

EL PASO COUNTY REPUBLICAN

2017 School Board Candidate Survey

Thank you for running and for caring about our children and their futures.

We are asking for your thoughts and inputs to the following survey questions so that we may share your perspectives with our community on our webpage, www.gopelpaso.com. Your survey will be posted as a pdf file, and you are encouraged to return the survey in a pdf file format with your last name added in the file name. We plan to post it no later than Oct 16, 2017, the day the ballots are in the mail. Once uploaded, we will be sending an email notice to our community of over 5,000 emails to look at the responses. We will also list all candidates who did not respond to the survey by Oct 9, 2017 so voters will be aware we did not intentionally forget your survey response.

Many answers have a word count limit. We suggest paying attention to the word count as readers will only read for so long and then skip through your response, possibly missing something you consider important.

Reminder: **Return by Monday, Oct 9, 2017, emailing it to homeofthefreeandthebrave@yahoo.com.** Surveys received later will not be posted on the www.gopelpaso.com website. Please send us your responses in pdf format and add you last name to the file name. Good Luck!

Contact Information:

Name Anna Lord

Address 8120 Packard Lane, Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819

Telephone Number 719-687-0123

E-Mail Address nylords@ix.netcom.com

Website

Background Information:

Please provide a brief summary of you personally (family, education, occupation). (100 words or less) I graduated from UCCS with a BS in Finance before working for the DoD and then NASA. I moved back to the MSSD14 District in 1999 where I became involved at the Ute Pass Elementary School, acting as class parent, serving on a number of committees including the PAC and BAC and running the After School Enrichment Program. In 2003 I ran for the MSSD14 Board of Education, where I served for 8 years. During that period I also served on the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Board of Directors.

Have you or any relatives been students or employees in the school district?

Circle one: Yes No

If so, please provide specifics. (25 words or less) My three children attended and graduated from MSSD14 schools.

Have you ever served on a volunteer board? Circle one: Yes No

If so, what was/were your position(s)? (30 words) 8 years – MSSD14 Board of Education, 6 years - Colorado Association of School Boards, BOD, 3 years - Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Citizen’s Advisory Committee

Survey Questions:

- 1. Why do you want to serve on the school board, and what do you see as your role as a school board member? (300 words or less)** During my 8 years on the MSSD14 Board of Education I took every opportunity available to increase my knowledge and continue my education in order to be a more effective School Board Member. I attended numerous educational conferences and completed on-line workshops to improve my understanding of school finance, education law as well as networking with other school districts on best practices. I formed relationships with our Colorado Legislators on both sides of the aisle and was invited by members of both parties to testify on bills being discussed in House Education. While serving on Manitou’s School Board I also served as the chair of the Federal Relations Network for CASB, developing CASB’s lobbying platform and bringing it to Washington D.C. to present to our Congressional leaders. While there is lots of work to do at the local level, improving and strengthening education for the students MSSD14 serves, I also hope to be involved at the state and national level on improving education for all Colorado’s children. I believe that my knowledge, my education, my experience with MSSD14, combined with my passion for public education will be a benefit students and residents.
- 2. What role, if any should other government entities (city/county/state/federal) have in the local school board? (120 words or less)** I am a strong believer in local control. Politicians at the state and national level continue to increase mandates in areas like testing and reporting while decreasing funding for education. I believe it is important to interact with our elected officials at local, state and national level to craft education legislation that allows local districts the freedom to make decisions reflect the needs of the students and voters they serve.
- 3. What is the most critical issue in the district and how would you address them? (120 words or less)** Funding for public education continues to be critical issue for all school districts. Colorado ranks between 40th and 42nd in the nation on per pupil spending. MSSD14 has been fortunate to have a supportive voter base, which approved mill levy increases three times in the past 17 years, but I believe there needs to be a change in the way education is funded at the state level. In the meanwhile, I’ll work with MSSD14 District Leadership to continue to seek out innovative private-public partnerships and manage our schools as fiscally responsibly as possible.
- 4. What will your relationship be with associations/unions related to school employee? (50 words or less)** In my 8 years on the MSSD14 BOE I had no interaction with teachers unions. Teacher/staff associations, along with the BOE, were involved in periodic discussions regarding salary schedules and benefits.

5. Have you received any campaign contributions from a school employee association/union?

Circle one: Yes No

6. What is your position on school finance/funding? (250 words or less)

Please see my answer to question #3 above.

7. What is your position on public charter schools and their contribution to the district community? (200 words or less)

MSSD14 is a small district and currently has no charter schools or charter applications. I do understand the variety and choice options charter schools can bring to a district and would approach any charter applications with an open mind.

8. What is your position on parental choice for schools? (200 words or less)

MSSD14 has been positively impacted by Colorado's "choice" environment. When I first was elected to the board in 2003, MSSD14 was in a period of declining enrollment, looking to reduce programs and staff. Instead of cutting programs, we looked for ways to have improved our programs adding classes in the arts, in technology and AP to attract out-of-district students, which have supported our schools by increasing student count which adds both energy and additional funds. As a small district, we can't be all things to all people, but we can focus on maintaining a healthy, inclusive environment where students feel safe and welcome, and where they have the opportunity to explore a variety of class offerings and participate in a variety of school activities.

9. What is your position on Common Core? (75 words or less)

While I understand the problems that arise when different districts and different states have different curriculum, particularly for students whose families move multiple times during their school years, I still have issues with the idea of a common curriculum mandated by the Federal Government. I believe most problems are best addressed by locally elected Boards of Education.

10. What endorsements have you received? (100 words or less)

Reference Links:

Parental choice. <http://parentschallenge.org/>

School choice. <https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/what-is-school-choice/>

Common Core. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/factsheetsandfaq>

School Finance. <https://www.casb.org/Page/433>