

The other side of the story...

Filing Deadline Just 2-Weeks Away

The filing deadline is fast approaching. May 31st is the last day to 'declare' and run for local office: county commissioner, town council, etc. Needed: Candidates focused on a livable Jackson Hole, wildlife, and small town values.

The Big-Growth coalition has had their way for the last decade, ever since the great recession. They've built large hotels, approved massive housing developments, and ignored wildlife.

If you cherish our small town way of life and are willing to serve, we need you. Political experience isn't nearly as important as the right perspective. Someone open to serving the entire community instead of just the business community. Strength of character is the most important qualification.

We're at a crossroads, a tipping point. Decisions made over the next four years will have far reaching consequences. For the past two years, massive growth was authorized. More large hotels and housing developments were approved and are now awaiting construction.

All too often, our electeds have snuggled up to captains of industry that want to grow Jackson Hole at any cost. We've become a 'company town' run by business tycoons and some in the Chamber of Commerce. Our small town community has been sacrificed on the altar of growth. More, always more. Some call it greed.

This isn't 2008. The great recession is long over. The business community is doing very well, thank you. It's wildlife and our small town way of life

that are at risk. We don't have LA freeway traffic jams, but we have the Jackson Hole equivalent.

Out-of-control growth will take a heavy toll. The sun-blocking Marriott was only the beginning. A gigantic hotel/bank/restaurant is coming to Jackson town square. Snow King wants to become a Disneyland, while all around its base new condos and pubs are cropping up day-by-day.

Recent spikes in property appraisals have longtime locals, some whose families homesteaded Jackson, talking of moving. They can't afford to pay the skyrocketing property taxes.

Soon construction will begin north of town on the largest subdivision since the 1980s (Hidden Hollow), a bulky apartment complex (Sagebrush Apartments) will soon choke out deer and other wildlife on Broadway, and still more development is coming. The latent commercial potential is in the millions of square feet.

What's in the pipeline can't be stopped. But there is some hope. Currently, a few electeds have proposed regulations that would require new commercial projects to house all their employees that are priced out of local housing. But those electeds need help.

So think about throwing your hat in the ring. There's only two weeks left. We badly need folks with the courage to step forward. The community at large wants to keep what's left of the "Last of the Old West." Don't worry, ordinary folks will support you.

*Character is the most
important qualification*

Passing the Hat: News in this column can't be found elsewhere, and this ad space is our

major expense. We need donations to continue publishing weekly. Thanks for your support.