

## Governor

### Yes or No

1. Do you support using taxpayer money for private schools?
  - No
2. Do you support single payer health coverage?
  - Yes, but at a federal or regional level. It is not financially feasible to create a single-payer system at the State level.
3. Do you support the concept of sanctuary cities?
  - Yes
4. Do you support deporting non criminal aliens?
  - No
5. Have you accepted campaign contributions from sources such as Monsanto, oil companies or banks?
  - No

### Essay Questions

1. In this era of factional mistrust, politics of greed, lust for power, what allows you to maintain your integrity, truthfulness, humility and honesty?

My life has never been about getting up the next rung on the ladder, it's been about making a positive difference, and my track record speaks to that value. I haven't run for political office, but time and time again, I've been appointed by governors and civic leaders across our state to lead non-profits, large organizations, and state commissions aimed at making a positive difference in our communities. I am running for governor not for the limelight, but because it is the platform which will allow me to make the greatest positive difference for the communities, and the state that I have loved all of my life.

I'm happy to be the underdog in this crowded field of well-known candidates. When you're the underdog, you have to wake up every day and work harder than anyone else. I've done that for my entire career, and I'm not stopping now. My reputation is as a workhorse, not a show horse - I've gotten this reputation after years of public service, and dedication to making real positive change. Maintaining my integrity, truthfulness, humility, and honesty is a daily practice, but my personal mission, to improve circumstances for as many people as possible would be hindered by greed and lust for power - I have never been interested in these things, and as governor, I have no intention of changing my values.

### Schools

2. What will you do about the public school teacher shortage in Colorado?

To resolve the teacher shortage, Colorado must make improvements across the board. It is essential that *we pay teachers the professional wages their critical profession deserves*, improve the teacher evaluation system to make it more fair and comprehensive, and create stronger systems to recognize and reward teachers as they develop throughout their career. In

doing so, we create a better environment, and more attractive compensation packages that will attract new teachers to the profession today, and change the culture around teaching to make it a more appealing profession for years to come. Alongside these system level changes, as governor, I will support the expansion of student-teacher pipeline programs, and will use my experience forging partnerships between education institutions, nonprofits, and industry to aid communities in developing pipeline programs that align with their needs and resources. In addition, I will support increased funding for education across the state, a portion of this new investment will be aimed specifically at fighting the teacher shortage, and raising teacher's wages.

3. What are their plans to adjust the negative factor (budget stabilization) to fund our schools according to Amendment 23?

My top priority as governor will be building a statewide coalition to increase our state's investment in education with new dollars. Alongside my advocacy and commitment for increased education funding, I will be proposing reforms to both TABOR and Gallagher to commit to a new education revenue stream that is sustainable and does not adversely affect other areas of our state.

As I make the case for an increased investment in education, I will fight to find the resources that our existing K-16 education system needs to excel. We must fix our schools crumbling infrastructure, find the money to keep school open 5 days a week, pay teachers a professional wage, and invest in our higher education institutions. Once we can pay for what we have, I will assess the costs of providing free pre-k and free community college, but these programs should not take the front seat over finding the resources to pay for the things that are fundamental to our existing public education systems.

As governor, I will build a statewide coalition to support making an investment into our young people that will pay dividends in Colorado for years to come. As I have done for numerous non-profits that I have led in Colorado, I will bring together educators, parents, administrators, civic leaders, and business leaders throughout the state to develop an investment plan that will transform education at all levels. Within the first year of my administration, I will bring a proposal to increase education funding plan to you, the people. After all, we should all have the chance to vote on making an investment in our future.

#### **Environment**

4. What is your stance on fracking, drilling and other aspects of mineral extraction that have the potential for environmental degradation, especially our water sources?

Protection of Colorado's constitutional rights, public lands, water, and environment are deeply held values across our state. As governor, my primary responsibility is to protect those values, and protect our communities when those rights come under duress. I believe that Colorado's oil,

gas, and mineral extraction policies are not serving those rights well enough today- we must do better.

In my mind, the most effective solution to resolving all issues surrounding oil, gas, and some mineral extraction, is accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels - on our electric grid, in our transportation system, and in our petroleum-based products. I will be aggressively pursuing increased renewable energy (45% Statewide within 8 years) and will pursue legislation to create open market access for renewable developers so we can rapidly integrate more renewable energy onto our grid, and further reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. This policy will ensure we make progress on day 1, and put Colorado on a strong trajectory to achieve 100% renewable energy in the future.

As we move towards a 100% renewable energy economy, there is more we can do to protect our water resources and environment from being degraded in the short term. First, I am proposing that Colorado give communities increased say in the drilling and extraction processes so that they can ensure their land, water, and air is taken into consideration before drilling occurs. Secondly, I am in full support of the recent Supreme Court case *Martinez v COGCC* that found the protection of public health and the environment is “a condition that must be fulfilled” by the state before oil and gas drilling can be done. Finally I support increasing the State Health Department’s Water Quality section’s resources. Ensuring our state’s water quality is among my top priorities, and I will place this funding increase in the priorities of our state budget.

5. What will you do to protect our National Monuments and other designated spaces from mineral extraction and private ownership?

Colorado’s environment is a foundation of our heritage, essential to our quality of life and our health, and a driving force of our state’s flourishing economy. I see enormous value in protecting these spaces as they are today, and ensuring their protection for the next 50 or 100 years. As governor, I will ensure that neither this presidential administration, nor the extreme growth our state is experiencing will disparately impact our public lands. I will fight for their protection from mineral extraction or private ownership. These lands are precious resource that are invaluable to our people, our economy, and our state. I will fight against any efforts to remove, or harm them.

#### **Rural Development**

6. What are your plans for much needed infrastructure funding?

I believe fixing Colorado’s \$9 billion dollar infrastructure funding deficit can be done in a two step process. The first step begins with creating a statewide development and planning office to identify infrastructure needs across Colorado. Our state lacks a holistic vision for development and planning that assesses how our demographics, economic development, infrastructure, transportation systems, public lands, natural resources, energy, and housing developments

intersect. Rather than continue to let growth roll over Colorado, I believe our government's policy should actively promote balanced and sustained growth that looks at the whole picture. With this office, we will be better prepared to utilize our state's financial resources as efficiently as possible. This board will break the state into regions, and collaborate heavily with local leadership in those regions to ensure that the highest priority projects are completed first. Projects should come from communities up (locally based) and that information will be woven together into a statewide plan for growth in support of our infrastructure.

Step 2 is to identify the cost of needed infrastructure projects, prioritize projects by region as it relates to infrastructure, and work with the voters of Colorado identify the best method to raise the necessary funds to support the implementation of those plans and projects over the decades to come.

7. What are your plans for stimulating jobs creation in rural Colorado?

My experiences of starting and running businesses, serving on the Colorado Economic Development Commission, and creating a statewide youth apprenticeship system have highlighted the vital importance of job creation for community livelihood and economic development. I believe Colorado must reassess our existing state economic incentives with a bias towards stimulating growth in rural Colorado. Our urban centers are experiencing massive economic growth, and their need for economic incentives to spur job growth is much lower today (as our unemployment hits record lows) than it was in the past.

As governor, my economic development strategies for rural Colorado will focus on giving local leadership more say in identifying what type of economic growth their community aspires for, and putting the state in a position to support those initiatives with the resources and support needed to be successful. The strategies used in Colorado's economic blueprint - pairing education institutions with local businesses, listening more to local leadership, and creating collaborative solutions with communities so that the communities in need of job growth are leading the way and being supported by the state - I believe will be an effective strategy.

8. How do you intend to deal with the rising homeless problem?

I don't believe there is simply one rising homeless problem - I believe there are multiple problems leading to increased homelessness, and the strategies to fix each differ. The primary step to resolving homelessness in Colorado is identifying the causes. Poor economic conditions, problems with health, mental health, or any combination of the three can all lead to homelessness, but we must understand the root causes before we can prescribe effective solutions.

Effective solutions should be based in investments in our people that help all Coloradans receive a high quality education and increased economic opportunities that lead to good jobs.

Rather than focus the fight solely on finding housing for our existing homeless population, I believe the long-term solution must focus on fighting the root causes of homelessness in our state. Keeping people off the streets and healthy is first and foremost the right thing to do, but in the long-run, it's also much cheaper for all of us.

Colorado has been on the forefront of creating innovative strategies to combat homelessness in our communities. We have piloted and implemented health, job, and mental health based programs aimed at combating homelessness, and many have seen success, but fighting homelessness in totality is dynamic - there will never be one silver bullet. As such, I believe that solutions to homelessness must be specifically designed to account for location, and the primary cause of homelessness with a focus on utilizing the resources that communities have. Because each community has different job opportunities, education institutions, and health networks, the solutions to fight homelessness in each area will differ. Much like the causes of homelessness will be ever-changing, so will the solutions. As a candidate for governor, I look forward to working with all of Colorado's communities to identify what effective solutions the state can help implement to effectively combat homelessness one community at a time.

9. Do you have an economic development plan for supporting rural Colorado?

My economic development plan for rural Colorado takes several forms - it isn't one policy, but a host of policies that work together, aimed at increasing economic opportunity, and quality of life for our rural communities. As governor, one of my first major strides will be ensuring that every Colorado community has broadband and high speed internet. This service is necessary in our 21st century economy, and all communities should have access to it. My policies to stimulate job growth in rural Colorado such as stopping the teacher shortage, increasing funding for our education system, expanding our statewide youth apprenticeship system, and investing in infrastructure can all spur economic development in rural communities by bringing good jobs, and better ensuring *all* of Colorado's students are receiving a high quality education.

My remaining policies will place communities, and community leadership at the forefront of defining what type of economic development they envision for their community. With this outlook, Colorado can change its framework on economic development in rural Colorado by focusing on finding effective solutions from the ground up, rather than from the top down. This framework encourages communities to define their economic development plan, and puts the state in a position to support these efforts with its' financial and human resources.

There are many economic tools our state can use to spur development. I helped our state utilize many of these tools when I sat on the State Economic Development Commission, and I understand that each tool can spur specific types of development. Every rural community in Colorado is unique, and the solutions to spur economic development are not one size fits all. As governor, I want to work with every Colorado community to help them define their specific

economic development vision, and write policies for each community that will collaboratively help them achieve their vision.

The Huerfano County Democratic Party would greatly appreciate answers to these question

Please send answers to [huerfanodems100@gmail.com](mailto:huerfanodems100@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance

Dale Lyons Huerfano county democratic party chair