



KOOTENAI COUNTY

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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas Announces Her Retirement

January 8, 2021 – Kootenai County announced today that Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas will be retiring from her position later this month.

Thomas, reflecting on her 20 years of employment with Kootenai County, shared:

“I am extremely fortunate to have had a job I loved and that I’ve been able to provide public service to the citizens of Kootenai County. I want to compliment the Treasurer’s Office team for the excellent service they provide. My life has been truly enriched by the thousands of interactions with the citizens of this community and state. ”

Ms. Thomas has dedicated most of her career to public service, including positions in local, state, and federal government. She served as the Chief Deputy Treasurer for Kootenai County for the past twenty years, having been first appointed to the position in January 2001 by former county treasurer Tom Malzahn. Prior to her work at the county, she served as the Regional Director for then-U.S. Senator Larry Craig. Through the years, Ms. Thomas has been a board member and past president for both CASA and the North Idaho College Alumni Foundation, a member of Coeur d’Alene Rotary, and she served more than a decade as the International President of the Tax User’s Group (TUG). She received the Excellence in Office Leadership Award in 2018 from Thomson Reuters and was recognized by the Soroptimist Women’s Forum for Public Service.

“Laurie is a uniquely talented woman who will be nearly impossible to replace”, said Kootenai County Treasurer Steve Matheson. “The Treasurer’s Office, the county, and our community have benefited from her decades-long public service. Personally, I have relied upon her endless knowledge of Idaho statutes, tireless work ethic, and her uncanny political intuition in tackling some extremely thorny issues. What I’ve appreciated most has been Laurie’s grace and patience with me as an elected official who often times lacks the historical perspective necessary to make sound decisions. I thank Laurie and wish her the best.”

In light of Ms. Thomas' departure, current employee Mary Bidwell has been chosen to serve as Interim Chief Deputy Treasurer. "Mary has worked in the department for 20 years and will be assuming the role of Interim Chief Deputy Treasurer as I begin a very aggressive search for the best possible replacement for Laurie", stated Mr. Matheson. "Fortunately, the Treasurer's Office has a number of talented and experienced employees that will help in the transition."

He added, "I strongly believe the most critical component of the county's senior management team is not the 'merry-go-round' of elected officials but, rather, our chief deputies and department heads. The Chief Deputy Treasurer position is posted on the County's website and our Human Resources department is pursuing other recruitment avenues as they help me to identify qualified local and regional candidates."

Ms. Thomas' last day at the county will be January 20, 2021.

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For more information or to submit comments, contact:

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