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Mayor, West Wendover, Nevada
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WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT OR IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

Thus far, it's been my ability to build relationships with members of our state legislature. In the past, the legislature overlooked West Wendover and our needs, but through taking time to build those relationships with legislators from both sides of the aisle, we have gotten to a point where folks are asking about our needs.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Elko County is very conservative and many of our elected officials are outspoken conservatives. Oftentimes when it comes to issues like conserving our public lands or protecting the environment, I am often the only one who speaks out and, unfortunately, oftentimes it falls on deaf ears.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Do it! If there is an issue or issues that you feel strongly about that you don't feel your elected officials are adequately addressing, run against them. Also, be yourself. Often when out talking to my constituents, I hear that I am the first politician knocking on their door who is real and isn't rehearsed. Folks can tell when you

are being genuine, and are more likely to vote for you (even if they disagree with you) if they are able to connect with you as a person.

IS THERE A CONSERVATION, CLIMATE OR DEMOCRACY-RELATED RULE, POLICY OR IDEA YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

One of the big conservation issues I am focused on right now is the all-out assault on our public lands by the Trump administration. Focusing more locally, I am very concerned about the administration's attempt to allow oil and gas exploration in Nevada's Ruby Mountains. Since the administration seems so gung-ho on this, even in the face of immense public backlash, I see a need for the state legislature to step in and designate the area a state park. So come February when our legislature is back in session, I will be doing my best to lobby legislators to see a state park designation happen, as it is our last line of defense.

