

## **Sandy Jamison's** answers to 2018 Candidate Questions for

### Whitman County Auditor

1. I earned both my B.A. in Business Administration and my M.B.A. degrees from Washington State University. I hold a C.P.A. (Certified Public Accountant) certificate and have been employed for over 30 years in the finance arena. I have worked in the private, public and governmental sectors of accounting, and have managed several staff while holding a variety of management positions. I have been an auditor, working for a public accounting firm, and thus have been exposed to both sides of an audit. My work as a tax accountant for Jon Webber & Assoc. in Colfax was truly enlightening and exposed me to the constantly changing tax laws. As a past Controller and CFO for several firms, I have had experience managing both staff and budgets – both areas are key to running a successful Auditor's office. My husband and I own and operate a 1,500 acre grain farm just outside of Garfield, and I have maintained the finance operations of this business for 27 years.
2. I have several goals that I would like to accomplish while in office, but the three that I feel are most important are the following: 1) Pass all state audits. Having been an auditor myself, I believe that my experience will be beneficial in interacting with the state auditors. An audit can be a positive experience, and I will go into all audits with that attitude. 2) Maintain a friendly and accessible staff; we are all there to serve the public. 3) Develop a mutually respectable rapport with the other elected officials. We are all public servants and should be working to make Whitman County a better place.
3. The office of the Auditor is, indeed, a service department. Friendly and informed staff should be expected by the public, and it will be my job to see that those standards are kept. Cross-training staff is essential in keeping the office efficient and ready to serve the public. Maintaining a reliable working schedule is also imperative. Whitman County taxpayers expect the Auditor's office to be "open for business" during the posted hours, and I intend to see that their expectations are met. The licensing and recording desks need to be available on a regular and timely schedule. Because these desks must be staffed by trained and credentialed personnel, I plan to become credentialed myself, so that I can help staff them when necessary. It is vital that all of the Auditor's staff be well trained and efficient in what they do – that includes me.
4. The Auditor's Office does bear responsibility for running smooth voter registrations and elections. Fairness and transparency are essential to these areas, and I plan to ensure that the public is satisfied with Whitman County's election process. Following the trail of a ballot is important; I want to track the ballots being sent out to the public and review the trail as they are mailed back. Using updated data bases, software and geographical information systems should help with this tracking. I will do my best to ensure that only one ballot is issued per Whitman County resident; only one returned ballot is counted per Whitman County resident, and that that resident, is indeed, alive and residing in Whitman County. Efficient and precise voter registration on the front end should aid in the accuracy of the ballot verification and count on the back end.