



JAMIE COLLINS

for Deschutes County Commissioner

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Jamie Collins announces campaign for Deschutes County Commissioner, Position 1

A veteran, disaster responder, climate scientist and father, Collins will reinvest in wildfire and disaster resilience, provide bold leadership on sustainable growth, implement strategies to fight climate change and work to create affordable housing.

BEND, Oregon – Jamie Collins, a 22-year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, climate scientist, and a nationally-certified disaster responder and incident commander, is launching his campaign for Position 1 on the Deschutes County Commission.

“Last fall, my wife, son and I returned home to Bend from a two-year active duty assignment overseas,” says Collins. “We chose to return to Deschutes County because, like many of you, we think it’s the best place in the country to live, work and raise a family. But that doesn’t happen by chance – it takes leadership, a vision for the future and hard work. I am running to make the County a place where everyone – in our generation and the next – can afford to rent or buy a home, raise children in an environment resilient to fire and climate change, and feel secure knowing their County government has their back.”

The son of a public schoolteacher and an agricultural scientist, Collins was raised in a small, rural community where he raised livestock and grew vegetables for the county fair as a proud 4-H’er. He

moved to Deschutes County in 2018 to continue a long career in public service as the state's lead environmental emergency response official for central and eastern Oregon.

As a disaster responder, Collins has been trusted by governors and Federal leaders from across the political spectrum to help hundreds of communities in Oregon and across the United States recover from natural disasters like wildfires, oil spills, and other environmental emergencies – helping people at their most vulnerable while holding big polluters accountable. As an MIT-trained climate scientist, Collins has focused on practical solutions for conservation, land use and drought, helping communities, tribes and private companies from Sisters, Oregon to Utqiagvik, Alaska, prepare for the many effects of climate change while seizing opportunities to reduce our collective impacts.

“Jamie is a fellow veteran who has spent his career solving complex problems. He has a proven record of bringing together different stakeholders and constituencies to create positive outcomes,” says Redmond City Councilor John Nielsen. “The Deschutes County Commission needs ethical, solution-oriented leaders capable of putting the County above ego, self-interest and political cynicism.”

Collins will draw on the servant leadership he practiced in uniform to bring people together behind a platform he calls “Moving Deschutes Forward,” emphasizing practical solutions to Deschutes County's toughest challenges:

- an “all hands on deck” reinvestment in disaster preparedness and wildfire resilience
- bold County leadership to help us grow equitably and sustainably – incentivizing affordable housing while preserving the rural character that makes our High Desert a special place to live
- forward-looking climate adaptation strategies to create a viable future for our farms and transportation systems while fighting climate change right here in the High Desert
- creating and sustaining living-wage jobs for Deschutes County residents, and
- targeted, proven strategies to address key elements of our housing affordability and homelessness crises

In addition to his role as father, husband and rescue dog owner, Jamie has served on multiple Bend city committees and currently serves as board secretary for Meissner Nordic Ski Club, a non-profit organization that provides free, groomed Nordic skiing for residents and tourists at the Deschutes National Forest's Meissner Sno-Park. He is a member of the Boneyard Cycling club and volunteers with the Oregon Natural Desert Association.

Supporters can learn more about Collins and join his campaign at <https://www.collins4deschutes.com> or follow Jamie on Instagram @collins4deschutes