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Jamie Collins files to run for Deschutes County Commission, Position 1

The veteran, disaster responder, climate scientist and father is taking on Commissioner Tony DeBone to provide crisis-tested leadership in the High Desert.

BEND, Oregon — Today, Jamie Collins, a 22-year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, working climate scientist, nationally-certified disaster responder and incident commander, local dad and community volunteer, officially filed paperwork to run for Position 1 on the Deschutes County Commission.

“I’m running because I believe my young son Jack, and all kids and families, deserve to grow up with clean air and abundant water, in a region where both working families and retirees can afford to live, where our forests and rivers are healthy, and where we are able to respond to crises and prepare for the ones we know are coming,” Collins said.

Jamie’s career has been defined by public service, leading on the front lines — everything from search and rescue missions on the high seas to helping central and eastern Oregon communities respond to over 350 oil spills, floods, forest fires, and natural disasters.

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 and other environmental emergencies — helping people at their most vulnerable while holding big polluters accountable. As a working climate scientist, Collins has focused on practical solutions for conservation, land use and drought, helping communities, tribes and private companies prepare for the many effects of climate change while managing growth in a sustainable way.

Collins will draw on his crisis-tested and experienced leadership to bring people together behind practical solutions to Deschutes County’s toughest challenges:

- **Tackle the Wildfire Crisis.** An “all hands on deck” reinvestment in wildfire resilience and disaster preparedness – to keep our communities safe and our homes fully insured.
- **Address Our Housing Crisis.** Build affordable housing working families need – in livable, complete communities within our cities.
- **Protect Our Resources.** Bold leadership that puts science first with responsible zoning – protecting our farmland, forests, and water from short-sighted development.
- **Build Climate & Energy Resilience.** Shore up our electric grid and create well-paying local jobs – while lowering costs for families and making us more resilient.
- **Refocus Critical Services for Veterans and the Houseless.** Strengthen the way our county provides resources for our least fortunate, including our unhoused neighbors

Collins’ campaign has already earned the formal endorsement of local elected leaders including Bend City Councilor Steve Platt, Redmond City Councilor John Neilsen, COCC Board Member and Former Deschutes County Commissioner Alan Unger, and dozens of local community leaders like Hilary Garrett, a Planned Parenthood board member and retired physical therapist; Michele Knowles, board member of the REACH Homeless Outreach Program; and Marv Kaplan, a U.S. Navy veteran and board member for the St. Charles Foundation and Central Oregon Veterans Ranch.

Collins’ candidacy has also attracted national attention with early endorsements from VoteVets, New Politics and 314 Action.

“This community has had enough of Tony DeBone’s failed leadership on the County Commission.” Collins said. “On Day One, I’ll be ready to bring the crisis-tested leadership and experience Deschutes County deserves.”

In addition to his military service and disaster response work, 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. He’s a proud father, husband and rescue dog owner.

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

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