

Cache County Council Election Forum

Questions 	1. Share a little bit about yourself.	2. Why do you want to serve on the council?	3. What are the biggest issues the county is facing right now?	4. Where do you see Cache County in the next four years? How would you like to balance population growth and maintaining open space?
North District				
 David Erickson (435) 770-0283	Served on the Cache County Council for 6 years. Born and raised on a farm north of Smithfield, my roots are sunk deep in agriculture. I made Agriculture my career as a teacher of Ag education, a rural appraiser and still a steward of the land (farmer). Married to Callie, we have 4 married children with 7 grandchildren.	Wise people before me advised me to serve family, church, profession and community. I hope to continue to serve a county community that has been so good to my family. Opportunities of family and career are why I live where I live. I hope to continue to provide through County Council the same or better opportunities for all of our future.	Our rapid growth and accelerated housing costs are pricing our own children out of opportunities to live here unless we maintain a competitive economy to create wages that can afford these escalated costs. This tailspin is stressing water demands and infrastructure standards that need refinement. We need to grow from within the cities to save valued open space.	A stronghold for our county is its diversity. Something for everyone! We need to maintain this. I want to raise our county road standards to cut road maintenance costs and push more development to occur from within the cities, with less incentive for large developments in our rural areas. Need to explore open space/ag land banking of development rights.
 Marilyn Mecham (435) 563-1969 marilyn@hot-shot.com	I have lived in Smithfield since 1981, raising my family here. I retired in 2015 and have been using my time to care for husband and grandchildren. My husband is currently in Sunshine Terrace and I want to help senior citizens in the county have their needs met.	I have been active in politics all of my life but have only become interested in running for political office in the last few years. I have been frustrated with my elected officials acting as if the general public has not right to know what is going on with their elected officials. I decided the best way to change things is on the inside.	My number one goal is to be available to listen to people and help make decisions that are in keeping with their needs. I feel that growth and housing are two of the main issues in the county. My daughter's family and I are currently building a home in Smithfield so I know how difficult housing is right now.	I also feel that green space is important and want to find a balance between these two needs. I want to allow farming to continue while allowing good paying business to grow in the county.
South District				
 Nolan Gunnell (435) 760-2902 nolangunnell@gmail.com	I have served 14 years on various boards including the County Planning and Zoning Commission, the County Board of Adjustments, the Steering Committee for the Cache Valley Master Plan, and the Logan Regional Hospital Board (chair for 3 years). Husband, father, grandfather, farmer, businessman, Certified Financial Planner™, patriot, outdoor enthusiast, community volunteer – this is who I am.	As a life-long resident, my Cache Valley roots go back to 1856 (my ancestors helped settle Wellsville). I grew up on a dairy farm working closely with my father, a World War II veteran. He instilled in me strong convictions of patriotism, hard work, love of nature, and service. His example and sacrifices inspired me to serve others.	My service on various boards has helped me to understand the complexity of many issues we currently face, including open-space, growth, water, economy, transportation, environment, healthcare, etc. We need to unite as citizens, cities, and communities. We need a coordinated response for issues and should utilize all available resources, such as State of Utah agencies.	The county will continue to grow. It is one of Utah's hidden gems and continued growth is inevitable. Listening to citizens' input for completion of a Master Plan will provide vision and a roadmap. Responsible financial management and budgeting is also crucial.
Logan District 1				
 Adam Tripp (435) 512-9642 akstripp@gmail.com	I was raised in Richmond, Utah, on my family's heritage farm, established in the 1870s. I was lucky enough to travel often alongside my father and really enjoyed seeing and experiencing life in many places across this great nation and world. My husband, son and goldendoodles live in the Cliffside Neighborhood. I am a Realtor and property manager at achievement; I have loved my career of helping people with their American dream.	Serving the people is in my blood: from Samuel Smith (mayor, Brigham City), to Isaac Smith (opened ZCMI, Logan), to my grandfather Lavor Smith (mayor, Lewiston). My grandfather ran for county treasurer on the Democratic ticket as he felt that governments needed to be more balanced. I serve as the Women's Council of Realtors Cache Valley president, have served with numerous non-profits including Stokes Nature Center and CRIC.	The biggest issue facing our county right now is public health crisis. We must care about each other and how to keep everyone safe as much as possible. We are facing a housing crisis. There is a great lack of affordable housing and we need to start to put into place plans on how to handle this crisis. We are also facing an identity crisis as we continue to grow.	We are going to continue to grow whether we like it or not. We need to focus on agritourism as a method of allowing current farms to stay alive, as many of them are dying and are being pushed out of business. We can't simply have a not in our backyard mentality. I am open to listening to those I serve and making sure that I express opinions outside of the current norm of the county.
 Karl Ward (435) 770-8820 k2wards@msn.com	This has been my first term on the County Council, and I have loved it. I served as vice-chair for a year and have been the chairman for the last two years. Some significant things have been accomplished. Lived in Cache Valley for most of my life, in Logan for the past 34 years. Married to my wonderful wife, Kathy, for 49 years and raised our six children here. I am a retired banker and stay very busy with many community boards and committees.	To keep our county moving in the right direction. Keep Cache County taxes low, which are among the lowest in the state. Listen to concerns and try to meet them. Uphold the principles of our Constitution and ensure that Cache County remains the wonderful place it is to live and raise a family.	Planning appropriately for the inevitable growth of our population.	Cache County is doing very well. Low crime rates, improving air quality, low unemployment, water resources managed. Healthy economy with agriculture a staple. I want to ensure that we remain well balanced in these areas as our population grows. This will require a good, forward looking, plan that is practical and workable so that we can have nice homes for our families without creating sprawl that eats up our valuable agricultural land.
Logan District 2				
 Barbara Tidwell 435) 757-3524 gbtidwell@comcast.net	I have served on the Cache County Council for four years. My respect has grown for all the people who serve our county in any capacity. I am a retired banker having lived in Logan for 48 years since marrying Gary Tidwell; having lived in the same home for 44 years.	The experience I have gained from serving the last four years has given me a greater insight into the workings of the county. I serve on different committees with the departments. I can use that experience to help my constituents and our county achieve the best good for the people.	The biggest issues facing the county right now are how to control growth while providing affordable housing and wise planning for that growth. Transportation in the county is a major issue also.	I see Cache County recovering from the economic set-back from the pandemic. Business will get back on track and our employment rate will be at a positive level. The people in this county will look to the future with a positive outlook and continue to work with each other to balance the valley's growth and keep our agricultural/rural land intact.
 Erica Abbott (435) 890-7498 ms.ericabbott@gmail.com	Erica Abbott missed a Monday deadline to submit answers for the Herald Journal candidate forum.			