



## Ed Noonan

Helena City Commissioner, Montana  
Elected 2015



### WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT OR IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

I believe that as a city commissioner with broad experience with the community, and as an artist, I have brought a different perspective to the discussion. I see the work of the commission as a creative work that builds our community. A landscape of civil discourse brought to life in decision-making helps to sustain the energy and motivation for this important work.

### WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

In a city manager, citizen commissioner form of government, the challenge lies in keeping up with the details. It is engaging and reengaging the details of issues and keeping them on the agenda that makes real growth and productive movement happen. I have had to find ways to strengthen my ability to remember the details and remind the commission and staff about what has been heard and learned.

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

Trust your perspective and take the risk. Be open to being changed by new information. Don't worry about politics as much as honesty. You can admit when you are wrong or don't know the answer.

### IS THERE A CONSERVATION-RELATED POLICY, RULE OR IDEA YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

Locally, we are challenged by steady growth in the use of the urban and wild lands areas. We need to find the best way to engage in public discourse and find answers for how to grow. Recent issues and struggles have revealed that we, as a city, haven't done the best job of doing that, so public, passionate disagreement took us by surprise. We are currently reexamining our use of advisory committees and our interaction with the county, Forest Service and various interest groups.