

EL PASO COUNTY REPUBLICAN

2017 School Board Candidate Survey

Contact Information:

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Background Information:

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

I am a D11 parent; my oldest son graduated from Coronado High School in 2016 and my youngest son is a Junior at Coronado. I have volunteered in my sons' schools since they were in preschool, from parent organizations to the board of a D11 charter school. I am a member of Coronado High School's PTA, serving two years as its Treasurer, and Coronado's School Accountability Committee. I volunteer in Scouting, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site and League of Women Voters. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and a Master's Degree in Land Resources, both from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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 oldest son graduated from Coronado High School in 2016 and my youngest son is a Junior at Coronado.

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

If so, what was/were your position(s)? (30 words)

Charter School Board President and Board Secretary, Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning

Administrative Team, Voter Service and Communications Teams, League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region

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)

As a parent I want the best education my children can receive and I want that for all children in our community. High quality, safe public schools are an investment in our children's future.

I have been involved in building a stronger community for over 20 years, including 15 years working to engage families in schools. The skills I have used to organize and educate in our community are useful to engaging others and furthering thoughtful dialogue and action to improve our schools for all children.

My priorities as a school board member would be fiscal responsibility and policies that emphasize student success, which includes improving the graduation rate and supporting children in ways that help them learn. In higher-grade levels that should include education options such as vocational and technical training programs.

2. What role, if any should other government entities (city/county/state/federal) have in the local school board? (120 words or less)

School boards are required to follow laws set forth by other government entities and may choose to lobby to affect those laws. A cooperative relationship between local government and the district and school board is ideal to strengthen schools and the community.

3. What is the most critical issue in the district and how would you address them? (120 words or less)

Inadequate education funding has led to overcrowded classrooms, outdated technology for our students, a teacher shortage, and an aging infrastructure. I will look for creative solutions and encourage family and community involvement to help address these problems and strengthen student learning.

4. What will your relationship be with associations/unions related to school employee? (50 words or less)

I plan to work with any association or union that works with district students with the goal of improving education for all students in the district.

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)

Funding education is a long-term investment in our children's future and in the future of our community. Per pupil funding has decreased since the early 1980s and costs have gone up since that time. My conclusion is that Colorado does not adequately invest in the state's students. This lack of funding affects the education of our future workforce and our future economic growth. It's in our own self-interest for the state legislature to resolve funding issues and for local communities to step up and fund education.

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

District 11 has many great schools to choose from, and charter schools contribute to the wide array of options.

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

As an involved parent, I've seen firsthand how important it is to have public education options for a child and to find the right fit. Every D11 school should offer a high-quality and well-rounded education. As a district, we should also be exploring and adapting innovative programs that will draw students to the district.

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

Common Core standards set a clear and consistent set of expectations for students' skills and understanding in math and English language arts. The standards were developed with input from teachers and establish what students need to learn without dictating how teachers should teach their students. Decisions on how to implement the Common Core standards are made at the state and local level. I support the standards.

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

Colorado Springs Education Association

Pikes Peak Association of Realtors

Together for Colorado Springs

Unite Colorado Springs