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Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please provide your name.

Janna Lind

Page 2

Q2 Why are you running for State Legislature?

I am running to be a voice for those who are underrepresented in Montana: the Youth and Young mothers, and the disenfranchised. Our schools, students and teachers feel slighted with budget cuts to education and lack of protection against violence in schools. As an educator of 10 years, I have never felt the heightened anxiety that our school climate currently experiences. I run to represent these people's' voice. As a State Legislature I will work to provide high wage jobs and bolster the infrastructure of our state. I strongly support Unions and their right to bargain for wages, benefits, and job safety. I will work to support keep public lands out of the hands of the private sector so that all Montanans can enjoy these secure areas. Lastly, I want to increase support for our Mental health facilities and programs.

Q3 What do you believe is the most important issue related to growing business in Billings and what are your suggestions for addressing that issue?

The layout of Billings and the rapid sprawl has led to connectivity issues that hinder business growth. Because people cannot gain quick access to vendors, commerce is reduced. I see the biggest issue being that the Heights is not connected to Lockwood and to the West End. The bottleneck by the Rimrock Metra Center slows consumers from accessing stores quickly. My plan of bolstering funds for infrastructure will provide assistance in building roads to connect these areas. Better transportation not only for consumers but for freight companies will overall increase the growth of Billings.

Q4 In the 2017 Legislative Session, local option authority was supported by the Billings Chamber, City of Billings, Big Sky Economic Development, Downtown Billings Partnership, and numerous other organizations across the state. Under what conditions would you vote for a local option authority bill?

From my understanding, most Montanans do not want any variation of a sales tax. I would support a local option authority bill if there were measures to decrease property taxes in the specified area. Community members who own property would be taxed twice essentially if there was not a reduction. The danger here is less money to our school boards and fire departments. I support that Senate Bill 331 did allow for local municipalities to decide if they wanted the luxury tax or not, taking into consideration our smaller communities. If a local option authority bill is introduced again, it needs to target non residents, either through a gas tax meant specifically for out of state drivers or a meal tax in restaurants only for out of state travelers.

Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Q5 Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts are an important economic development tool for our community. How will you work to ensure one of local government's most useful funding mechanisms is preserved?

I support these districts as long as they do not continue to expand once set up. There needs to be an open enrollment period for whoever wants to be considered part of the district and then these boundaries need to be frozen for a specified period of time. If not, it takes away from the school districts and fire department monies as that property value increases, but the taxable value does not. I do not support annexing more land into the district unless there has been a specified period of time passed.

Q6 In 2016, Yellowstone County hoteliers remitted \$3.5 million in facility use taxes to the state. That year our regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, which markets and promotes our area as a travel destination, received \$350,000 (just 10%) from the state to market and promote tourism in our area. Will you work with the Billings Chamber and lodging partners to ensure more money is returned to the areas generating lodging tax revenue? (Y/N) **Yes**

Q7 MSU Billings is an essential economic driver for our community and surrounding area. Not only does MSU Billings provide educational opportunity for Montanans, it also assists with workforce development, an increasingly important challenge facing our community. How will you help to ensure MSU Billings receives adequate funding for facility updates?

I would like to see an infrastructure bill passed that grants funding to our universities to specifically update facilities. Increasing the tuition is not the answer. We will need a longevity plan to break this into stages as buildings like McMullen hall have not been touched for too long. In order to allocate these funds I will work hard to communicate with House Republicans in order to support this funding. When the facilities are updated, we as a community will attract more students who will most likely stay and work in Billings after graduation. This investment in MSU Billings facilities will be a long term investment in economic growth of our community.

Q8 The Billings Chamber, City of Billings, Big Sky Economic Development, Downtown Billings Partnership, and other community partners, are working with Hammes Co. on the development of One Big Sky Center, comprised of two development districts and anchored by a regional convention center. If a state funding source were identified and developed, under what conditions would you support the inclusion of state monies in the funding mix for a regional convention center in Billings?

The majority of funding for this project needs to come from the city and local taxes. However, because a project of this scale will have an enduring impact on the whole state. I would support infrastructure monies from the state to go toward this project. My goal is to see this convention center draw more businesses like hotels and restaurants to build in the Lockwood area. When conventions are held, our local tourism and services economies will increase exponentially. Our state needs to invest in projects of this magnitude.

Q9 Sixteen percent of Billings workers are employed in the healthcare arena resulting in a total direct and indirect economic output of \$2.6 billion annually. Do you believe that cutting state reimbursement to hospitals, clinics and other healthcare providers is a way to address state budget shortfalls? (Y, N) **No**

Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Q10 Throughout the legislative interim and November 2017 Special Session the re-evaluation of Montana's funding mechanisms was a topic of discussion. What are your thoughts on the need to identify new revenue sources to address a shifting economy and our infrastructure needs?

I would like to see investments in wind and solar energy in order to provide jobs and fuel our communities. Our excess could be sold to other states. There should be mandates for out of state companies that take our states resources to pay diligent taxes specifically earmarked toward our infrastructure.

Q11 Billings, and the greater Yellowstone County area, has the largest legislative delegation in the state and there is great potential to work together toward regional specific initiatives. How do you plan to work with all members of the Yellowstone County area delegation for the betterment of our business community during the 2019 Legislative Session?

My background as a government teacher allows me to see both sides and work to build bridges with the opposing political party. Our ultimate goal in the Legislature is to economically boost families in Montana, but specifically Yellowstone county. I will do my best to work with everyone toward this goal.

Page 3: Finalizing Questionnaire

Q12 If you have not sent the Billings Chamber a high-res image you would like us to use, please upload a photo here.

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