

# Candidates' Forum

Morrow County Commissioner candidates, Dan Brosnan, Heppner, and Leann Rea, Boardman, will face off Tuesday, November 3, at the polls as will the two candidates for Morrow County Judge, Terry Tallman of Boardman, and John Mollahan of Lexington. Following is a candidate's forum concerning the two positions.



**Dan Brosnan**

Dan Brosnan, 55, Republican candidate for Morrow County Commissioner, lives in Heppner. He and his wife, Doris, have two children, Damon, 30, and Darci, 26. Brosnan graduated from Heppner High School and attended Blue Mountain Community College. He served with the U.S. Air Force, achieving rank of #4, for two years in Louisiana and two years in Japan.

Brosnan was employed with the Oregon State Police for 25 1/2 years, retiring in 1993 at the rank of captain. Brosnan is a member of the Oregon Livestock Growers, served on the St. Patrick's Parish Council; was vice-chair for the Heppner Coordinating Council one year; was a member of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Board one year; and is presently the chair for the Morrow County Museum Committee.

Brosnan's other qualifications include supervision of 130 employees; oversight of an annual 7.5 million dollar budget; and extensive experience working on natural resource issues with other states, the federal government and Northwest Indian tribes.

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?**

Past professional experiences, depth of natural resource experiences, and depth of supervisory and budgetary experiences.

**If elected, what is the biggest challenge facing you?**

Unifying and preparing Morrow County to meet the challenges posed to us, such as crime, family violence, safe and timely destruction of agents at Ordinance and defending against attacks on our continue responsible use of our natural resources.

**What major project would you like to see accomplished?**

A lowering of domestic violence and juvenile crime in Morrow County.

**What is your first priority?**

Destruction of chemical agents at Ordinance. The first priority must be to get all safety equipment in place and functional and to provide adequate training to citizens and first responders.

**Please outline a brief plan to help North Morrow County accommodate growth:**

- 1.) Allocate necessary resources to ensure infrastructure adequate to meet expansion.
- 2.) Allocate adequate resources to meet law enforcement, health services, and land-use planning needs.
- 3.) Use Port of Morrow resources to attract desirable employers with fair family-wage jobs and to secure grants and loans to site those employers.

**How can you assist South Morrow County in retaining and creating jobs?**

Use the Morrow County Economic Development Coordinator for searching out businesses looking to relocate and for accessing state and federal agencies' resources such as job retraining, economic studies and job feasibility studies. Assist communities in securing loans and grants to upgrade services and facilities.

**What is the major problem**

**created by the plan to incinerate chemicals at the Army Depot? How would you address this problem?**

Major Problem=lack of planning and proper allocation of resources from the state and federal levels.

Major Stumbling Block=Oregon Office of Emergency Management. We must involve management of OEM's Parent agency, the Oregon State Police, and the governor's office in demanding cooperation and accountability from OEM.

**Outline a brief plan to allocate Morrow County's tippage fees, or, if you are satisfied with the present plan, explain that.**

I support the present plan of using the SCERT process to prioritize projects to bring to the county court for funding. The county court should then be responsible and accountable for making sure that all regions - urban and rural - get a fair share of the fees.

**Briefly outline a plan to allocate county services, such as road construction and maintenance, among the communities.**

(A transportation plan that takes into consideration expected growth, as well as the present condition of the county-wide transportation system, has been adopted; absolutely critical to wise allocation of resources.)

- 1.) View the county as a single unit with parts.
- 2.) Encourage all citizens to remember that we all are members of one county.
- 3.) Ensure that county departments and agencies are responsive to changing needs and proactive in planning.
- 4.) Maintain close communication among the county departments and citizens.
- 5.) Base allocations on need.

**Are you in favor of establishing a road between lone and Boardman? Why or why not?**

I believe that the county should secure rights of way across the involved properties, so when the road is needed and affordable, the county can put one in.

I favor a direct link between the Willow Creek Valley and the north end's industrial base and transportation system, to foster growth and economic development in the south end of the county. However, we must be realistic about expenses and must listen to the citizens.

**Do you agree with the current system of two commissioners and a judge elected at large? Why or why not?**

I favor the current system. It is working and is responsive to the needs and desires of the county residents. Under a home rule system, administrators would be hired and not be directly answerable to voters.

**Do you think the present Morrow County juvenile court system should be retained or should jurisdiction be transferred to circuit court?**

The present juvenile court system should be retained. Transferring jurisdiction to the circuit court would mean relinquishing local control over our troubled youth. Circuit court judges are not members of our communities and are less familiar with our problems.



**Leann A. Rea**

Leann A. Rea, 57, Democratic candidate for Morrow County Commissioner, lives in Boardman with her husband of 39 years, Jerald Rea. They have four grown children, Rick, 38, Darla, 36, Terrell, 32, and Robert 28.

Her parents resided on the Padberg family homestead on lower Rhea Creek when she was born. She graduated from Lone High School and attended Blue Mountain Community College.

Rea is currently employed as a paralegal with the Schroeder Law Offices in Boardman. She works primarily on property and water right issues.

She has served as a 4-H leader, a member of Morrow County Fair Committee, a Director on the Oregon Water Resources Congress Board and as co-chair for the Rural Residential Sub-Committee for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. She is currently serving on the OSU Extension Advisory Board, is a director of the Umatilla/Morrow Counties Oregon Farm Bureau, a member of the Umatilla/Morrow Counties Oregon Farm Bureau Water/Wetlands Advisory Committee and is a member of the Trail Advisory Committee for the Morrow County Columbia River Heritage Trail. Rea is also a commissioner on the Morrow County Planning Commission, and was appointed to the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council in December of last year by the Umatilla County Commissioners.

Other qualifications include familiarity with rules governing public entities, responsibility for the development and implementation of public budgets and experience dealing with various federal and state agencies, such as BPA, ODF&W and Oregon Water Resources.

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?**

A voter would select me because I am a fair and honest individual, willing to listen to all sides of an issue and make decisions based on the best available information. I am a long-time county resident with personal knowledge of all areas of the county, having lived or worked in all five of the county's communities. I will take this job very seriously and will devote as much time and energy as is needed to give the residents of Morrow County what they deserve.

**If elected, what is the biggest challenge facing you?**

While budgetary issues are always a challenge for our county, at this time the rapid growth in the Columbia River communities is creating some major strains on community's infrastructures. It is an ongoing struggle to maintain adequate services and stay within the budget restraints that are mandated by recent legislation. Therefore, one of my biggest challenges will be to continue the work our current county court has initiated in attempting to obtain "Impact Fees" from the federal government for the impacts created with the disposal of chemicals at the Umatilla Army Depot. At the same time we must work to protect our right to prudently use our natural resources, including water, timber and lands.

**What major project would you like to see accomplished? What is your first priority?**

I would like to see all issues regarding incineration of the chemicals at the Army Depot resolved. This would include obtaining impact fees, all necessary safety equipment and training for our first responders, the installation of the Tone Alert Radios in all areas near the Depot and the completion of the protection facilities at all of the local schools. My first priorities are to provide a safe environment and economic stability for all of our county's residents.

**Please outline a brief plan to help North Morrow County accommodate growth:**

City and county planning commissions need to coordinate their efforts to ensure an organized growth in both the cities and in the urban areas. This would include all of the necessary infrastructures.

Special attention needs to be given to ensure all residents have a safe drinking water supply. Cities may need to extend water and sewer services and some subdivisions may need to consider community wells. We need to take advantage of available grants and loan programs to assist with the establishment of new small businesses.

**How can you assist South Morrow County in retaining and creating jobs?**

We need to remain alert to any possibilities for new industries expressing an interest in our rural areas. Management of our forest lands needs to be encouraged to maintain the operation of the Kinzua mill in Heppner for as long as natural resources are available without jeopardizing future generations.

**What is the major problem created by the plan to incinerate chemicals at the Army Depot? How would you address this problem?**

While a chance of an accident during incineration is remote, we still need to be totally prepared for the worst-case scenario. An accident of this nature would not allow for mistakes without loss of lives. One of the major problems is going to be the large influx of people for a short period of time. This will place a strain on all county services, including the schools, roads, law enforcement, local water and sewer services. We need to vigorously pursue every avenue to obtain impact fees from the Army to assist in resolving this situation. Once the incineration program is completed, many of these workers may move to other areas. If we are unable to obtain these impact fees, this may leave our local citizens with large bond payments for the necessary upgrades that have been made to the infrastructures of our communities.

**Outline a brief plan to allocate Morrow County's tippage fees, or, if you are satisfied with the present plan, explain that.**

I believe the current plan of allocating the "tippage fees" is well managed. A committee of citizens, one from each of the communities, has been formed to review all requests for tippage fees. This committee is responsible for making recommendations of allocation to the county court with the final decision for dispersal being made by the county court. The county court has retained a small portion of the fees for disposal at their discretion. This method of dispersal makes your elected officials ultimately responsible for the fair and equitable disposition of the fees.

**Briefly outline a plan to allocate county services, such as road construction and maintenance, among the communities:**

All residents of the county deserve to have safe roads. However, cost-versus-use needs to be factored into the plan. A review plan needs to be developed whereby roads are considered not only on use but also on their general condition. It is better to spend money on maintenance rather than to wait until a road needs to be totally rebuilt. Safety factors must always have a priority in making decisions regarding the maintenance and construction of our county roads. Regarding other county services, I feel the Morrow County Sheriff's Department is doing a great job in providing services to the entire county.

**Are you in favor of establishing a road between lone and Boardman? Why or why not?**

Yes. This road would greatly benefit the farmers in the lone area by making a more direct farm to market route. It would also create an opportunity to increase population in the lone area, by providing a shorter and more direct route to job opportunities that are in the north end of the county. This would be a definite benefit to the lone school systems. Boardman would also see benefits with the connection of these two communities.

**Do you agree with the current county system of two commissioners and a judge elected at large? Why or why not? If not, what system would you propose?**

Yes. With the small population base in our county I feel the "at large" system is appropriate. At some time in the future, if the population base increases considerably, then it may be appropriate to divide the county into three districts (as equal in population as possible) and have an individual elected from each of these three districts.

**Do you think the present Morrow County juvenile court system should be retained or should jurisdiction be transferred over to circuit**

**court? Why?**

While our present judge has been able to handle the juvenile court load and other county issues, with the growing population in Morrow County and the increasing juvenile court case load it may be approaching the time to begin looking at other options. When you consider the increasing demands being placed on the county's judge and commissioners, I feel the county may be better served by allowing the judge to spend more time on county-wide issues and less time on juvenile issues. Therefore, as a matter of practicality at some time in the future the county may need to look at other options, including the possibility of transferring this responsibility over to the circuit court.



**Terry K. Tallman**

Terry K. Tallman, 52, Republican candidate for Morrow County Judge, lives in Boardman. He and his wife, Cheryl, have three children, Jonathan, 22, Crystal, 19, and Derrin, 17.

Tallman, who came to Morrow County in 1978, graduated from Adrian High School, Adrian, in 1964. He attended Treasure Valley Community College, the University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

Tallman served with the U.S. Navy as a petty officer 2nd class, and saw both US and overseas duty. He served in Vietnam from 1967-71. He was honorably discharged in 1971.

He has been self-employed with Keith Tallman and Sons from 1974 to present.

He has been a Little League coach, Columbia Youth Basketball coach, is a member of the Riverside High School Booster Club and the Boardman Chamber of Commerce.

Tallman has been mayor of the city of Boardman from January 1997 to present. His political experience also includes: planning commission, city of Boardman, 1985-96 (chair 1991-96); budget committee, city of Boardman, 1987-89; Morrow County School District Computer Technology Advisory Committee, 1989-90; board member, Port of Morrow/Umatilla Development Fund Committee, 1990-95; board member, Morrow County Unified Recreation District, 1995-present; Morrow County Budget Committee, 1997-present; Morrow County Transportation System Planning Committee, 1997; Boardman Community Strategic Planning Committee, 1997-present; and Boardman Area Emergency Planning Group, 1997-present.

**If elected, what is the biggest challenge facing you? My biggest challenge will be keeping everyone happy in Morrow County. Communication and open access will be key in accomplishing this goal. We can self-destruct if we fight rather than cooperate.**

**What major project would you like to see accomplished? What is your first priority?** The major project of the next judge will be finding enough money to fund all the services the citizens of our county have come to expect and do it without cutting personnel. We need to deal with our youth problems, roads and economic development.

**Please outline a brief plan to help North Morrow County accommodate growth; how can you assist South Morrow County in retaining and creating jobs?** Most growth is going to take place within the boundaries of our cities. We need to be ready to assist them, when we can. Growth throughout the county is going to come about because of the efforts of the Port of Morrow. We need to maintain open communication with the

port manager and the commissioners. I see the county's job as keeping informed, helping find funding and staying out of the way, letting the port function as the "economic engine." Our county economic coordinator will also assist and lead the way to help with finding funds for the county and cities, if they want and need the help.

**What is the major problem created by the plan to incinerate chemicals at the Army Depot? How would you address this problem?** My major efforts will be to keep the citizens of Morrow County safe. In order to do that, we must have help from the Army, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). The Army has been mandated to safely burn these chemicals and CSEPP is to keep the citizens safe as this is done. I intend to make sure both carry out their responsibilities by seeking the proper equipment and training and reasonable storage fees as allowed by law.

**Outline a brief plan to allocate Morrow County's tippage fees, or if you are satisfied with the present plan, explain that:** Presently, I do not think I would change the process for allocation. There is a need for some discretionary funds and then allocate the rest through the State Economic Revitalization Team (SERT) process. Everyone needs to know what the ground rules are for this process and have access based on those rules.

**Briefly outline a plan to allocate county services, such as road construction and maintenance, among the communities:** As with any service, a need must be established and where needs often outrun resources, priorities must be determined. This implies a plan. In the example of road and maintenance, we need a formal road plan based on priorities and greatest need. The three commissioners would establish the policy and county employees would carry out these policies.

**Are you in favor of establishing a road between lone and Boardman? Why or why not? I would support the road. The major issues facing the county will be the route and funding. The route is being planned. The Commissioners are as close as they have ever been to getting this road started. The funding will come from us, the citizens, and be determined by a vote. The road has short and long term impacts for economic development for Morrow County as well.**

**Do you agree with the current county system of two commissioners and a judge elected at large? Why or why not? If not, what system would you propose?** We have had a vote in the recent past to determine if we needed a change. I don't think it is broke. I would not change our present form of county government.

**Do you think the present Morrow County juvenile court system should be retained or should jurisdiction be transferred over to circuit court? Why? What are your qualifications for serving as juvenile court judge?** I would leave the court in its present system. We maintain local control with no change. The circuit court has its hands full now. Another judge would be needed and we would have to find more money if we made a change. If I am elected, I believe I can perform those duties needed to be juvenile judge.



**John F. Mollahan**

John F. Mollahan, 62, Democrat candidate for Morrow County Judge, lives in Lexington with his wife, Christina Sharp Mollahan. He has a grown son and daughter, seven grown step-

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