

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:

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Website

Background Information:

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

BA: Art History & English, MS: Women's Studies

Past/Present Involvement: MSSD14 Community Liaison (2016-2017), Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) (2014-present), District Sustainability Plan Committee D14 Schools (2011), DAAC (District Accountability Action Committee) (2011-present), PHC Board and Chair of Strategic Planning Committee/Wellness Committee (2008-present)

Collaborated with District: Author Fest of the Rockies; Moms, Muffins and Mentors; Dads, Dudes & Donuts; PPLD's 100th Anniversary; and the Manitou Springs Education Foundation

Occupation: Executive Director of the Manitou Art Center and the Manitou Springs Creative District and former owner of Black Cat Books

I have lived in the District for 14 years.

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)

I worked as Community Liaison to the District during the 2016/17 School Year

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

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

Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) (2014-present)

Leadership Pikes Peak Arts Day Coordinator (2014-present)

Manitou Springs Forward, Key Vision Area Chair—Art and Cultural Committee (2012-present)

President of Concrete Couch (2011-2012), Advisory and Board Member (2012-present)

DAAC (District Accountability Action Committee) (2011-present)

And many more.

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)

On a basic level, I love my community and I love MSSD14! We have amazing teachers, administrators and students and I want to be a part of it. That being said, there is

always work to be done and I am someone who gets things done. It is a perfect fit. I am also a child-less taxpayer and active in the community through my work and play. I can represent the School in all that I do--City Council meetings, Community Potlucks and more. I attend A LOT of meetings and work actively with the City of Manitou Springs, El Paso County and the State. I can represent MSSD14 in all that I do. I am a childless taxpayer and I am passionate about this community and believe in the power of Public Education to transform lives.

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

The more the merrier! We are all in this together. Since the children are all of our futures, I believe that the City, County, State and Federal Government all need to work together to ensure that every child gets what they need to be successful adults and future leaders.

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

MSSD14 is more than just a place of learning. It has a food and clothing bank, school counselors, a TON of after school programming and often act as child care providers. Funding and Health /Wellness are some of its primary challenges.

As for funding/budget cuts, our Superintendent and CFO have been working with this in mind for years. During the Recession, they added programming and iPads and increased opportunities. With this next round of cuts, we are going to need to be equally creative. How do we increase what we offer and support our students when they need more than ever--with less? Collaboration. We need to tackle funding and mental health initiatives as a team.

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

As a school board member, I believe that it is imperative that we work with whomever is representing our school employees.

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)

I believe that in order to have informed adults, we need to inform and educate our children. I also believe that public schools can be great equalizers, like our public libraries. We all deserve a shot at being amazing! In order to achieve this, we need to fund it.

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

I believe in the State and Federal regulations that ensure that all children, no matter how expensive or challenging, have a right to be educated. Since charter schools are not required to support these students, I am reluctant to view them as a replacement to a public school education. I am not sure that they contribute to our overall well-being, but they are a good option for a choice few.

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

This idea was new to me when I moved here fourteen years ago. It has grown on me. The only major issue that I see is that because schools are always “selling ourselves”, they can’t always be honest about their needs. (It might make them look bad and send parents/kids packing.) This makes it difficult for schools to communicate with the public in a straight-forward manner.

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

I believe that testing only works if all students actively participate in it. Many of our students opt out of testing and it skews the results. We should either be all in our all out. Existing in the middle is a waste of time and money.

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

I haven't really worked on this: Former Mayor Marc Snyder

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/factsheetsandfaqs>

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