



Tuesday, March 26, 2024

## Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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**Please list any/all social media account URLs.**

<https://www.facebook.com/brian.dansel.9?mibextid=kFxxJD>

## Getting to Know You

This next section will give you the opportunity to provide details about who you are as a person, candidate, and member of the community.

### Tell us about yourself.

**My name is Brian Dansel, and I'm currently a Ferry County Commissioner. Previously I served as a State Senator as well as a previous stint as a county commissioner. In 2015, I was the first elected official west of the Mississippi to endorse Donald Trump for President. From there, I was made the deputy director for the Trump Campaign for the Pacific Northwest. After his historic win in 2016, I was made a member of President Trump's beachhead team—one of the first 100 people who help the new administration transfer power from the old administration. From there, President Trump appointed me as an advisor at the National Economic Council as well as the United States Department of Agriculture where I gave advise on any issues dealing with public lands in the west. I advised the Trump Administration on oil, gas and mineral exploration leases as well as timber harvests. I was proud to be part of the effort to build our strategic reserve and energy independence until the Biden administration ruined both. After my time as an advisor, I was named head of the Washington State Farm Service Agency where I led a team of 76 people and where I advocated for our farmers here in Washington State. This experience gave me the**

**opportunity to really learn and understand the issues our Agricultural Producers face to a level that you just otherwise couldn't get without serving in that role. After a year in that role, I was promoted to the Pacific Northwest regional Director for the USDA, where I oversaw three federal agencies in a six state region. Throughout my political career I have been proud to avoid special interest money while also winning tough elections. President Trump chose me to serve in his administration in part because I believe he saw some of the skills he admires the most—loyalty and competency. The reason I was able to thrive in the Trump Administration was because we championed the right issues. Despite what the media says, President Trump always had the best interests of the American people and I got to see it up close and personal. I'm running for Congress because I feel we need a person with a backbone to go to Congress and help pass and support America First policies and I know for certain that I'm the guy to do it because I have done it—both as a State Senator when voting against the highest fuel tax in the history of America, as well as in the Trump Administration when I cut overbearing regulations, helped in the effort to become energy independent while putting many Americans back to work in that field, and let farmers make more of their own decisions during my time at the USDA. I want to take that experience and apply it to the U.S. Congress.**

**List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.**

Ferry County Commissioner

WA State Senator

Advisor—National Economic Council, Trump Administration

Advisor—USDA, Trump Admin

State Executive Director—USDA,  
Trump Admin

Regional Director—USDA, Trump Admin

**Describe your duty to the office you are running for and how you will achieve success.**

First and foremost it's the duty of any elected official to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. Second, it's to protect the people you represent have their rights protected. Those are really the two things I ask myself before considering any piece of legislation or action—is it constitutional and/or would it violate my constituent's rights? From there, I would take each bill on a bill by bill basis—I'm a big supporter of single subject bills for this and other reasons—and if it included increasing regulations or taxes I would not and have not ever voted for anything of that nature. I believe that is a great start to approaching what would come across my desk as a Congressman. However, this is also where I feel like I am just a little different than my opponents. Instead of using politicians or fundraisers to fill out my staff, I would bring with me people who have made it in the private sector. I would want folks that aren't necessarily from the political sphere because I have seen how that can make the office holder out of touch with real people. So

the first way to combat that is bring real people into the fold. Second, I would implement strategy sessions where everyone from the congressman, to the state reps and senators, county commissioners and party folks could get together, roll up our sleeves and actually strategize about how to secure conservative victories both in the long term and the short term. I see a lot of good talent from top to bottom and bottom to top but I also see disorganization. I think we could all buy into an approach where we all feel like we are on a team and what better way than to actually meet, hold serious conversations and put those words into action when it comes to serving our people. With how this current administration is handling things, I don't think we can afford to sit by and expect the government to do the right thing any longer. I'm sure you feel the same.

**What does success look like for this position and what key performance indicators should voters use to evaluate you?**

I think success looks like an election victory for sure but I see it as so much more than that. I see success as saving our snake river dams, not just talking about it. I see success as challenging Seattle Liberals and Lisa Brown types when it comes to defining what our part of the state is going to look like for the next foreseeable future. I see success as saying you're not going to vote for tax increases and then when the pressure gets out on you, sticking by your guns and not caving in. Not everyone can say that but I can. I think having the right message and seeing which candidates connect the most organically is the best route, but one that is rarely taken. As part of the 2016 Trump campaign, I saw all of the talking heads continue to say that he couldn't win because he wasn't serious and spent the least amount of money. If you remember, back then it was almost a forgone conclusion that Jeb Bush would be our front runner based on fundraising. That didn't matter. It didn't matter because my friend Donald Trump had the better message and the better policies. We still wouldn't be talking about border security and immigration if it wasn't for him. I think backing the candidate that most closely matches your values, your voting record, and your previous endorsements should be taken into account. Once in office, I believe that success should be measured by how well the person votes, how well they represent themselves and their constituents and whether they are accessible to the public. I believe in being out and about and being accessible—I think it's a trait that is lacking in today's political landscape.

**What community activities are you engaged in? Have you held leadership roles in any of these organizations?**

County Commissioner  
Rural Drug Task Force  
Former member Republic PDA  
Member, Republican Party

I have held leadership positions in all of these entities prior to becoming an elected official where I had to leave my position on these various boards to serve in office.

**Your Political Beliefs**

This section contains a series of questions about your alignment concerning broad governmental philosophies as well as some specific issues.

**Where do our rights as citizens of the United States come from? Under what conditions can government infringe or suspend them?**

Our rights come from our Creator, codified by the Constitution. I don't believe the government should ever infringe or suspend them. I think we all saw why with how they handled Covid.

**Do you consider yourself a constitutional originalist or do you prescribe to it as a living document? Please explain.**

I am an original Antonin Scalia style originalist/textualist. He said it best when he said "our constitution isn't a living or a dead document; it's an enduring one." Every time the United States has gotten in trouble, it's when the high court has strayed from the origins of our constitution—most evident when the Warren Court came into power in the Kennedy and Johnson Administration(s). In no way is the Constitution a living document. It is, however, the finest enduring document on earth in my opinion.

**What is the purpose of government? If elected, how will you perform your duties based on that**

**"purpose?"**

The purpose of government is to protect its people and their rights although you couldn't tell by watching the political landscape the past 50 or so years. The government cannot do anything more effectively and efficiently than the private sector and the free market. They continually forget this, and that's why you have things like electric vehicle mandates with a power grid we all know cannot supply enough energy to do so. So based on that, I would want to cut back on government, not incur anymore debt, reduce our federal foreign aid amounts significantly if not altogether based on solely of spending that money will protect American lives and American interests. If not, don't spend it. I am sickened frankly by how much debt we are passing on to our kids and we must stop it.

**When does life begin and at what point does the government have a duty to protect it?**

I believe life begins at conception, and that the government has the duty to protect life at that point.

**Do you have any criminal convictions, ever filed for bankruptcy, have any active or unresolved tax liens, any conflicts of interest that may jeopardize your candidacy?**

I do not have any of the above. I'm proud of the life I have led and the record I have achieved.

**Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative, adhering to the values and answers you've provided in this questionnaire.**

First and foremost, I would be in district as much as possible and available through town halls and the like. But, I don't feel like that is enough. I would be very active in this regard—you would see a Congressman Dandel at the State B tournament, at local coffee shops meeting with real people, holding get together's with the idea of strategizing with other politically engaged folks and finally, I would do as I have always done—I would give folks my cell phone number. Most people think I'm crazy for this, but I have always done it and with maybe a few exceptions over the years, it hasn't been abused.

**Please provide any feedback, comments, or questions that you have for the SCRCC.**

I believe this has been a fair and pertinent, well thought out process and I thank you for your time and consideration.

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