



LUTHER PROPST

Teton County Commissioner, Wyoming
Elected 2018



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN ELECTED LEADER IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

Progress in local government is almost always incremental. With that in mind, I want to make tangible progress on several fronts: mitigating the acute imbalance between the jobs and housing in the community, reducing traffic congestion while holding the line on high-speed new highways, protecting our county's wildlife and public lands, and helping to support the most vulnerable and marginalized among us.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE(S) AHEAD OF YOU IN OFFICE?

Teton County is booming. Our public lands and rivers attract a growing number of visitors, especially in the summer. In addition, the county's outdoor recreation opportunities, cultural amenities, and the state's tax code, which is very favorable to preserving wealth, make the county an increasingly popular destination for retirees and people whose jobs allow them to live almost anywhere there is an airport. On the other hand, if we want to protect our wildlife, quality opportunities for solitude and outdoor adventure, and our mountain town character while maintaining some semblance of a diverse community, the rate of growth we have experienced for the past few decades – and the distribution and characteristics of that growth – is simply not sustainable.

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

Go for it! Public service is both rewarding and essential – whether at the federal, state or local level of government. With our democratic institutions, civil rights, national sense of decency and environment facing unprecedented threats, it is more important than ever for people who care about the future of our communities, country and planet to run for office. If you do run, my advice is to knock on lots of doors and really listen to what people have to say.

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?

For sure. I have worked for 35 years to advance conservation and help communities all over the West protect their community character. As a county commissioner, one of my top priorities is to help lead Teton County in protecting our wildlife, defending community character and steering our future in a more environmentally sustainable direction. At the national level, we all must defend against rollbacks to environmental protection. Specifically, it's time for conservation advocates, hunters and anglers and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts to advocate together for increased funding for our public land management agencies. Since 1980, they have done more and more with less and less financial support. It's time to reverse the budget cuts.

