Time for Apathy:

In every Ward, there are clear distinctions between the candidates. Those we oppose in this race appear to be cut from the same cloth as the **Democrats running for President**. Four of the five candidates we oppose are extreme Progressives. This is not to suggest the candidates we are endorsing are perfect.

The Structure of this report:

We have attempted to **gear** this report to the **informed voter**. In reality, the issues are complex and we want to offer you solid information. You will see us refer to data associating some candidates and the proposed Non Discrimination Ordinance because the ordinance and their prime interests are related. However, you may choose to examine as much or as little as you like. Our actual Ward recommendations are last. The outline of our report is as follows:

- Why City and Local Races Matter? P. 1
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- Why Progressives Sound like Moderates? P. 2
- A Word about the LGBT+ Issues. P. 3
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Why City Races Matter

City Councils are our most formative and important governmental bodies. They tend to be breeding grounds for Progressive ideas and agendas. This is where the sexual revolution and all of its step-children have been reared. Marxism (so-called Socialism), Radical Feminism, LGBT+ activism, environmentalism, and the entitlement mentalities have generally thrived at the City Council level. If you think that sounds extreme, spend a few hours digesting this link. Billings has been targeted to lead Montana BLUE.

Why is the Big Sky Worldview Forum Involved?

Because these groups generally oppose the Christian worldview, we feel it important to recommend candidates who lean conservative. We consult with others we trust, but we are responsible for our suggestions. This election is - in theory - non-partisan, but only the uninformed believe that to be true in practice.

Currently, we have one DSA member and another who is at the least a sympathizer on the Billings City Council. The <u>Democratic Socialists of America</u> (DSA) claim to be Socialists but they are actually a Marxist group inspired by <u>Antonio Gramsci</u>. Google <u>Justice Democrats</u>, you will see that this group is everywhere and growing in <u>Montana</u>.

In the upcoming City General election, we have two DSA members and two sympathizers running. We will identify them below.

Why do most Progressives present themselves as moderates?

Because they can't get elected promoting Progressive values. We encourage you to be skeptical of what is said on door hangers. You have to listen for "buzz words" like a community that embraces diversity, unity and acceptance. All this sounds good, but generally, this is code for support for **protected** status for some.

For your convenience, we are putting our recommended candidates first in each ward. Your ballot will guide you to the Ward you are in and the **LINK to the Ward**

map is at the top of this page. Our comments are limited to what we could discover. Our color codes are like a STOP LIGHT.

A Word about the LGBT+ Issue

We are ever challenged to a balance of grace and truth. We want to search our hearts and treat the roughly 3% of people with same-sex attractions and 1/3 of 1% who struggle with gender dysphoria with intentional grace remembering that they are made in the image of God. We have no issue with them having all the rights and access we have to society's offerings. Unfortunately, there is a small, vocal, often militant fraction who have - for decades - stated that they will use this issue to change the moral fiber of America. Their goal is **not equal rights, but "protected class" rights** like race or religion. Here we must wisely stand for truth and resist this faction's boldly-stated agenda.

Why the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is an Issue.

A couple of our candidates have been targeted as being "associated with Hate Groups." As you may know, the SPLC has designated the Montana Family Foundation, Focus on the Family, Family Research Council, Alliance Defending Freedom, and hundreds of other groups as hate groups because of their stance on same-sex marriage and push back on some of the LGBT+ agenda. The truth is that SPLC is a Marxist front group. Their co-founder was a Marxist. SPLC has itself been labeled as the real hate group. They are in bed with extremists. And they were aided by the Obama Justice Department. Only the uninformed or Progressives who refuse to hear truth give this wealthy group backed by George Soros the time of day.

Future Growth in Billings: What is the truth about Millennials, LGBT+ Percentages, and Economics?

If you can process it, **this is the heart and soul** of this election. Progressive power is now centered on abortion on demand, LGBT+ rights, and this group's alleged impact on economics.

"<u>Make the lie big</u>, keep it simple, keep saying it and eventually they will believe it" (the Third Reich's propaganda leader, Dr. Joseph Goebbels.) Unfortunately, we live in the Post-Truth world. Truth relates only to our emotion-based desires.

Here, we want to examine statements made specifically by two people. First, candidate for Ward 1, Kendra Shaw (see candidates below) and current City Councilman Brent Cromley Esq. in <a href="https://example.nis.org/nis.or

Mr. Cromley and Mrs. Shaw's assertions are much the same as we will elaborate in detail shortly. It's safe to assume that both referenced the same studies – conducted by Harris Polls for GLAAD (Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). The question is, can their assertions be substantiated? These groups are notorious for conducting poorly conceived polls.

In this GLAAD <u>Accelerated Acceptance</u> poll, 2,037 people responded in two days in an online survey - 1,708 respondents listed themselves as heterosexual. For an important nationwide poll, this is a very small sampling. We don't know what percentage responded. Were only 2,037 surveyed or is this all that responded? Do we know if some did not wish to respond and perhaps those who did are not a true sampling of the population? We were concerned with how little information was given about how the poll was conducted.

Later, we will detail how Shaw and Cromley use information like this to make the case that "adults 20 to 40 years old are now more willing to say that they identify in some way as LGBT+." And, that Millennials will avoid coming to Billings causing an economic impact. These assertions are quite problematic as we will demonstrate.

Some of the assertions in this survey are breathtaking. For example, they say that "12% of Millennials identify as transgender or gender non-conforming – twice the number for the older Gen. X group." If we assumed that there were 4-500 Millennials in the above survey, this is a ridiculously low number to represent good analysis in a nationwide survey. The percentages they suggest are extremely questionable.

Additionally, there is an associated issue that Kendra and Brent immediately collide with. Undoubtedly, they embrace the claim that LGBTQ+ people are "born that way" – their gender is immutable. This would be part of their logic for elevating the LGBT+ community to a protected class. This is only justified if – like race – it is who they actually are.

If you're up for a little study, you will see that the social science data refuting the Gay Gene idea is overwhelming. Read these links and you will see. The American Psychological Society asserts on page two "There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay, or lesbian orientation. A study completed in August by the American Association for the Advancement of Science shows the same results. "The biological factors that contribute to sexual preference are largely unknown." Notably, this study involved 477,522 participants - 234 times the base GLADD used in its study. While the target information is different in the two studies, this illustrates the difference in depth of the two. In an article in the Guardian, Owen Jones, a Gay man writes Gay Gene Theories Belong in the Past. A writer for NBCNews.com asks Is There a Gay Gene: Problems with Studies Comparing Genetics and LGBT. He warns that a Gay Gene idea could turn against the LGBT community - if people can identify that before birth, they might abort the baby.

But, let's assume for a minute they are right – that this is purely a genetic issue. Other than the unsubstantiated contention "well, people are just more honest, that's why the percentages are higher" they have no evidence for their "acceleration" of the percentages of people identifying as LGBT+. How do they explain how the genetic percentages have changed? The fact is that those with same-sex attractions were 2-4% and those with transgender issues were less than ½ of one percent. How do they explain how the genetic base of the population changed so drastically in about a decade? Houston, we have a science problem here!

Let's drill down on Kendra and Cromley's assertion: Because these two individuals are seeking to take Billings in a radically different direction in this election, it is worth a closer look at their four assertions:

1st. Billings has the reputation of not being welcoming to LGBT+ people

This assertion is heard among the LEFT. Do they have any social science data to back it up? If they did, we can reasonably assume that they would reference it. But, it's much easier to just *make it up* - make the statement and repeat it over and over as Goebbels and Saul Alinsky taught - until it sticks.

My observation amongst conservatives is much different. The vast majority want to treat this population well. In fairness, neither assertion is substantiated by data. Nonetheless, shouldn't we expect public policy changes to be supported by collaborating information?

So, what's their real goal? When the SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) **House Bill 465** (Statewide NDO) was heard before the House Judiciary in 2019, Ms. S.K Rossi with the ACLU was asked "would this create a 'Protected Class' of people in the state of Montana?" Rossi reluctantly answered, (at about 11:18:57) "Yes it would."

My point? Creating another protected class is what they are after - not tolerance, but affirmation. Where these NDO's have been approved, the push has been to create a protected class like race. In those states, we see more cases where bakers, florists etc. are being sued for not participating in same-sex weddings and celebrating – not just tolerating – their lifestyles. This silences their 1st Amendment rights to free expression.

As you will see, four of the candidates we oppose are supportive of an NDO in Billings and the other did in the past.

2nd. Billings' ability to prosper and grow is threatened by its failure to pass an NDO.

The idea that cities or even states would be affected economically by such ordinances is wildly popular in the liberal media and with those pushing the LGBT+ agenda. The NBA, NFL, NCAA, and many large corporations have jumped on this bandwagon. Even Governor Bullock's office claimed to have such information but where are these reliable studies hidden? Can they point to one peer reviewed social science study or economics study to back this up? Why do they want these ordinances? Because they know that "Policy Promotes Practice." When an issue becomes law, the public tends to see it as the right thing to do.

3rd. Younger people 20 to 40 (approximately the millennial generation) will not choose to come to Billings without an NDO.

This is their argument for asserting number two. Again, where is the data? Is this another case of asserting opinion without facts to achieve desired outcome? As we considered this, we encountered an interesting study that relates to the Millennial demographic and this assertion.

Most interestingly, Mr. Larry Seekins does a <u>critique of the One Big Sky</u> proposal. On December 17, 2018 Bob Dunn, Landmark President [the company proposing the One Big Sky project] presented as a FACT...

"Unfortunately Montana ranks among the lowest states in the nation for growth in the millennial population – the workforce of the future." On January 17, Allison Corbyn said "Montana ranks 46th in the nation for recruiting millennial population. We are in the back of the Pack," she said.

This is a great example of creating a false narrative by twisting the data. Seekins proceeds to illustrate (using data) that Montana is within approximately 1% of the average percentage of Millennials in all 50 states. While we rank 46th, in reality, there is very little difference state to state in the percentages of this demographic. He reveals that Montana is actually **showing a 4% growth rate in Millennials from 2010 to 2016! Montana ranked 11th out of 50 in attracting Millennials. Larry's conclusion? Montana is doing just fine in terms of attracting young people.**

We have no data or studies to illustrate that Billings is different than Montana with regard to this demographic. State percentages of Millennials only vary about plus or minus 3% of the average. What would make us think that cities vary significantly more? It does beg the question, exactly what segment of Millennials are Shaw and Cromley most interested in?

Is Billings really suffering economically because Millennials aren't coming because we have no NDO? I think Mr. Seekins' data blows that theory out of the water.

4th. Up to 20% of Americans 20-40 years old identify somewhere on the spectrum of LGBTQ+

This assertion is made in general terms by both Cromley and Shaw.

<u>Glenn Stanton</u>, Director of Global Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family is a respected Social Scientist. He debates and lectures extensively on the issues of gender, sexuality, marriage and parenting at universities and churches around the world. In our dialog with Mr. Stanton, he said:

"Good research says that the general number of people who are any measure of same-sex attracted is 2 to 4%... the 20% number they cite from GLAAD is pure nonsense. Activists use various acronyms to describe this community, but there is no agreement on what or who they represent. You can challenge their assertions by simply asking, what does that actually mean? Who does that include? Who does it exclude?"

Candidates and Comments:

Ward 1

John Armstrong: The consensus recommendation, John is a conservative who will limit government and approve sound budgeting. While John may not be as articulate and outspoken as his opponent, he brings a wealth of experience to the table that a 35 year old Progressive millennial just does not have – no matter how fast or much she talks. John has been a contractor, worked in management at the refineries, now owns his own art business, and has been involved in city issues for decades. He has managed business budgets, met payrolls, and wrestled with management decisions. His opponent has not.

John is an Army veteran, a member of the Billings Heights Exchange Club, a North Park Task Force officer, and currently serves as a commissioner on the mayor's traffic committee. He has a reputation of working with others in a non-partisan manner. All of our sources recommend him.

Kendra Shaw: The Incarnation of AOC in Billings

Long on Noise, Short on Substance is our analysis. Will Ward 1 really elect a person as out of touch with reality as she is? If you read her Facebook and watch the Videos, you will see that the AOC comparison above is valid.

If Kendra analyzes a city budget the way she does other analysis we are in real trouble. As you listen to her statements, you can't decide if she is dishonest or so out of touch with reality that she can't process. **She is the Post-Truth poster child of Billings**. "Truth is whatever I want it to be or whatever I make up". Just like

AOC and the rest of "The Squad," when the facts don't fit, she just makes stuff up. You really have to listen to her talk.

This millennial lady is clearly a Progressive activist and the **most troubling** candidate in the race. Kendra is supported by <u>far LEFT</u> organizations like <u>Forward Montana</u> (a group dominated by Progressives and abortion activists) and the <u>Montana Conservation Voters</u> (another Progressive group.) You can bet that these groups, the DSA group, and others will be walking doors for her. She has all the markings of a DSA sympathizer. On the <u>Billings DSA Facebook</u> page (featuring Randy Heinz) note the "Related" message on the right, bottom.

Kendra can accurately be described as a <u>2nd Wave Feminist</u> – always reminding you that a primary qualification is that she is female – it's about demographics you know. She is definitely an LGBT activist as you will see on her <u>Facebook</u>. Here, she references [Shauna] Goubeaux, the lesbian president of 406 Pride <u>here shown</u> in the opening of the LGBT+ Resource Center. This is her right, but it also helps to define her priorities.

A darling of the Gazette – she has been featured in articles for several years. In one, she bemoans new regulations on <u>medical marijuana</u> which she grows for her own use and used to <u>grow and sell</u>. Kendra's agenda includes <u>pushing for a Non Discrimination Ordinance</u> which would give LGBT groups *protected status*. (See question 4 of link).

She would gladly raise your taxes to pay for anything and everything the LEFT desires and she is a **big fan of One Big Sky.** She said "I'm frustrated and deeply disappointed at the recent city council vote to discontinue the city's partnership with Landmark on the One Big Sky." Larry Seekins <u>critique of One Big Sky</u> brings that judgement into question.

Will she stretch the truth to realize her agendas? In an <u>interview</u> she says this under Questions 4 about the Non Discrimination Ordinance.

"The age group 20 to 40 will make up half of the work force by 2020. This is the next generation of Montanans we need to attract. In this demographic, roughly 20% <u>identify</u> as somewhere on the LGBTQ spectrum and without an NDO, they will not even consider moving to Billings."

If you have not, **please read the above segment** Future Growth in Billings – What is the truth about Millennials, LGBT+ Percentages, and Economics. It includes an

examination of four assertions she makes in her race. A review of these assertions exposes Kendra's agenda and outlook on truth, reality, and how she processes truth.

You will see that she asserts unreasonable facts about the percentages of LGBT+ people and that Millennials will not come to Billings unless we have an NDO. Importantly, this exposes a banner agenda of Kendra's. **She will push for LGBT+** *protected rights* at the expense of your rights.

In another segment Kendra exposes **her vision for Billings**. She says, "We need to be more like Missoula." A telling message from <u>her Facebook</u>:

"Who we elect sends a powerful message of who is welcome in our community and whose voices are valued. *That* is our city's reputation. It's the story people in Bozeman and Missoula tell of us. We can keep doing what we've been doing, but it won't make these problems go away, and it definitely won't attract the next generation of Montanans."

Since Missoula passed an NDO about a decade ago, Montana's Human Rights Campaign has not documented a single case where an alleged abuse of an LGBT+ person has held water. It is true that for many in this community, their sexual preference is their identity – who they see themselves as being. That does not have to dictate public policy where there is no documented abuse.

Last but not least let's examine **Kendra's attitude and outlook on Billings.** Above you saw that she thinks we need to be more like Missoula and Bozeman, but why – what's the real agenda here?

In this Video on her Facebook she says:

"The future of Billings won't allow me to ignore the state of our city." She goes on to talk about the downtown area in particular. She says "There are not many family friendly places... grocery stores are so far away... there is hardly any affordable housing." Her answer, "We need to elect a City Council that reflects the demographic of the downtown."

A little common sense will tell you that most city center areas are not rich in what she is demanding. And, is it the Council's job to fix these things? This is the typical Progressive "government is the solution" attitude.

In a recent <u>Gazette article</u>, she makes a number of outlandish statements – forgive the repetition but you need to hear this again. Let's break out her assertions one by one:

- 1. "We have cut spending on public safety, year after year." Where did she get this fact? Like all good Progressives, she just "made it up."

 Actually, from 2016 to 2019 spending on public safety went up about 5% from \$38.1M to 44.5 M (Page 101).
- 2. "Twenty five percent of Billings lives in a food desert too far from a grocery store." Wow, how did she come up with that? We need to take this citified lady to the real Montana the Powder River an hour from Milles City and no you can't ride your bicycle very well on those awful gravel roads. Here is a map that Kendra should study, it relates to how far away food is.
- 3. "Her kids have seen friends and relatives move away because they can't find a job that pays a living wage." Never mind that Billings' wages are the best in Montana as you will see below.
- 4. "Downtown should be the economic heart of any city." What, does this gal have any idea what drives the economy of a town? Sorry girl, it's not the downtown pubs as wonderful as they are it's the nasty industrial area, those dirty refineries, and other businesses that you sure don't want in your neighborhood.
- 5. Hardly any affordable housing (above). As usual, her assertions don't stand up to scrutiny. Here we see that Billings has the most affordable housing of any major city in the state.

Billings is at the top of the list in Montana for desirable places to live. Median home prices in Billings are way below Missoula and Bozeman and we rank way above these cities in <u>percentage of home ownership</u>. Billings also has higher wages and <u>lower taxes</u> than Bozeman or Missoula. <u>WinCo Foods</u> chose Billings over Bozeman partially because of excessive regulations. <u>Moneycrashers.com</u> talks about fourteen factors they consider when choosing a place to live - taxes, jobs, real estate prices, crime, proximity to family and friends and climate top the list. **NDO** is not on the list. We need to get real. Another thought, Billings has a vibrant faith community. Has anyone of the city promoters ever considered promoting this?

Our point is not to elevate Billings or suggest it is perfect.

The argument that Missoula and Bozeman are better places to live than Billings is one Kendra Shaw loses – badly!

Ward 2

Roy Neese: A few words that define him — solid, common sense, fiscal and socially conservative, as well as gracious. He is the incumbent and the consensus recommendation. He is concerned that the council not be taken over by those who wish to recode Billings. Roy has actually run a business, wrestled with budgets and management decisions.

He would oppose an NDO. Relative to the One Big Sky proposal, he states that until the legislature acts, this idea will go nowhere.

He's been a member of the Heights Community Development Task Force since 2009. He and his wife Gayla have lived in the Heights for 26 years.

Neese works as a business consultant for First Data. He has volunteered at a church camp for years, and is currently Vice-Chair of that group — Yellowstone Alliance Adventures. His faith is very important to him. He supports Ducks Unlimited, Friends of the NRA, American Legion Baseball, and other non-profits.

Randy Heinz: – Randy comes off as a counter-culture individual. He is very liberal, a <u>DSA member</u> and strong socialist. He would <u>support an NDO</u> (see p.4), higher taxes, and the One Big Sky proposal.

He would favor a \$25/hour minimum wage for Billings - \$52K a year working full time.

Randy has lived in the heights since 1973, is a Veteran, and is a graduate in history. He has interacted with the homeless and the working poor.

Ward 3

Aldo Rowe: This business man has long been known as a supporter of conservative values. **Aldo is a great guy with a servant's heart**. If you meet him and listen to him, that becomes clear and it his bottom line for wanting to be on the council.

He is a people person – that might be why he is a successful realtor. A Veteran, he has a desire to bring his experience on boards he has served on to the budgeting process in Billings. These boards include the Community Development Board with the City of Billings, the Girl Scout Board, and The Boys and Girls Club Board. A clear and consensus choice, he will listen well, and vote for common sense governing. He and his wife Debby have been involved in Billings for some time.

He would oppose and NDO and think carefully before voting for something like the One Big Sky proposal. **The clear choice for Ward 3**.

Danny Choriki: In debate situations, any astute observer would conclude that Danny exudes an attitude of *always being the smartest guy in the room* and appears frustrated - if not angry - with those ignorant souls that have not yet discovered the "Progressive Way." He is arguably the most liberal candidate in the race – a high hurtle to clear in this group of candidates.

As far as we could discover, Danny owns no property in Billings and would not pay any property taxes so he has nothing to lose if taxes are increased. But, he can't wait to raise your taxes and he doesn't mean by just a little bit – it's long overdue. He says that at the state and local level, "cheapskates" have not been willing to pay for the true cost of all that government should do - disgusting!

And then there is the environment and how we have abused it. Urban sprawl is a catastrophic sin, we must all live in high rise apartments and ride bicycles everywhere we go. And, if you think I am making this stuff up, just ask him. Unlike many Progressives, he is not one to hide his agenda.

Danny works with information technologies with a special interest in how people adapt to *rapid change*. Think about that last phrase for a minute. I have not heard him say where he works in Billings.

Danny is a <u>DSA member</u> - scroll down on this Billings Democratic Socialists of America Facebook page and you will find his name. He is also a "card carrying member" of the ACLU. He became a <u>"Humanist"</u> in high school where he is <u>still involved</u>. Among other organizations, he has been involved with the LEFT Green Party, the Democratic Party, the International or <u>Industrial Workers of the World</u> and the Ethical Cultural Society. He ran unsuccessfully for the House in 2018.

He lives with another DSA member, Denise Joy, a current Billings City Council woman. You would have to work to get any further left than he appears to be - common sense alone would tell you where Danny will land on City Council issues.

Danny would favor an NDO and the One Big Sky project.

Ward 4

Pam Purinton: Pam has a long, consistent track record as a conservative and is pro-business. She has been a leader of several conservative organizations for years and is a lady with a strong faith background. She will diligently question issues like *One Big Sky* and insist that they not add to the burden of the taxpayer.

Pam may not be as articulate and fast talking as her opponent. She was kind of accused of being a "Steady Eddy" in a debate – we will take that all day long over her fast moving Progressive opponent.

She is the clear and consensus choice for Ward 4. She would not see an NDO as favorable or something the City Council should be involved in.

Carmelita Dominquez: Like the above three candidates we oppose, this lady is an extreme liberal – there is nothing centrist or conservative about her.

"Working together for progress... welcomes a diverse community" (on her door hanger). You have to listen for "buzz words" like "a community that embraces diversity, unity and acceptance." This suggests a strong, but hidden Progressive agenda. Carmelita is supported by several far LEFT organizations like Forward Montana — a group dominated by Progressives and abortion activists and the Montana Conservation Voters (another Progressive group.) She also lists Big Sky55+ Action Fund and Rural MT Action Fund — both are Progressive groups fighting for Social Justice. You can bet that these groups, the DSA group, and others will be walking doors for her. She has all the markings of a DSA sympathizer.

On her latest door hanger, in bold letters, she says she is **proud to be endorsed by Nicole Gallagher and Daron Olson** who lost in Ward 4 in the Primary. As you can see on our recommendations for the Primary, both of these were Progressives also. Gallagher is unhinged in her promotion of abortion – she is even an embarrassment to her own family. Olsen is a Millennial who pretends to be conservative but is both physically and socially liberal.

In a debate sponsored by the Billings Chamber, her concluding remarks about how she would differentiate herself from her opponent were also revealing. She pointedly suggested that her opponent, Purinton, would "take it slow" - with a certain demeaning tone in her voice, just kidding of course. These progressives have a hard time hiding their arrogance but if you listen long enough, the conceit shows up.

Carmelita would move decisively to propel Billings forward by raising your taxes. Like the three Progressives mentioned above, Carmelita will not waste any time reshaping Billings to look more like Missoula.

Yes, a picture is worth a thousand words as you see on this <u>Gazette photo</u> with the caption "Carmelita Dominguez, right, and her children Josie Scarborough, 2, left, and Quinn Scarborough, 6, middle, cheer for speakers during the "Billings is Ready" **NDO** supporters rally on the steps of First Congregational Church on Monday. (08/18/2014) Obviously, she also holds the LGBT+ agenda as one of her primary goals.

Ward 5

Mike Boyett – is the consistent, consensus conservative candidate. No exceptions in the people we asked. This guy comes across as solid, a good communicator, and level headed.

He was an Air Force officer, served in the Sheriff's department, worked in the banking industry, and was a security officer. Mike has been on the zoning commission, the crime prevention council, and served on other public service interest groups.

These experiences are in evidence when you hear him speak. He brings experience, he is fiscally responsible and interested in ensuring your tax dollars are spent efficiently. He is also socially conservative.

He is skeptical of the idea of an NDO in Billings.

Dennis Ulvestad: Dennis has run for council a number of times. He is a good man with good intentions. He has served for years on various board in Billings. However, as you watch him talk, you decisively conclude that he does not belong on the council.

Several years ago, he was Progressive then changed. We are not able to determine where he stands today.

Perhaps more importantly, those who care about him tell us he is not physically strong enough to do this job – he honestly has serious health issues. This was most obvious in the debates. Making Dennis a councilman would honestly be a disservice to him and to Billings.