

Two in Race for County's District 1 Supervisorial Seat

White Stresses Development, Accountability

By Josh Cozine The Trinity Journal - April 8, 2026

Scott White chose Trinity County as his home five years before the new millennium. He lived first in Junction City until he met his wife at the turn of the new century and purchased property in a burn scar off Lewiston Road a year later in 2001.

White worked several years for the county Planning Department and then the local Caltrans district, cultivating his property during his off time. Now, a quarter century later, what had once been burned over is a growing orchard of fruit trees with two gardens full of herbs and other medicinal plants.

Following such a story it's no surprise two of his core concerns when it comes to Trinity County are wildfire safety and planning for the long term. Now, White is running for supervisor of Trinity County's first district, focusing not only on wildfire and planning, but also local government accountability, stronger public engagement and more.

Visit his campaign website at foryoudist1.com and read about his decades of professional background in land use and transportation planning, which he says is key to addressing local challenges like housing, jobs, public services and infrastructure, as well as his current and past service on several local community service districts, Lewiston Elementary School District and as one of Trinity's master gardeners.

Land use and housing

"How and where we use land is fundamental to our society," White said. White stresses that decisions about property use, like zoning and general plan designations, have already been made and need to be implemented efficiently. "Those decisions

were made at the time of the adoption of the general plan and zoning,” White said. “It’s done; we need to focus on how we can make it happen.”

He also, however, emphasizes flexibility within the already established rules. If parcels have environmental constraints for example, White said the county should look toward practical solutions so homeowners can still build. “Maybe we need an alternative sewage system, maybe an on-site retention basin — whatever it takes to make residential use possible,” he said.

Supporting local development

White also wants to make the development process more straightforward for residents and small businesses. He notes that infrastructure, like sewer and roads, have limited housing development in the county historically, but says solutions exist nonetheless.

“We need to do everything we can to develop in a way consistent with our plans,” he said, adding, “that doesn’t mean breaking laws — it means figuring out how to make it work.” He emphasizes a problem-solving approach over conflict.

“Somebody comes in with a project; let’s figure out how to get them there instead of arguing about whether it’s appropriate,” he said, again referring to his planning-based focus adding “that decision was already made.”

“Once we’ve made a decision about land use, we need to focus on implementation, not rehash old arguments,” he said. “That’s how we actually make progress for our community.”

Accountability and mentorship

White places a strong emphasis on accountability and clear processes in local government, especially after such transparency questions were raised to the county —

including by him specifically — earlier this year with multiple closed session meetings earlier this year and little reported out.

He also believes mentorship and leadership continuity is critical in such a small county where he received much of his professional training from higher-ups, and says it could go a long way toward retaining employees in a county often plagued with high workforce turnover.

“I had a wonderful boss who trusted me and let me grow,” White said. “That’s how you develop staff who can carry the work forward,” he said. “We can’t run a department effectively if we don’t have the right staff.”

“We need people in key positions who know what they’re doing and who can mentor others,” he said. “We need to fill positions, implement our general plan, invest in infrastructure — so we’re moving forward instead of stagnating,” he said.

Wildfire

Besides buying property in shadow of the 1999 Lowden fire, White also grew up in Paradise, California. He had already been a resident of Trinity County for more than 20 years when the Camp fire burned through nearly all his hometown where he still kept up with many acquaintances.

Beyond fire safety, White is concerned with rising wildfire insurance costs.

"Due to the number and size of recent tragic fires in California (including the Camp fire in my hometown of Paradise) many private insurers are not writing new policies or are canceling existing policies. The California FAIR Plan provides access to basic fire insurance coverage but is not a complete policy and is really intended for temporary use. We must find a path to better insurance options if we want our county to thrive," White stated.