

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bozeman Area Chamber Board Endorses Eric Bryson**

BOZEMAN, Oct. 22, 2007 – The board of directors of the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce has announced that it has endorsed Eric Bryson for the Bozeman City Commission.

“The Chamber Board took into account responses to questions as well as member feedback at the recent Eggs & Issues Forum,” said BACC President & CEO David Smith. “It is clear to the board members that as the majority of business owners and operators get to know Eric, they believe he will be the best candidate for small business owners in Bozeman.”

In a straw poll at the Eggs & Issues Forum, members voted 34-7 in favor of the board endorsing Bryson. Board members also interviewed Bryson and his opponent, asking the same questions.

“While Betty focused on quality of life, we felt that Eric had a far greater knowledge of the myriad issues a commissioner is faced with,” Smith said. “During his time as a school trustee he dealt with the very real issues of growth and balanced that with high quality education. We trust him to do the same as a city commissioner.”

Smith noted that with more than 1,200 business members, the Chamber has a vested interest in all businesses in the community, since 80 percent of those members have fewer than 10 employees.

“We take our mission statement seriously – to advocate high quality of life, but also to preserve the free enterprise system,” he said. “We believe Eric identifies very strongly with that passion for small business growth. And we have heard from our members that they also believe in Eric.”

Answers to the candidate questions are posted on the Chamber’s web site, [www.bozemanchamber.com](http://www.bozemanchamber.com). A complete video of the Eggs & Issues Forum is available at [www.montanastation.com](http://www.montanastation.com), courtesy of KBZK CBS 7.

About the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce - Every day, the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) works to help create a strong local economy by fostering business growth in the Gallatin Valley. In addition to this key goal, the BACC is committed to promoting the community, providing networking opportunities to its members, and representing the interest of business with government. With 1,250 members and growing, the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be the largest chamber in the state of Montana.

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