

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 Doug Lundberg

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Background Information:

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

I taught junior high school in Michigan for 2 years, then high school in Australia for 4 years. After that I settled in Colorado Springs and taught science at Air Academy High School for 25

years. Education is and always has been my life. After two years of retirement, I decided to pursue a position on the school board. I served that term plus one additional term and am ready to serve again. I have been happily married for almost 26 years and have 2 lovely daughters.

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 wife teaches at Discovery Canyon Campus, where my daughter is a high school junior. My older daughter is an Air Academy High School graduate.

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

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

I served on the Academy District 20 Board of Education from 2004 until 2012. I was president of the Board from 2010 – 2012.

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 love kids. My entire life has rotated around the education of our young students. I taught school for 32 years and loved it to the end. I served 8 years on the D20 school board and left due to term limits. After taking 4 years off, I feel that I have a lot more to contribute. One of the stronger aspects of my leadership is that I can make good, common sense decisions, always based on what is best for the students. I did a good job during my 8 years on the D20 school board and am excited for 4 more years.

My role as a school board member is to listen to our staff and patrons, to be visible at schools, and to make students know how very important they are. The most unique thing that I have to offer to the Board of Education is my lifetime career as a teacher. I know the joys and struggles that go on in classrooms and in schools. I lived that for 32 years. That perspective allows me to make better district level decisions.

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

By state mandate, the school board is an independent functioning entity and local control is a 'must'. Local school boards are under the rulings of the state school board and rely on funding from the state government. All of this is how the state of Colorado functions, and in my opinion, that is a good thing. Decisions are always best made at the local level. It is critical that parents in the district have input into decisions rather than people at the state level. Local control allows for us to build the school system that meets the needs and high expectations of our community. Loss of local control could potentially be damaging to all that Academy D20 stands for.

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

Our district has always had the problem of how to address growth and maintain a high level of learning and excitement of learning with our students. Luckily, growth issues have been kept up with by our last bond issue. We are the highest achieving large school district in the state of Colorado. We must maintain this excellence and offer all our kids the finest education possible. I am a proponent of attracting and retaining the best teachers. To do this, we need to be sure that we are highly competitive with salaries in the area and that D20 maintains the reputation of having the finest children in Colorado.

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

The Board of Education in District 20 has a good relationship with the association (Academy Education Association). We will talk with and listen to them as we have always done.

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)

District 20 receives funding from the state government of Colorado. We cannot provide educational services without this critical state school finance funding. Unfortunately, this funding falls short of what is required to run our school district. While we are one of the lowest funded school districts in the state, we manage our finances very well. I firmly believe that the state of Colorado should fund school districts at a much higher level than they presently do. However, we are very fortunate that our patrons have supported bond issues and mill levy overrides in order to keep District 20 thriving. For now, the best we can

do is to continue to lobby at the state level for increased funding, something our superintendent does periodically.

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

Academy District 20 has one of the largest charter schools in the state of Colorado: The Classical Academy. District 20 has supported TCA with money from bonds and mill levy overrides, as they would any school in the district. Charter schools play an important role in school choice and allow for innovative approaches to education. We are better off with them.

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

Academy District 20 has an advanced internal choice system for our students. As long as there is space available in any school, our students can apply to and attend that school. The school choice window has been an effective way for parents to decide where they want their children placed. This allows parents to put their children at a school that best fits their individual needs and interests. The choice system has encouraged great diversity within our District 20 schools. We have outdoor education programs, International Baccalaureate options, technology magnet schools, Home School Academy as an option, schools with a performing arts focus and much more. Choice has allowed schools to reinvent themselves, all for the betterment of our students.

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

While I do not personally mind Common Core, it seems that most patrons dislike the Common Core standards and the testing that goes with them. For that reason, we should be moving away from Common Core, back to localized Colorado testing.

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

I have received an endorsement from the Academy Education Association.

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>