

Questionnaire for Billings 2025 Mayoral election.

The members of the Billings Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 521, are committed to protecting the lives, property, and well-being of our community. As we consider endorsements for the upcoming mayoral election, we are seeking your positions on issues that directly affect public safety, emergency response, firefighter health and wellness, and the future of Billings.  
  
Please respond to the following questions as thoroughly as possible. Your answers will help our membership make informed decisions about who will best support the citizens of Billings and the men and women who serve them.

1. Please provide a brief bio.

I’m a housewife and student, I am 36 years old, and I have a wonderful family. I am working on getting a BA in business. I have 24 years in customer service. I like helping people. I am running for mayor because I want to make Billings a better place to live. If I do not get elected, I want to either become a firefighter or a police officer. I want to help the community in any way possible.

1. What made you want to run for mayor?

I want people to be taken seriously and the voices of the community to count.

1. What is your leadership style and how do you intend to bring a consensus to the council?

My leadership style is primarily democratic; I value collaboration, open communication, and the input of others in the decision-making process. I believe that diverse perspectives lead to better outcomes. I intend to foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas and concerns. I will facilitate discussions that allow for respectful debate and ensure that all voices are heard. By prioritizing transparency and clarity, I can help build trust among council members and the citizens of Billings.

1. What do you see as the role and/or function of city government?

The mayor serves as the chief executive officer of the city, responsible for overseeing the administration and implementation of city policies and ordinances. This includes managing city departments, collaborating with other government officials, and ensuring that city services are delivered efficiently to residents. The Mayor acts as a representative of the community, advocating for the needs and interests of Billings residents at local, state, and even federal levels. This involves engaging with citizens, listening to their concerns, and fostering a sense of community through outreach programs and public events. The Mayor also plays a vital role in the legislative process by working with the City Council. The Mayor can influence long-term planning for the city’s growth and sustainability, addressing challenges like housing, transportation, and environmental concerns. The Mayor’s position is pivotal in shaping the future of Billings while promoting transparency, accountability, and collaboration within local government.

1. What is the number one issue facing Billings for the next mayor, and how do you intend to address it?

I am unsure what the number one issue Billings is facing. There are some issues I see that I would like to correct. To find out what the number one issue is, I would turn to the community and ask. Not only would I ask the community what the number one issue is, but I would also communicate with them to find a solution. I believe everyone should come together to find a solution for every problem. I would like to work with the citizens of Billings to bring everyone closer and bring the community back together.

1. How would you determine and align the agendas of council members to be the most productive and prioritize the conflicting demands of Billings?

Gather input from council members, city departments, and the community. Organize meetings with the council and community to get ideas, feedback, and options. Talk with everyone to find out what issues are dire and what can be discussed at a later date. Develop a clear plan to deal with issues. Communicate with everyone in the community about the process and give updates.

1. How would you work with other entities to balance asks of the public for funding through levies and bonds?

I think the bonds and levies are too high. I think we can find other ways to come up with funds to help the community. I also think that if we communicate with the community, they will help by giving advice and options to find solutions to problems.

1. What do you see as the role of the Union in representing the 144 members of Local 521?

We need to make sure their interests and rights are upheld. The Union acts as a collective voice for the members, advocating for fair wages, safe working conditions, and benefits that reflect the needs of the workforce.

1. Currently Fire Station 5 is undergoing a renovation that is long overdue. There are four other stations that need considerable renovations and a growing need for a new station to support growth. What is your stance on maintaining what is currently in use versus building new stations?

I think we need more stations, and we need to upgrade the ones we have. I love the fill the boot idea for raising funds for the firefighters. I thought that was very clever. I think if we keep thinking outside the box, we can come up with the funds we need to make everything better.

1. The men and women of Local 521 currently respond to about 18,000 to 20,000 calls for service each year. Departments throughout the nation that respond to a similar number of calls have between 200 and 250 members taking those calls. Currently L521 has 144 members. What do you see as solutions to add staffing?

I think we need more people working in this field. If we had more people and more positions then the stress of the job would not be so great. I think what you guys do is awesome and I would love to do this some day. I think we need more people and more positions available. The gentleman I was talking to told me the hiring process and out of a hundred people who apply only three get the position. I would like to know more about this and know why.

1. Firefighters face significant risks from cancer, PTSD, and other occupational hazards. How would you support initiatives to improve firefighter health and wellness programs?

I would like to communicate with them and find a solution to this. I am not in the situation or have a position, so my opinion would be irrelevant. I would want to hear their ideas and find the right solution from them.

1. How will you approach contract negotiations with Local 521 if elected mayor?

I would come in and talk with everyone, either individually or as a group. I would want to hear what they need and find a way to meet that need. I would also communicate with the citizens of Billings to ensure their needs are met.

1. How would you support community risk reduction initiatives such as fire prevention education, wildfire preparedness, and public health partnerships?

I think since children are our future, we need to start there. I would like to have everyone talk to the children twice a year about prevention and safety. I would find a way to get flyers, pamphlets, and coloring books for not just the children but also the adults in their homes. If we can make people aware of the dangers and how to prevent them, that would be a great start. I would also communicate with the citizens of Billings to find more answers.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful responses. Your answers will be shared with our membership as we consider our endorsement. Please return your completed questionnaire to Local 521 by September 1st, 2025 at 5p.m.