

CITIZENS PROJECT

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This publication is a free, nonpartisan service provided by Citizens Project to encourage informed voting and voter turnout. Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 50 words or less. The responses were not edited for grammar, punctuation, or spelling. Responses can also be viewed on our web site: www.CitizensProject.org.

★ ★ ★ OCTOBER 2014 ELECTIONS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

VOTER GUIDE – GENERAL ELECTION 2014

“Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.”

– George Jean Nathan

Your vote is more than your voice: it is also your power. Your vote elects people and passes policies, and it dictates the future of your community.

At Citizens Project, we believe voting is the currency of democracy. That’s why, for the last 22 years, we have worked hard to provide the community with easy-to-understand ballot synopses and candid responses to important questions – directly from the candidates themselves. We invite you to use this guide as a resource in deciding how you’ll exercise your right to vote, and visit justvotecolorado.org for more important updates about where and how to cast your ballot.

Don’t be a bystander. Vote.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014



PIKES PEAK EQUALITY COALITION GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CANVASSING

Help Citizens Project and PPEC ensure that the voices in our community are heard. Join us at one or all of these fun events where we will knock on doors to empower voters!

- 10/18, 12pm-4pm
- 10/19, 2pm-6pm
- 10/25, 2pm-6pm
- 10/26, 2pm-6pm
- 10/31, 4pm-8pm- Halloween canvassing fun: TRICK or VOTE!

Contact sarah@coroundtable.org for more information

Ballot Measures Explained

Sources include the Colorado League of Women Voters, the Bell Policy Center and the Colorado Legislative Council’s Blue Book.

STATE BALLOT MEASURES:

Amendment 67 (Constitutional) – would amend the state constitution to add “unborn human being” to the definitions of “person” and “child” in the criminal code and Wrongful Death Act to extend some legal rights to fetuses. **Citizens Project opposes** this measure because it is extreme, has dangerous implications for women and health care providers, and imposes a religious belief through government.

Amendment 68 (Constitutional) – would amend the state constitution to allow for slot machines, poker, roulette, blackjack and craps at the Arapahoe Park racetrack in Aurora and would also allow future gaming at two additional racetracks in Pueblo and Mesa Counties. 34% of total proceeds from the gaming expansion would be earmarked to subsidize K-12 public education.

Proposition 104 (Statutory) – would amend Colorado statutes to require school boards and their representatives to conduct collective bargaining negotiations in open meetings.

Proposition 105 (Statutory) – would amend Colorado statutes to require labeling of genetically modified foods; allow existing food mislabeling penalties to be levied for failure to comply; require the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to develop regulations and oversee implementation; and prohibit private citizens from initiating lawsuits for failure to comply with labeling requirements.

COUNTY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES:

1A – would allow El Paso County to retain \$2,044,758 in excess revenue to fund park projects countywide. If passed, property owners would allocate \$8.41 of what would otherwise be a refund under TABOR to these projects.

1B – would fund emergency stormwater mitigation projects in El Paso County through a property fee. Average residential costs are estimated to be \$7.70 per month, and collection would begin in 2016, with a twenty-year sunset.

1C – would decrease limits on consecutive terms allowed for County Sheriff from three consecutive 4-year terms to two, for a total of eight years.

MUNICIPALITY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES:

2C – Fountain – would increase the tax paid by short-term lodgers (less than 30 days at hotels, motels, campgrounds, and other facilities) in Fountain by \$.03 per dollar spent beginning January 1, 2015, with revenues being allocated to tourism promotion and exempted from revenue retention and spending limits in the Colorado Constitution.

2D – Fountain – would amend the city charter to expand residency requirements for fire and police personnel to a 30-mile radius, and would make an exception for fire and police chiefs and officers hired before January 1, 2015.

2E – Fountain – would update the language in the city charter allowing City Council to: create and abolish boards and commissions; determine size and scope of boards and commissions; separate the authority of boards and commissions from that of city administration; and appoint and remove members. Would also establish a planning commission, an economic development commission, and a parks and recreation advisory board.

2F – Fountain – would add a clause to the city charter allowing City Council to establish regulations for petitions aimed at modifying the city charter.

2G – Manitou Springs – would prohibit retail marijuana operations within city limits.

300 – Palmer Lake – would allow for the sale, regulation, licensing, and taxation of marijuana.

301 – Palmer Lake – would prohibit the operation of retail marijuana stores until at least November 7, 2017 and thereafter until repealed by vote of the electorate.

SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTIONS OR ISSUES:

3A – Falcon School District – would eliminate the sunset of the 2005 voter-approved mill levy to raise \$7.5 million annually to fund: capital projects, teacher attraction and retention, technology, and courses offering college credit.

3B – Falcon School District – would increase the amount of allowable debt for the district to \$107.4 million (with a repayment cost of \$222.5 million) and increase taxes by \$9.9 million for the repair, leasing and construction of educational facilities and technology. Estimated impact would be \$1 per month for each \$100,000 in home value.

3D – Cheyenne Mountain School District – would increase the amount of allowable debt for the district to \$45 million (with a maximum repayment cost of \$84.28 million) and increase taxes by \$4.98 million per year for capital construction, safety enhancement, and electrical, mechanical, and fire systems. Estimated impact would be \$1.99 per month for each \$100,000 in home value.

3E – Cheyenne Mountain School District – would expand the maximum allowable mills from 50 to 53 mills. This increase will allow the district to raise the \$4.98 million in issue 3D, and both measures must be passed for a successful bond issue.

3H – Harrison School District – would extend the existing mill levy of 4.5 mills through 2024 for instruction and program enhancement. Would allow the district to retain, for its general fund, additional revenue resulting from property value increases.

3I – Peyton School District – would allow the district to retain taxes that would otherwise be refunded under TABOR through 2022, and would prohibit any mill levies during the same period.

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Senate District 11

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Senate District 11

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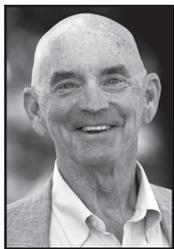


<p>1. Why are you running and, if elected, what will be your priorities?</p>	<p>1. I want to add a different voice and perspective to how politics is viewed in Colorado. It's time we talked about empowering individuals, families, and businesses to have a greater stake in their lives. The current status quo creates more & bigger problems, and favors those in political and governmental positions.</p>	<p>1. To continue the work started in last session. Priorities: Improve Jessica's Law to protect children from sexual predators; Ensure government is transparent; Empower parents to make the best choices for their child's education including expanding vocational education; Restore Constitutional rights; Improve Colorado's Shield Law to enhance Freedom of the Press.</p>
<p>2. What are the top three most pressing issues facing Colorado and the Pikes Peak region, and how will you address them? (100 words)</p>	<p>2. Education-Education's important for communities. Colorado needs more competition for teachers & schools. Currently, too much focus is on reforming public educational institutions for sake of reform. Let's empower families to make better choices via more choices via more competition. Marijuana/Hemp-Colorado can be nationwide leader with hemp & marijuana industries. Let's reduce regulatory burden imposed on marijuana industries, both retail & medicinal. Hemp industry needs government out of the way so the state's economy can flourish. Generally-Colorado politics focuses too much on choices provided by both major parties. Let's change that. Please consider third party candidates.</p>	<p>2. (1) Manitou Springs Flood potential: Continue efforts to mitigate possible flood damage and assist with recovery; (2) Possibility of a Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Action (BRAC): Continue efforts to improve our relationship with our military members and to continue to support the study to determine the economic impact that the DoD has on all of Colorado; (3) Jobs: Support legislation that reduces government burden on businesses, especially small businesses, and roll back unnecessary regulations.</p>
<p>3. Some states have introduced legislation that allows businesses to refuse service to LGBT people based on their religious beliefs. Would you support similar legislation in Colorado and why?</p>	<p>3. No, I would not support such legislation. Businesses should not be forced to serve or not serve anyone. Social pressure is far more effective than legislation. Businesses should be left to survive or not based on how they do business & not on government policy.</p>	<p>3. I support the right of business owners to do their work the best way they see fit but I wouldn't want to legalize discrimination. As a consumer, I like to do business with people who want to do business with me.</p>
<p>4. What role does a vibrant and well-funded arts & cultural sector play in the overall vitality of our local/regional economy?</p>	<p>4. A tremendous role! I live in Manitou Springs. Listen, arts & cultural centers will do much better when taxes are lower and people have more money to spend and donate. Subsidizing these wonderful places is a recipe for disaster.</p>	<p>4. As economic vitality is the lifeblood of a community, a vibrant arts and culture sector its heartbeat. My wife Linda and I are members of and season ticket holders for the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and Fine Arts Center plays. We must support the arts to have a well-rounded community.</p>
<p>5. Which of the following comes closest to your views on the issue of abortion? a. Abortion should be legal in all circumstances b. Abortion should be legal, but with certain restrictions c. Abortion should only be legal in the case of rape, incest or if the life or health of the woman is in danger d. Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances</p>	<p>5. <i>Abortion should be legal in all circumstances</i>—It should be legal in all circumstances.</p>	<p>5. I am pro-life and respect those who may come to a different conclusion on this difficult issue. I have taken an oath to defend the Constitution and I will continue to uphold the Constitution and our rights if reelected.</p>
<p>6. As an elected official, what would you do to help Colorado improve our public education and transportation systems? How should scarce resources be allocated?</p>	<p>6. How should scarce resources be allocated? Education needs more competition. I already covered that. I frequently ride the Mountain Metro bus in Colorado Springs. I like it. I don't mind. I want to see more options available for public transit that do not include subsidies or government funding. Those resources are exactly that: scarce.</p>	<p>6. Budgets are about priorities. Transportation and education are two priorities that I'll continue to champion during the budgeting process. Both are vital to job creation. We need transparency in transportation spending to ensure our tax dollars are being spent wisely and to empower parents and students with educational choices.</p>
<p>7. What, if anything, should be done to increase access to voting for all eligible electors?</p>	<p>7. People should be able to vote for more than one candidate in every political race.</p>	<p>7. Mail balloting gives voters more access than ever before. Our charge now is to ensure voters know about the changes and franchise isn't compromised by fraud. I look forward to continuing my work with County Clerks Association to make sure that our new laws are working as planned.</p>
<p>8. How will you work to bolster systems that serve traditionally underrepresented and underserved communities, including public transportation, access to health care, and professional training programs?</p>	<p>8. I will work to bring forth the idea that there are numerous other solutions to these problems besides more government funding and employees and personnel and government-funded studies studying the impacts of such solutions. That's how things work right now. Let's change that, find new, better solutions, and they exist!</p>	<p>8. John Morse underrepresented our district until his recall. Conversely, I'm focused on putting our district first. We held constituent service hours to ensure residents have their voice heard, passed Jessica's Law to protect our children and passed job creation legislation. I will continue those efforts in the next session.</p>
<p>9. Where do you stand on the principle of separation of church and state?</p>	<p>9. I am an atheist. I prefer to keep religion out of government as much as possible. There are numerous religions in Colorado, and the best way to respect their beliefs is to leave them alone, and without government involvement. Likewise, religion should not be involved in government.</p>	<p>9. I agree with our forefathers that there shouldn't be a state-sanctioned religion and that each citizen has the right to freedoms of religion, assembly, and speech along with the citizenry's right to keep and bear arms. I work tirelessly to uphold those rights as I have for over half-a-century.</p>

Senate District 11

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House District 14

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House District 15

LOIS FORNANDER

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 Occupation: Retired Educator



NORDBERG

Daniel Nordberg, House District 14 did not respond to survey

1. I can't just sit on the sidelines. My experience as a teacher, State Representative, and city councilman give me unique expertise to serve my district. My priorities include making Colorado's economy work for everyone, not just the wealthy and providing an outstanding education for all kids regardless of zip code.
2. **Economy:** I believe if you work hard and play by the rules you should be able to live comfortably.
Education: I want to see to it education funding is equitable across the state so all children will receive an excellent education. I also want to move Colorado public schools away from the hyper-emphasis on standardized testing that is drastically narrowing curriculum and driving joy out of learning and the pleasure out of teaching.
Women's Rights: Finally, I firmly oppose any restrictions on a women's right to make her own reproductive decisions and I strongly support Equal Pay for Equal Work
3. Absolutely not! I firmly believe in equal rights for all colorado citizens regardless of race, color, religion, creed, and sexual orientation.
4. A vibrant and well-funded arts & cultural sector is incredibly important for the enrichment of community life. Additionally, arts and culture have great potential to be a tremendous economic driver. 72 million dollars flows into Colorado Springs annually from the non-profit art and culture sector, I believe we can expand this.
5. *Abortion should be legal, but with certain restrictions.* I will support legislation that reduces interference with a woman's right to make reproductive choices and I will oppose Amendment 67 or any other personhood initiative.
6. Many of my ideas for improving public education are on my website: michaelmerrifield.org. We must have adequate resources. Both public education and transportation require a dedicated funding stream. As senator I will have the courage to speak truth to constituents about the dire fiscal situation facing both issues.
7. We have made great progress over the past two years with the passage of House Bill 1303, which improved access to voting. The next step is to improve access to accurate voter information.
8. I will listen to leaders of underrepresented and underserved communities, use my seat in the senate as a bully pulpit advocating for adequate services for the communities I will be representing, and be the proverbial thorn in the side for people who are ignoring the underrepresented parts of my district.
9. For me the separation of church and state is a non-negotiable principle

1. I am running because I believe the time has come for new leaders in the region. We are in desperate need of leaders with real world experience that are not interested in pushing radical agendas. We have to focus on the basics and not get caught up in ideological battles.
2. The three most pressing issues in my eyes are education, healthcare, and bringing the Pikes Peak region back to life. Both education and healthcare are suffering from runaway costs that are shutting everyday families out from prosperity. Our students face enormous debts upon graduating and bleak job prospects in the region. I believe we need to push for more trade/vocational school funding and reel in college costs. I also believe the ACA needs additional attention and modification to further reel in costs through increased doctor empowerment and increased insurance competition.
3. I would not support this legislation. Furthermore, the LGBT community should know who these companies are and not support them. There is no better vote than with your dollar.
4. I believe this to be a huge miss for the Pikes Peak region. I often joke that we are fifty shades of beige. We need to encourage the arts and culture sector to play a larger part in our region. We should encourage paintings, statues, figurines, etc. They give a city character and color.
5. *Abortion should be legal, but with certain restrictions.* Though I'd like to see there be zero abortions, the reality is that it does exist. I'd rather have safe options available for these women. That being said, prevention is the best medicine. Education and awareness are the keys to reducing abortion.
6. I believe we need to restore trust in teachers. They need to be given the flexibility to teach and adjust to each student as needed. I also believe we need to reduce the amount of testing. If we eliminate waste, it will free up funds for other priorities, like transportation.
7. I believe we need to eventually enable folks to vote online in addition to in-person or by mail.
8. I believe our public transportation in the Pikes Peak region is outdated. We have buses driving around mostly empty, stopping in the middle of busy roads, and having very limited routes. If we can improve costs in healthcare, we can improve access.
9. I absolutely believe in the separation of church and state. We are a free nation that accepts people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

1. Politicians representing the extreme right have a disproportionate influence in Colorado Springs. To attract good jobs and grow our economy, we must bury the notion that we are the capital of intolerance and extremist views. My priorities include protecting human rights, defending our environment and rebuilding our democracy.
2. Colorado Springs' economy continues to languish and middle and low-income workers continue to lose ground. We must redouble efforts to attract permanent, living-wage jobs. We must defend human rights regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Every citizen should have decent housing, nutritious food, adequate healthcare, a proper education and job training. We must mitigate flood and wildfire threats, develop renewable energy resources and control the use of GMOs, antibiotics, pesticides and herbicides in agriculture. We must reform campaign financing, limiting the influence of money in politics, and protect voter's rights and access to accurate information about their candidates.
3. No. We should defend human rights, not seek to delimit them. Businesses offering services to the public need to treat all members of the public equally.
4. A vibrant and well-funded arts and cultural sector strengthens the heart and focus of a community. It attracts visitors while enriching the experience of community members and providing youth an opportunity to participate and contribute, developing their sense of community.
5. *Abortion should be legal, but with certain restrictions.* I agree with the current Colorado laws on abortion: Outpatient abortion is available up to 26 weeks and medically indicated termination of pregnancy is available up to 34 weeks. A minor may seek to obtain a waiver from a judge if she is unable or unwilling to notify a parent.
6. Our community's future will depend upon both—effective public schools and efficient mass transit. While one might prefer an exclusive private school education and conveyance by personal transportation, most people will require public facilities, and—in the case of transportation—we will need to utilize pollution-reducing and economical public transit.
7. HB 1303 improved voter's rights and ballot access. The next step is to engage all voters with effective, non-partisan voter education. The political stage has disgusted and discouraged too many voters from participating. We need to help voters understand they will influence their elected officials only if they participate.
8. Our hyper-emphasis on individualism and competition has retarded the creation of a sense of community. People in our region must learn to appreciate our rich history and cultural diversity. We must value all neighborhoods and local groups, making sure that their needs for transportation, healthcare and job programs are addressed.
9. Separation of these entities is the foundation of our form of government. It is crucial that no single religious group be able to dominate over the interests of all other religious or non-religious groups.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

House District 15

GORDON KLINGENSCHMITT, PHD

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House District 16

RYAN MACOUBRIE

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 Education: College Graduate
 Occupation: Walgreens Photo Technician



JOSHI

1. Why are you running and, if elected, what will be your priorities?

1. I am running to fight wasteful and overreaching government control. As a small business owner with an MBA, I have experienced first hand the struggle to meet weekly payrolls under increasingly burdensome government regulations, heavier taxes, big-government mandates, and still grow the business to create better paying jobs.

2. What are the top three most pressing issues facing Colorado and the Pikes Peak region, and how will you address them? (100 words)

2. First, we must oppose big-government intrusion and excessive control of our lives. Colorado needs freedom and jobs, not higher taxes and regulation. Second, we must repeal burdensome regulations. Free market competition without government interference stimulates the economy and produces real jobs with benefits, not part-time jobs with no benefits. Third, we must defend the Constitution against those who wish to regulate your freedoms. I will fight for your freedom to choose your own religious beliefs, self-defense, education, and business. As a 20-year military veteran and Air Force Academy graduate, I have a proven track record defending the Constitution.

3. Some states have introduced legislation that allows businesses to refuse service to LGBT people based on their religious beliefs. Would you support similar legislation in Colorado and why?

3. I am against discrimination based on religious beliefs. As one who overcame religious discrimination, I sympathize deeply. People are passionately divided on redefining marriage. But suppose you support that. Do you also support big-government punishing, re-educating, fining, bankrupting, and even jailing religious people who don't? Tolerance should work both ways.

4. What role does a vibrant and well-funded arts & cultural sector play in the overall vitality of our local/regional economy?

4. As a former First-Chair musician, I enthusiastically support the arts. Well-funded arts and cultural programs are vital to the economy. I therefore fully support private financing of the arts, through free-market ticket sales, charitable donations, and free-press advertising. Government's role is to secure freedom, not pick which arts are best.

5. Which of the following comes closest to your views on the issue of abortion?

- a. Abortion should be legal in all circumstances
- b. Abortion should be legal, but with certain restrictions
- c. Abortion should only be legal in the case of rape, incest or if the life or health of the woman is in danger
- d. Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances

5. None of the above.

6. As an elected official, what would you do to help Colorado improve our public education and transportation systems? How should scarce resources be allocated?

6. Transportation dollars should stay in Colorado. To improve education, we must repeal alignment to "Common Core" standards that restrict teachers from teaching and students from learning. Some rightly complain 60% of classroom time is spent endlessly retesting, only 40% teaching. Let's restore choice to parents, teachers, and local school boards.

7. What, if anything, should be done to increase access to voting for all eligible electors?

7. First, we should clearly define voting eligibility. Next we should enforce standards to ensure ineligible voters do not violate existing law. Dead people might vote in Chicago, but not in Colorado. After that, all eligible voters should be boldly encouraged to eagerly participate, as is their American right.

8. How will you work to bolster systems that serve traditionally underrepresented and underserved communities, including public transportation, access to health care, and professional training programs?

8. Free-market choice in education, transportation, and health care is more efficient than burdensome regulations. The government should not tax competence to subsidize incompetence or unscientific solutions, when the free market would reward scientific excellence. Why control how citizens travel, heal or learn? Free people are collectively smarter than bureaucrats.

9. Where do you stand on the principle of separation of church and state?

9. The government should not force people to violate their beliefs. I have sacrificed greatly to defend the First Amendment. As a former Navy Chaplain, I defended my Jewish, Muslim, and Atheist Sailors' rights before my own. People of all races, creeds, Democrats, Independents, Republicans, men, women, children should be free.

1. I want to help people—help students, teachers, and schools build a better education system—help unemployed people find work and earn more—help outdoor adventurers enjoy our parks and public places—and help people stay safe from drugs, crime, and violence. I want to help people enjoy their lives.

2. Top three? First, let's fix our economy: for there are far too many people unemployed and many more who cannot live on the little money their jobs pay. So I'll start by working hard for broad prosperity, helping small businesses grow and raising the minimum wage. Broad prosperity increases funding naturally (without raising taxes) to students, teachers, schools, and public transportation—our second pressing issue. And third, let's protect our forests, rivers, and parks from man-made damages and extreme weather events (floods, fires, etc.). I'll fight hard for more park rangers, equipment, rescue services, and better controls over polluters.

3. I would strongly oppose such legislation, for many reasons. First, because it's blatantly morally wrong. Second, because I believe it violates the separation of church and state. And third, because refusing to serve customers is not a sustainable business strategy. Freedom is a shield, not a sword—protecting, never oppressing.

4. Creativity is attractive. Tourists come to marvel at beautiful arts. Businesses come to capitalize on tourists and artists. And families come to communities made prosperous by creative successes. These three groups fuel economic prosperity. So if we want economic success, we must actively promote artistic creativity. Art is very important.

5. Abortion should be legal in all circumstances. I am pro-choice. I also strongly support reducing the number of abortions, by reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies. This requires promoting responsibility among all sexually active people, and educating everyone about abstinence, alternatives, and contraceptives. If all else fails, women do have the right to terminate unwanted pregnancies.

6. Scarce resources should be made less scarce. As my answer to question 2 shows, broad prosperity, reduced unemployment, and a higher minimum wage will help increase available revenue. Then spend wisely. Money doesn't solve every problem, but it does help. Every other challenge can be overcome with intelligence and diligence.

7. I support proactive, not merely reactive, voter registration. County Clerks should be proactively finding and registering every eligible elector. They could partner with high schools to register eligible students. Plus, people should want to participate more in politics. Your right to vote is really your responsibility to vote. So, Vote!

8. I'll help these public service programs the same way I help everyone else: I'll learn as much about them as possible, study their strengths and weaknesses, consult with experts, then do what needs to be done to make things better. Listen, learn, grow—that's how I work to help people.

9. I strongly support the principle: Governments should never dictate doctrine to churches, and churches should never demand support and legislation from governments. This strict separation of church and state (our long-treasured principle) benefits everyone, on both sides of the divide, and should, therefore, be strictly followed.

Janak Joshi, House District 16 did not respond to survey

House District 17
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House District 17
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House District 17
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1. • To improve the quality of life for the citizens of Colorado Springs.
 • Create further employment opportunities that provide a living wage.
 • Bring together such a diverse community.
 • Develop creative and effective ways to provide funding for education.

2. We need to strengthen our education system, and keep graduates here to create new business. We need to build up our economy and provide adequate employment, and re-establish a strong sense of community. Colorado companies need have the first option for state contracts. We need to bring more jobs to Colorado Springs and continue to increase strengthen safety around fires and flooding, to keep our cities viable for business and tourism.

3. I would not support such legislation. I'm strongly against any legislation that discriminates against a person or people due to their race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation. Our constitution provides us with the protection needed from such hateful laws and I will use my authority to uphold such constitutional rights.

4. Funded the arts is a leading factor in our tourism industry that contributes to our local economy and jobs. With tourism being one of leading industries, it important we support the arts to help bring new business to our community. The arts add to our quality of life.

5. *Abortion should be legal in all circumstances.* These decisions should be between a women and her doctor so women can have a discussion with their physician about all options before final decision.

6. I support legislation to modify TABOR, which has created a situation where it has become difficult to save money and increase revenue for education, Cities and Counties. I am also eager to support legislation aimed to improve the well being of our education and transportation system.

7. Increase the number of voting and ballot drop off locations.

8. We need to make Health care and transportation affordable and accessible to all of the community. There are new State programs to help people receive training and find employment at the Pikes Peak Workforce. We must continue to make improvements.

9. While I consider myself a man of faith, I believe that organized religion shouldn't be mixed in with the state. Religion can be a crucial aspect of a person's life, one of the things that make our nation so enlightening is the freedom of each person to practice their own faith.

1. I am tiered of the bureaucrats and politicians not listening to the citizens. Money should not vote, the big corporations should not control the country. My priority would be to cut the inflated salaries of government administrators, bureaucrats and elected officials. They should be no more than living wage.

2. The money drain out of Colorado. We do not need to be paying people and corporations for the privilege of being in Colorado, it should be the other 'way round. Any company with a headquarters outside of Colorado should be taxed higher than any local company. We need to be conscious of the ecology. Keep our water pure. Encourage the use and development of wind and solar energy sources. A true free market economy will open jobs that will allow workers to work and to live, get the government out of the market place.

3. Any business that refuses service or goods to a customer would soon go out of business, but the government has no business teaching them that truth. As a "T" of LGBT I don't want service refused me, but I am sure I can find better service from a smarter business.

4. A vibrant art sector will fund itself. If we stop coercing funds from intelligent people they will voluntarily buy and pay for plays, concerts, art and other culture. Expanding the libraries will expand the culture. And until we can reduce taxes we need to keep the schools and libraries well-funded.

5. Abortion is a medical procedure between a woman and her doctor. Her family and clergy may help in her decision, but the state has nothing to do with it. The state should not pay anything directly for individual medical procedures, but the state should not make any procedure illegal.

6. Competition would improve both. The state testing does not improve education, it only improves the test makers, and develops a citizenry that won't think. Open the regulations that disallow more than one transport company to operate in any one area, keep the companies public, open, Colorado, stock holders and administrators.

7. Ensure that a citizen is a citizen, that a resident is a resident, with verification of registration at the poll by two election judges. Philosophically, religiously, or physically every election location should be accessible. That some polling places are churches is the only real problem still in effect.

8. Improvements to education, transportation and health care should start in those areas that have been traditionally slighted. Use what we have to help, and help those who need it most first.

9. If one religion is given access to a government instillation or activity then all religions must be allowed. It is not the state's job to dictate religion. It is not any religions right to dictate to the state either, as long as the state leaves religion's rites alone.

1. I am running because we deserve better representation. Our unemployment is as high as 15%. More laws passed in 2014 tax small business. People want jobs. My goal is to make it easier to get a job, start a business, get a viable education, and take care of our families.

2. Jobs, education, and transportation. Walking door-to-door, I've met many folks who started a business only to close because of regulations, taxes, or unexpected fees. My goal is to reduce overregulation, which is choking job creation. I want high schools with vocational education in lower income school districts. I want students to graduate with a skills certificate. Many employers can't find skilled labor. We can match our youth to opportunities and help employers bid on contracts and projects. This is how we improve our economy. Transportation is a jobs issue. People can't work if they can't get to work.

3. In cases of widespread, institutionalized discrimination, government intervention is sometimes necessary, but in more localized cases, the best solution is the free market. Generally, I would urge people who don't like their treatment at a particular business to start competing business or patronize existing businesses that represent their values.

4. A huge role. I believe in our local arts and culture sectors. I believe this sector is the fabric that brings us together as a community. Many are non-profits. I would be glad to work to reduce or address legislative regulatory issues affecting non-profits so they may thrive.

5. None of the above.

6. Many endorsers support my position on vocational high schools. I serve on the PPRTA and PPACG CACs and I am an advocate for transportation. Programs should have measurable metrics and an expiration date to evaluate the use of resources and allow resources to be reallocated to programs that work.

7. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 addresses access and states must comply. The outcome is an increased use of mail-in ballots. In Colorado, election laws changed to increase access. Serious concerns about voter fraud are prevalent. The question is who doesn't have access and what are possible solutions.

8. I would incentivize cities to connect underserved and underrepresented communities to job centers, community services, and educational institutions with improved bus services. Bus services should have more stops, longer service periods and shorter waiting times. Most of our vulnerable communities live on limited incomes. Yet, Colorado wastes these communities' limited resources. The state has four departments serving these communities and poor delivery of federally-mandated service (like SSI) or access to such services. In a state with a waiting list for services, I believe we should consolidate operations into one department to improve service and free up funding sources for these communities.

9. I support the separation of church and state. The United States was formed to allow religious freedom by keeping religion out of government and vice-versa. It takes vigilance and resolve to protect our freedoms and civil rights. I won't be afraid to stand up and protect our Constitutional rights.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

House District 18

PETE LEE

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 Education: Ohio Wesleyan University BA 1970; Majors- English, Politics and Government; Academic Honors- ODK and Pi Sigma Alpha. Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 1970-71, University of Akron School of Law, JD 1975 Bancroft Whitney Civil Procedure Award.
 Occupation: State Representative



House District 18

MICHAEL SCHLIERF

Party: Republican
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 Education: SUNY at Buffalo/Arizona State
 Occupation: Ind Engineer/Consultant/Investor



<p>1. Why are you running and, if elected, what will be your priorities?</p>	<p>1. Having lived in Colorado Springs for almost 40 years, I want to continue creating a community where our children and grandchildren have opportunities for good jobs, excellent education, affordable health care and recreation in a sustainable environment. I am committed to promoting social justice, civil rights and restorative justice here.</p>	<p>1. I'm concerned that large, unresponsive government is limiting individual choice. I desire a bright future where teachers are released to teach, free from excess testing, where businesses can create jobs, unencumbered by excess regulation, and people are left alone to plot the course of their own lives.</p>
<p>2. What are the top three most pressing issues facing Colorado and the Pikes Peak region, and how will you address them? (100 words)</p>	<p>2. Economic growth and job creation are foundational to a thriving community so my focus will continue to be on the economy. Working with business, I will propose legislation to help provide a bridge from the academic arena to the workplace, particularly advanced manufacturing. I will work for funding for K-12 and higher education and to support policies to increase accountability and transparency. I am committed to expanding the use of restorative justice practices to improve offender accountability, reduce costs and lower recidivism in the criminal justice system. Promoting renewable energy, protecting the environment, and addressing water shortages are also priorities.</p>	<p>2. Colorado should unleash small business from excessive taxes and red tape. I'll partner with them so that we don't lose businesses to states like Utah, which have eliminated many of the barriers to success that Colorado has erected. Our teachers are professionals who can be trusted with the education of our children. I will work to reduce state micromanagement allowing districts to increase student-teacher time, the known solution to breaking the correlation between socio-economic status and achievement. Government needs to be responsive to us! I will represent the people of HD 18 rather than out of state billionaires.</p>
<p>3. Some states have introduced legislation that allows businesses to refuse service to LGBT people based on their religious beliefs. Would you support similar legislation in Colorado and why?</p>	<p>3. Absolutely not. They violate the Constitutional guarantee of equal protection, Colorado's Constitutional guarantee of inalienable rights, and defy the fundamental right of all people to live free of invidious discrimination. Precedent, tradition and case law dating back to the Civil Rights Act requires commerce to be conducted free of discrimination.</p>	<p>3. No, we cannot trample the rights of one person to protect those of another. While we have the freedom to hold unpopular views, we also have the freedom to stop spending our money with those businesses. Would we force a LGBT bakery to make a cake for Westboro church?</p>
<p>4. What role does a vibrant and well-funded arts & cultural sector play in the overall vitality of our local/regional economy?</p>	<p>4. A study by Americans for the Arts concluded that local arts generate \$72 million in economic activity annually, including 2,168 full-time jobs, \$4.3 million in local and \$2.2 million in state tax revenues. The arts are an essential element of revitalization, to both attract the creative class and inspire innovators.</p>	<p>4. The beauty of our natural setting has drawn artists of all types and enriched our community since its inception. Art reflects our heritage and continues to build our unique identity</p>
<p>5. Which of the following comes closest to your views on the issue of abortion? a. Abortion should be legal in all circumstances b. Abortion should be legal, but with certain restrictions c. Abortion should only be legal in the case of rape, incest or if the life or health of the woman is in danger d. Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances</p>	<p>5. Abortion should be legal in all circumstances</p>	<p>5. An Issue this complex and personal should not be reduced to "bumper sticker" slogans. I do not support policies which insert lawyers and government between a woman and her doctor. A baby able to survive outside the womb is society's most vulnerable citizen and must be protected.</p>
<p>6. As an elected official, what would you do to help Colorado improve our public education and transportation systems? How should scarce resources be allocated?</p>	<p>6. TABOR, Gallagher, and Amendment 23 severely constrain our ability to fund key services including transportation and education. This year the legislature introduced one of the largest single K-12 investments in Colorado's history to address some of these deficits. Transportation funding alternatives include mileage taxes, toll roads, and public private partnerships.</p>	<p>6. A 2011 CSU Study forecasts by fiscal year 2024 the state budget will only have enough revenue to support Medicaid, K-12 education, corrections. Transportation and education are critical to Colorado's future. The best way to assure future funding is to increase our economy through policies encouraging business activity and investment.</p>
<p>7. What, if anything, should be done to increase access to voting for all eligible electors?</p>	<p>7. I am proud of the strides the legislature took to make voting more accessible to all Coloradans in 2013. The Voter Access and Modernized Elections Act allows for same-day registration, ensures that every eligible voter receives a ballot in the mail, and creates a real-time database to prevent fraud.</p>	<p>7. Without an ID, I can't get into City Hall, go to a Hillary Clinton book signing, fly an airplane or buy spray paint. Voting integrity is more important than any of those activities. Free government IDs should be issued to voters who lack one.</p>
<p>8. How will you work to bolster systems that serve traditionally underrepresented and underserved communities, including public transportation, access to health care, and professional training programs?</p>	<p>8. As with voting rights, one key to bolstering systems that serve underrepresented and underserved communities is identifying barriers to those services. We must also recognize that these services are interconnected and that solutions require cooperation among multiple parties. I will continue to help identify barriers and work with all parties.</p>	<p>8. Underserved citizens deserve choices available to all others. Monopolies are not responsive (think DMV, think VA health care). Typically more funding brings more bureaucracy and less responsiveness. The answer is to introduce competition to make them faster, better and cheaper. This is how private industry prospers.</p>
<p>9. Where do you stand on the principle of separation of church and state?</p>	<p>9. I fervently support the First Amendment stating that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Consequently, I believe there should be a wall of separation between Church and State, while respecting the right of people to worship as they chose.</p>	<p>9. I think the separation of church and state has been one of the things which has helped to make the United States great. I also believe that prohibiting others from expressing their religious views in the public arena will ultimately have a very bad effect on our country.</p>

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

GLENN

County Commission District 1 **THOMAS NIEMAN**

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Education: Masters of Science
Occupation: Education



County Commission District 5 **PEGGY LITTLETON**

Party: Republican
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Phone: 719-660-5566
Education: Bachelor of Science
Occupation: El Paso County Commissioner
Supplier manager and small business owner



Darryl Glenn, County Commission District 1 did not respond to survey

1. Why are you running and, if elected, what will be your priorities?
2. What are the most pressing issues facing El Paso County and how will you address them (100 words)?
3. While the Pikes Peak region is known for its natural beauty, health and wellness resources, and abundant outdoor recreational activities, the region has yet to fully leverage the strength of its arts, culture, and creative community as a means for tourism and branding. How would you utilize your elected office to promote the area as a regional cultural destination?
4. What, if anything, should be done to diversify the types of invocations at official County Commission meetings, and where do you stand on the principle of church/state separation?
5. As county commissioner, what would you do to ensure a balance between promoting job growth and sustainable development in El Paso County?
6. Some people in this community believe that merging the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County would eliminate inefficiencies and create economies of scale. Please tell us where you stand on this issue and why.
7. What, if anything, should be done to increase access to voting for all eligible electors?
8. The Board of County Commission 2014 Discretionary Budget allows for an average cost per citizen of \$159. What are your funding priorities? How will you leverage resources and collaborations with private charities to enhance the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region (100 words)?

1. I am running to ensure the electorate has a choice in candidates and to provide the community with the best possible representation. My priorities will be to balance the needs and desires of the community with our resources.
2. I believe some of the most pressing issues facing the community have arisen from political discontent and mistrust that have arisen over the past few years. Working hard with all of the local political entities to find common ground and compromise will help settle the community and help entice outside enterprises consider moving their operations here.
3. Working with the local Chambers of Commerce is certainly important. We also have a large nation and international business community, as well as our military community, which could potentially help in these areas.
4. The invocation should be suited to the needs of the commissioners. The 1st amendment prohibits laws establishing religion. Therefore, lawmakers may prey or not before assembling as they see fit.
5. I see the jobs of commission as promoting responsible growth by ensuring resources are available for the new population.
6. Some merging may be a good idea. However, I don't see a complete merge possible since there are two different communities served.
7. All eligible voters should have access to the ballot, with reasonable assurances against voter fraud.
8. My funding priorities would be to improve our infrastructure, especially considering our recent natural disasters. I believe the local charities could potentially help by providing access to some manpower in this area. After that I believe we need to continue to look at ways to improve our image and draw more tourism and industry into the area.

1. To serve El Paso County by leveraging the years of experience I've gained as a teacher, former elected member of the State Board of Education, and County Commissioner. To listen and lead, maximizing county government's ability to ensure the health, safety, economic welfare and equal opportunity of each county resident.
2. Topping the list is economic uncertainty—fueled by high unemployment and possible military cuts. Building relationships with base commanders and reducing barriers to business are essential to making El Paso more secure. Economic uncertainty places a disproportionate burden on women, children, the aged and minorities. We must continue to develop services to assist those who are most effected. Also facing El Paso are important issues regarding stormwater, roads and other infrastructure, but contentious division and scandal has damaged regional politics. People want elected officials to be trustworthy, transparent and accountable. I am a principled leader who values transparency and integrity.
3. County government, partnered with the city, must use all reasonable means to facilitate the arts. First off, I am working to keep what we have, i.e. the Balloon Festival! And, I support redevelopment of the South Academy corridor into entrepreneurial art districts with studios, bars, restaurants, fountains and parks.
4. The First Amendment protects free exercise of religion and prevents public officials from granting official favor to any organized religion or belief. The Supreme Court has backed invocations before meetings. El Paso County is home to many religious dominations; each shall remain welcome to offer invocations before board meetings.
5. The proven relationships I have established over the years with our business and military leaders are vital to opening communication and working cohesively to sustain our valuable community assets. Community leaders know I support reduced regulation, elimination of cumbersome barriers and common sense initiatives.
6. I promote consolidation and efficiency where applicable, however county and city governments should not be merged into one. This would eliminate valuable checks and balances that prevent any leader or entity from monopolizing authority and services. Such an effort would require a Colorado Constitutional Amendment in a general election.
7. Every American citizen in El Paso County has full access and multiple options to ensure their voice is heard and their vote counts. As a county commissioner, I supported funding to meet and exceed the State's requirements for voting locations and hours to allow for greater voting access.
8. County government relies heavily on cooperation and participation of individuals, businesses, religious institutions and other private organizations to ensure the health and welfare of the public. Outside of the mandated budget items, the highest priorities of county government are public safety and transportation. Towards that end, I work as liaison with airport business to improve service to the region, and with charities and individuals to improve community-wide emergency communications. I will continue to look for opportunities to partner and collaborate with foundations and other non-profit and faith-based organizations to enhance the quality of life for citizens in El Paso County.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

County Commission District 5 JARIAH WALKER

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 Occupation: Partner and Real Estate Broker at Walker Asset Management Realty, Inc



1. Why are you running and, if elected, what will be your priorities?

1. I believe in our community. I want to use my years of business experience and community service to ensure that we all share in a prosperous future. I will work with the entire community to provide the people who live, work and invest here every possible opportunity to succeed.

2. What are the most pressing issues facing El Paso County and how will you address them (100 words)?

2. The most critical issues facing our community are stagnant job growth, faltering business development and the lack of a diversified economy. As a native of Colorado Springs, I've watched as friends moved away for work and better business opportunities. I've seen the collapse of many of our neighborhoods and the shuttering of too many businesses. No business wants to invest in a community burdened with career politicians who squabble over petty differences. I want to create an environment that listens to our local businesses on what they need to create jobs, and that attracts new industries and out-of-state companies.

3. While the Pikes Peak region is known for its natural beauty, health and wellness resources, and abundant outdoor recreational activities, the region has yet to fully leverage the strength of its arts, culture, and creative community as a means for tourism and branding. How would you utilize your elected office to promote the area as a regional cultural destination?

3. This will be a process of incremental steps, the first of which must be the creation of a community conversation. As a representative, I will engage all stakeholders in our tourism and cultural organizations. I'll want to hear from them on their needs, and how best my office can assist.

4. What, if anything, should be done to diversify the types of invocations at official County Commission meetings, and where do you stand on the principle of church/state separation?

4. My Christian faith is deeply important to me, and I understand how important faith can be for people of different backgrounds. There is no reason a non-Christian should feel out-of-place when interacting with their government. I will take such concerns very seriously. I support our country's fundamental tenet of separation.

5. As county commissioner, what would you do to ensure a balance between promoting job growth and sustainable development in El Paso County?

5. My district's entirely within the city limits of Colorado Springs. There are many areas in this district, such as Academy Boulevard, that have been long neglected. We need to attract businesses and support entrepreneurs by working on a city/county partnership to provide incentives to local firms while promoting in-fill development.

6. Some people in this community believe that merging the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County would eliminate inefficiencies and create economies of scale. Please tell us where you stand on this issue and why.

6. I believe that there are aspects of regional governance that can, and should, be merged. A current example is the maintenance and repair of our storm-water infrastructure. I support a regional approach, as I believe it will be the most cost-effective and efficient solution to what is a regional challenge.

7. What, if anything, should be done to increase access to voting for all eligible electors?

7. We must ensure that everyone in our community has access to convenient voting/ballot drop-off locations. I will work with all members of our community to ensure that our County Clerk provides greater access to voting locations for the citizens in all areas of my district.

8. The Board of County Commission 2014 Discretionary Budget allows for an average cost per citizen of \$159. What are your funding priorities? How will you leverage resources and collaborations with private charities to enhance the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region (100 words)?

8. As you note, our quality of life must be our main focus, and this extends to many areas including public safety, transportation, infrastructure, and economic development. When we, as a community, invest in any of these areas we see an exponential return on this investment through job growth and tourism dollars. El Paso County is lucky to have so many active and effective nonprofits. The key to successfully leveraging these resources will be to create an open dialog. From there, we can find ways to work together to enhance the lives of our community's citizens.



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9to5 National Association of Working Women, Center for Nonprofit Excellence, Colorado Common Cause, Council of Neighbors and Organizations, Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPER), PFLAG, and Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

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