



Citizens Project

U.S. House of Representatives

Candidates are listed in the order they appear on the official ballot. All responses are presented as received from the candidates, without editing for grammar, punctuation, or spelling and were truncated if they exceeded the specified word limit.

2016 June Primary Election

Congressional District 5

Quick Info

DEMOCRAT



Misty Plowright

Email: info@mistyforcongress.com

Website: MistyforCongress.com

Phone: 479-420-5936

Education: Some College
Occupation: It Consultant



Donald E. Martinez

Email: 2016@martinezforamerica.com

Website: www.martinezforamerica.com

Phone: 719-470-2016

Education: MSM in Homeland Security
Occupation: Retired Army, Urban Farmer, Doctoral Student

REPUBLICAN



Calandra Vargas

Email: Calandraforcongress@gmail.com

Website: CalandraforCongress.com

Phone: 719-244-6733

Education: Masters, Bachelors
Occupation: Political Operative, Equestrian Professional



Doug Lamborn

Candidate did not respond.



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Congressional District 5

1. What are your qualifications for this position? (150 words)

DEMOCRAT



Misty Plowright

During my career in IT, I've had to deal with numerous situations in a variety of environments. I've had to manage multi-million dollar budgets, numerous simultaneous projects, put out (figurative) fires, as well as lead my teams to success.

I know what it's like to struggle, to work hard and still just barely make ends meet. I also know how to put together rock star teams of people to get the job done, and get it done well. I've followed politics very closely for a long time, and I've seen people get forgotten and ignored because their pockets weren't deep enough.



Donald E. Martinez

I am a free man. I am not paid off or funded by any political party, special interests, lobbyist, corporation or individual. I support and defend the constitution of the United States and her citizens, and will continue to do so long as I can.

I am a Colorado Springs native and have lived and worked in this community for many years. I am a volunteer with various organizations which allows me to interact with many organizations and with various community leaders. I am also medically retired combat arms officer with two combat deployments to Iraq.

REPUBLICAN



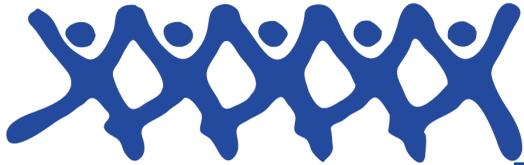
Calandra Vargas

The Constitution states that a congressman must be 25 years old, a US citizen for seven years, and resident of the state. James Madison said it best in Federalist Paper 52, "Under these reasonable limitations, the door of this part of the federal government is open to merit of every description, whether native or adoptive, whether young or old, and without regard to poverty or wealth, or to any particular profession of religious faith." I have served in in the Republican party for over a decade, worked for elected officials, was a Young Leader at Heritage Foundation, hold two degrees in foreign policy, and know what its like to work hard to take care of my family. The beauty of our system is that anyone willing to take responsibility for office can run. Congress was meant to be composed of citizen-legislators, members who truly reflect the people of their district.



Doug Lamborn

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Congressional District 5

2. What are the two most pressing issues facing Congressional District 5 and how will you address them? (150 words)

DEMOCRAT



Misty Plowright

I think the 2 largest issues are jobs and infrastructure. Fortunately, these 2 problems can be tackled and solved at the same time. It's no secret our infrastructure is in desperate need of repair and maintenance, but it's also in dire need of modernization. This is the 21st century, and many areas (including within our district) people do not have the ability to get a high speed internet connection. One of the programs coming out of the New Deal was the electrification of the country. The Rural Electrification Administration was created to bring electrical service to the entire country. Later telephone service was also added to its mandate. It's time to do the same with wired broadband to bring high speed internet to the country. By fixing our existing infrastructure, modernizing it, and investing in technology, we also create good paying jobs.



Donald E. Martinez

National Security and high tech job growth. The federal government is the top public employer in the Pikes Peak Region and with the National Cybersecurity Center, this will increase high tech jobs in the entire district. We need to ensure that our educational institutions and private sector are prepared for this growth so that they can support our local population with securing these new job opportunities.

REPUBLICAN



Calandra Vargas

The VA, under the oversight of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, which my opponent is a member, has refused to take responsibility for the failures of the system. House leadership and Congress have failed to prioritize the needs of our military and vets. I will restructure the staff of my office to serve more constituents by hiring a VA casework specialist and I will fight for more resources to fund medical services in areas that have high populations of veterans. Small business owners, including farmers and ranchers, are struggling under tremendous regulatory and tax burdens. The endless amount of red tape, taxes, fees, insurance mandates, compliance laws, etc., make it very difficult to pay bills let alone grow business and hire more employees. We must overhaul our tax system, abolish the IRS, and make sure regulation protects property rights, water rights, and fosters an economic climate that promotes business.



Doug Lamborn

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Congressional District 5

3. What should be Congress' budget priorities? (100 words)

DEMOCRAT



Misty Plowright

It's time the USA was once again the world leader in scientific research, advancement, and achievement. Jobs, Infrastructure, Research & Development, NASA, Education, and Veterans should be our priorities. We can reduce spending in numerous areas without adverse impact by exercising smart fiscal policy. For example, budgets should not be viewed as a "use it or lose it" item. Use only what you need, and don't go crazy wasting money at the end of the fiscal year to prevent your budget from being cut.



Donald E. Martinez

Budget priorities need to focus on supporting economic growth and the security to the people. Congress needs to focus on rebuilding critical infrastructure and protecting our homeland while continuing to protect our civil liberties.

REPUBLICAN



Calandra Vargas

Congress must identify and eradicate fraud and abuse in all government-funded programs and defund organizations that support immoral special interests. Social Security must be protected for the older generations who have paid into it and our veterans must be taken care of. Congress must secure a budget that meets the need to modernize, build, and equip our military at home and overseas. America has diminished in strength as the world's super-power while our security challenges have not. National security, including cyber and border security issues, must be a priority.



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Congressional District 5

4. *What role should Congress play in protecting equal rights for all people? (50 words)*

DEMOCRAT



Misty Plowright

Congress needs to stop trying to restrict people's freedoms. Businesses that provide public services should not be permitted to discriminate. Beyond preventing discrimination, the government should leave people alone. Period.



Donald E. Martinez

The federal government's role is to create an environment where its citizens can grow and prosper. This includes protecting and enforcing laws that protect all rights for all people. Liberty is the foundation of our Constitution and it is the role of congress to protect equal rights for all citizens.

REPUBLICAN



Calandra Vargas

Congress has the solemn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, which protects every person's God-given right to life and liberty. The Amendments reflect specific rights such as free speech, right to vote, etc. Every person is valuable, deserves respect, and is guaranteed equal protection under the law.



Doug Lamborn

Candidate did not respond.