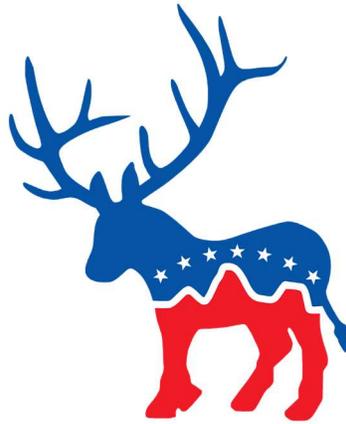


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Teton County Democratic Party Monthly Newsletter
Volume I, Issue 1



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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Jan Yalich Betts, Teton County Democratic Party, Chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2022 and our newest approach to keeping you informed about what is going on in Teton Valley in respect to the political issues that affect us all.

As you know these are critical times that we are facing. The long-awaited proposed Land Use Code that is essential to maintaining the character of our valley is being opposed by a vocal and organized opposition. At the same time, the proposed Grand Targhee expansion and the impact it will have on our county while we are experiencing unprecedented growth along with lack of affordable housing, all make this election one of the most crucial for the future of Teton Valley.



Each of these issues is concerning by itself and all of them together create a huge challenge. A challenge that needs to be met head on with determination, forward thinking, and planning. Issues that are already being worked on by our local government officials with dedication and commitment.

The faction that would do nothing or worse yet, take us backwards, has been active. The local Republicans have been busy fundraising for this election year and already have more than \$10,000 in the bank, 70% of which is a single donation from a company out of California.

The Teton County Democratic Party needs your help and your financial support. We have county officials in place who need to be re-elected this November and unfortunately, even in Teton Valley, that takes money. Please, consider donating to the Teton County Democratic Party so we can keep our home a place we recognize.

You can donate online through this link (<http://www.tetoncountydems.org/donate.html>) or on our website or send a check to the Teton County Democratic Party, PO Box 671, Driggs, ID 83422.

Thank you, your support is very important and appreciated.



[NEWS ON THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE 2022](#)

Bob Heneage, Teton County Commissioner

Updating the Teton County Land Development Code (LDC) is key to maintaining the character of the Teton Valley. Our current LDC is 40 years old, conflicted and heavily amended. Revising it takes patience, and a lot of it. The planning consultant hired by Teton County in 2019 to write the new draft code originally planned on the project taking 18 months. We are now entering the fourth year of the project!

Planning & Zoning Commissioners (P&Z) past and present, planning staff and professional consultants have worked hard to produce a fair, clean, new draft code. They have incorporated about 85% of the original code, adding indexing, chapters and definitions to make the code easier to understand and to find any specific land use issue. But, to comply with our adopted Comprehensive Plan, all land use zones and subdivision requirements have been revised. This includes developing a new zoning map, creating new zoning definitions to match the Comp Plan's character zones, determining appropriate densities for future land divisions within each zone, and settling on suitable land uses throughout the county that support the Comp Plan.

The P&Z has recently passed the LDC draft document on to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) along with 19 pages of notes and specific recommendations for the draft. Now it is time for your elected officials to roll up their sleeves and get to work to complete the changes needed to match the broad needs of the valley and its citizens more closely, while also considering the concerns voiced in past public hearings and letters. The BoCC will then bring the code back before the public for final review and a final public hearing. This is all good news! The county has never made it to this stage before and earlier attempts that failed date back many years.

The Commissioners hope to have this process finalized by early summer. When we reach the point in the spring where the BoCC requests public participation, PLEASE GET INVOLVED! Your ideas and opinions matter and your voices absolutely will be heard. In many ways this draft represents a broad coalition of efforts by individuals from both sides. We as a community need to continue to work together to forge a safe, prosperous, and thoughtful future for all our citizens.

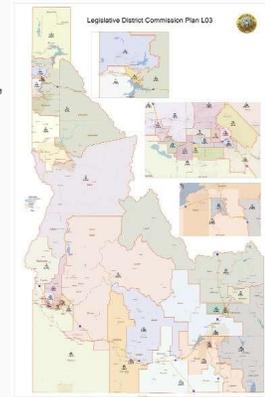
We need to replace our 40-year-old LDC with a code that will help us successfully navigate the challenges of the present and the decades ahead. We need to finish what we started. For more information, please contact the Board of County Commissioners at 208-354-8775. The draft LDC can be reviewed at the following web site.

https://www.tetoncountyidaho.gov/use_images/pdf/additionalInfo/210409_tetoncountylanddevelopmentcode_april2021publicdraft.pdf

REDISTRICTING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR TETON COUNTY

Ralph Mossman, Legislative District Chair

Every ten years, following the census, Legislative and Congressional District boundaries are redrawn in order to balance those districts so that populations within them are similar. Areas which have lost population get larger to bring in more people, and areas which have gained population get smaller. In Idaho, the huge growth around Boise means that the districts in that area have shrunk in size, and there are more of them, while districts in the rest of the state have grown. In many States, the redistricting process is controlled by the majority party, and gerrymandering occurs which ensures that the majority stays in power. We are lucky in Idaho that our redistricting process is done by a bipartisan commission and gerrymandering is not an issue.



Teton County has done better, in my opinion, as a result of the recent redistricting. We are now a part of Legislative District 35 (instead of 32) and instead of growing in size, our District has shrunk. That is because we picked up a bit more of Bonneville County whose population increased, and as a result we have lost both Franklin and Oneida counties. We also picked up a bit of Bannock County, an area containing Lava Hot Springs. We continue to have Caribou and Bear Lake Counties in our district. A map is attached.

This will benefit us in at least two ways. Most important is that the district is physically smaller. It will be easier for candidates or Legislators to get to the entire District. The other benefit is that people in Teton County have more in common with the rest of the District than we did before. The area in Bonneville County that is now in our District contains Ammon and other areas we are familiar with when we travel out below, and Lava Hot Springs, as one of the 13 designated resort cities in Idaho, also has much in common with us.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 11, 2022: Last day electors can change political party affiliation or become “unaffiliated” before the May 17 primary.

March 11, 2022: Deadline for filing for non-partisan, County, and statewide candidates.

May 6, 2022: Absentee Ballot Application Deadline

May 13, 2022: In-Person Absentee/Early Voting Ends

May 17, 2022: Primary Election

November 8, 2022: General election



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Thanks for being a subscriber to our newsletter! We'll use these periodic emails to keep you informed on local issues and events.

Our mailing address is:

Teton County Democratic Party

PO Box 671

Driggs, ID 83422

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