

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 Christina Vidovich

Address 313 Sutherland Place

Telephone Number

E-Mail Address tmvidovich@gmail.com

Website

Background Information:

Please provide a brief summary of you personally (family, education, occupation). (100 words or less)

My family and I have lived in Manitou Springs for 14 years. My son is a senior at MSHS and has attended D14 schools since 1st grade. We love the community, schools, and enjoy being nestled in the foothills of Pikes Peak. Public Education has been my career and passion the past 28 years. I have a BA in Psychology, an MA in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Leadership. I have continued my education to obtain a Superintendent License and will complete my Special Education Director's License this December.

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

Circle one: NO

If so, please provide specifics. (25 words or less)

Have you ever served on a volunteer board? Circle one: Yes

If so, what was/were your position(s)? (30 words) I currently serve on the Manitou Springs Board of Education and have previously served on the Manitou Springs Park and Recreation Board.

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) I have spent nearly thirty years working in public education to better the lives of children and improve their communities. It is time for me to use that knowledge and skills to be of service to my own community. With my own child graduating from MSHS this year, I do not have any personal conflicts of interest, nor do I have the time constraint of having a school age child. This is the right time for me to partner with fellow BOE Directors to expand and enhance the already great practices in MSSD 14.**
- 2. What role, if any should other government entities (city/county/state/federal) have in the local school board? (120 words or less) The role should be one of partnership to mutually benefit the community. Manitou is uniquely poised as a small town to combine resources and efforts. However, the integrity and boundaries of each entity must be maintained.**
- 3. What is the most critical issue in the district and how would you address them? (120 words or less) Communication is an area that is an opportunity for growth and improvement in MSSD 14.**

4. **Technology is another area that has continued to be inconsistent in its instructional use by both staff and students. Feedback has been mixed on the effectiveness of iPads. There are bright points of light where they are being used well with intentionality. However, in other areas their purposefulness is less evident and even distracting from other, more important impactful practices.**
5. **What will your relationship be with associations/unions related to school employee? (50 words or less) It is the superintendent's role and his authority to work with and negotiate with unions.**
6. **Have you received any campaign contributions from a school employee association/union? Circle one: No**

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

Funding is always an issue in public education, but especially in Colorado. However we can't lose sight of the responsibility right in front of us; educating kids. We must simultaneously work with other educators, parents, and community partners to increase school funding, while still creatively problem solving to educate and care for students with the resources we have. Using our current resources will cause us to be more intentional about all aspects of our institutional program and district budgeting processes. More importantly, it will cause us to reach out to businesses and other partners to provide a full range of experiences for our children.

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

I work closely in my current occupation with public charters and believe they can contribute as much or as little as any public school. Public Charters exist to address a current need in the community and if they are able to do that well, they should continue to operate. Charters have the ability to offer a responsive and diverse learning experience that partners may desire from their current district options. Charters schools must meet criteria to be authorized and be held to a high standard of educational outcomes and fiscal responsibility.

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

School Choice has taken on a life of it's own in Colorado aside from vouchers for private schools. If we define School Choice as a parents' ability to select a program, school or district, charter or non charter, that is funded with public dollars then I am for School Choice. Manitou Springs has over 50% choice students and would not be able to provide services or maintain its facilities if they did not. I do not support the use of public funds being used for private schools.

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

I am in favor of the Common Core.

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

None

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>