

Polis for Colorado

Huerfano County Democratic Party

Vision statement Shared Value Shared Responsibility Shared benefits

Our mission as Huerfano County Democrats is for every citizen in Huerfano County to be informed, engaged and voting.

Core values Truth Inclusion Transparency Integrity

these questions were submitted by members of the Huerfano county Democratic Party. In preparation for our preference poll at caucus we think this may be the best way for our constituents to be familiar with how you view issues they care about. We are hoping that you can take time from your busy schedule to respond prior to our Feb monthly meeting on Feb 15. It is felt that this would help citizens to make educated choices at preference polling at caucus in preparation for county assembly . Following are the submitted questions.

Governor

Yes or No

1. Do you support using taxpayer money for private schools?
I am strongly opposed to vouchers, for-profit schools, and other mechanisms that divert funds away from public education.
2. Do you support single payer health coverage?
Yes. I cosponsor the Medicare for All bill in Congress and have included single-payer healthcare as part of my policy platform since I first ran for Congress in 2008.
3. Do you support the concept of sanctuary cities?
Each community is in charge of how they use their law enforcement resources, not Washington, and we must do all we can to avoid separating families, and causing distress in our communities.
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?

In my experiences in business, politics, and in life, I have been shown time and again the power of people to impact positive change on the world around them. Whether it's a simple act of kindness, or the launching of a campaign to improve the lives of others, we share a common creed in Colorado based on the shared success of our local and statewide communities. The people of our state deserve a government that acts on their behalf, and not in spite of them. The factional

mistrust, politics of greed, and lust for power can only be combatted by active participation of those who believe there is a better way forward for our nation. I am fueled by the work and ambition of Coloradans who expect more of themselves, their communities, and their state. I know that if we reject special-interest politics as usual and work together, we can build a Colorado economy where everyone has the opportunity to raise a family, get an education, and find happiness in their work. That's why I've chosen to not accept PAC money in my campaign for governor, and have capped contributions at \$100. I've long supported public financing of campaigns as well as overturning Citizens United, and I believe we can take action in our state to reduce the influence of high-powered special interests in our elections and in our government.

Schools

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

Communities throughout our state are struggling with both a high cost-of-living and low teacher pay. As a result, it's very difficult to retain and recruit teachers to these high-need areas, leaving our schools understaffed. That's not fair to kids in rural Colorado and in low-income communities. We can work to solve this problem by paying teachers well, providing student loan relief to those who serve in a high-need area, and thinking out of the box to help our teaching professionals have access to affordable housing.

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

Alongside Cary Kennedy and Chris Romer, I was proud to lead the fight at the ballot box to write and pass Amendment 23. Unfortunately, the economic downturn in the late 2000's forced the legislature to review its formula, and this has led to a dramatic loss of funding for our schools. Not only do we need to revisit the School Finance Act and address funding inequity plaguing school districts across the state, but we also need to lead a full-fledged effort to improve our state's investment in education. These efforts need to include both funding initiatives on the ballot and rethinking TABOR and the Gallagher Amendment to work better for our kids.

I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work on building a winning coalition at the ballot box for education again. From providing universal full-day kindergarten and preschool, to making sure public schools across the state have the funds needed to give students a world-class education, we will need a Governor ready to be salesman-in-chief on this issue. I have a long history of campaigning for and winning statewide and local education funding ballot measures, and I will be

a Governor that can be counted on to aggressively pursue victory at the ballot to improve funding for public education in Colorado.

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?

No one has worked harder to protect families from residential drilling and dangerous oil and gas development practices. My only regret is that we have not made more progress, but it hasn't been for lack of trying, and I have the scars to prove it. I remain totally committed to putting the health and safety of Coloradans first.

My position has been consistent and unwavering: we need to protect Coloradans with increased setbacks and make sure local communities and families have a say where and when fracking takes place. This has severe ramifications on the quality of our air and water, and we should be able to find common ground in securing the safety and longevity of our communities and neighborhoods.

I'm proud to be the only candidate running with a track record of standing up to Big Oil and Gas. Taking on entrenched special interests is part of fighting for big ideas and getting real results, and I am committed to continuing the fight to find a safer way forward for Coloradans.

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

I will fight hard to prevent the selling off, or diminishment, of our public lands including our National Monuments. This has been a central part of my work as a member of Congress. I have worked hard to establish more wilderness in our state with the introduction of the Continental Divide Wilderness Bill, legislation that would protect 98,000 acres in White River National Forest.

Our ability to enjoy our Colorado way of life and preserve our environment for future generations, and to protect the habitats of wildlife, rests in our ability to conserve and diversify local economies. That's why I'm proposing we create Conservation and Recreation Districts similar to our state's Creative Districts. Not only will these districts highlight the unique outdoor experiences of cities and towns across the state and provide relief for our most-trafficked attractions, but we can support job creation and outdoor industry entrepreneurship through the facilitation of grant applications and funding.

Rural Development

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

Colorado must make sure that our roads and highways get the maintenance they need. Nearly 70 percent of our roads and highways are in poor or mediocre condition, and each Colorado motorist pays \$287 in car repairs per year as a result of the damage due to driving on these roads. Correcting this is as much about public safety as it is about reducing congestion.

As Governor Hickenlooper has said, Utah has half as many people as Colorado but invests nearly four times what Colorado does toward improving road capacity each year. Underinvestment has left us with \$9 billion of unmet transportation needs as congestion gets worse and worse. This is simply not fair to Coloradans and puts the future of our economy at risk.

That's why I agree with the large and diverse coalition of local governments, businesses, Republicans, Democrats, advocacy groups, and citizens that believes Colorado voters should have a say in investing new revenue toward fixing our crumbling infrastructure. Where we can identify existing funds in the state budget to use for transportation and infrastructure funding, we should, but I do not agree that it should come at the cost of reducing investment in schools and health care system.

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

While in some parts of Colorado our economy is booming, too many communities, especially in our rural areas, are being left behind, and that story isn't getting told as often as it needs to be. And, it's not just telling the story. We need a governor who cares and will finally do something about it, and I will.

I want to build an economic infrastructure in Huerfano County that benefits all families. One of my top priorities will be helping people find work in the communities they call home. You shouldn't have to move to Denver, hours away from your family, to get a good job. I've created hundreds of jobs, met payroll, patented innovative new technology, and I not only know what we need to do to make sure that our entire state is part of our success story, but I also know how to get it done.

To make this goal a reality, we need to support every aspect of our rural economies — from affordable housing, to good schools, to a modern infrastructure. One step we must take is ensuring that every school, hospital, small business and entrepreneur has access to high-speed internet. We can put Coloradans to work by removing barriers to the installation of broadband in rural areas and letting rural cities and counties take power into their own hands to give

their citizens access to tools that the metro area can take for granted. When more Coloradans are given the opportunity to succeed, we all do better.

We have to recognize that coal miners are already some of the highest-skilled and dedicated men and women that we have in the state. From manufacturing, to construction, to building a renewable energy economy, coal miners already have some of the finest skills and talents that we need for our future. In many cases, it's not simply about diversifying their skills, but making sure that we value what they already offer Colorado.

We can inject new life into rural Colorado by partnering with industry to renovate our closed-down factories and mines to give them a new mission, whether it be to harvest our natural resources in pursuit of a clean economy or create the next hub of manufacturing in Colorado as a way to kickstart local economies. As coal traffic decreases, we can use existing rail infrastructure to move locally manufactured products to give us a competitive advantage in transportation pricing.

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

Our state's economy is booming and we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, but that is of little condolence to Coloradans who are struggling to afford the basic costs of living. My mother is an activist on this issue, and she has ingrained in me the need to take action. It's time for our state to convene a statewide mayor's caucus to develop and begin implementation of best practices to reduce homelessness in our state. This means making sure there are enough beds available in shelters and that people feel safe seeking help in them, providing access to mental health care services, and consideration of humane policies that consider the involvement of law enforcement as a last resort for communities struggling with homelessness.

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

Yes. Removing the legal barriers to the development of high-speed internet infrastructure, and boosting funding for the expansion of broadband in every rural community is paramount, and we have to consider a holistic approach to making sure Colorado's economic success is not constrained to the Front Range.

Part of this plan involves valuing and utilizing the skills of coal miners and renovating our closed-down factories and mines to give them a new mission (elements I discussed in my answer to Question No. 7).

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We also have to address the economic impact of the high cost of health insurance in rural Colorado. We have to end the cost inequities of health insurance in rural areas when compared to the relative affordability of coverage along the Front Range. Coloradans in our rural communities face both enormous out-of-pocket health care costs and a shortage of qualified providers. A woman struggling with cervical cancer in Walsenberg should not have to travel hundreds of miles multiple times a week to receive the life-saving treatment she needs.

We need to continue to challenge ourselves to redraw Colorado's geographic rating areas to provide relief to rural Coloradans facing high costs. I will work with community members and public health officials at both the state and federal levels to bring down these costs, while incentivizing more providers to practice in underserved rural areas. I will also take advantage of innovative solutions to improve access to affordable health care services, such as telemedicine and mobile care.

Solving our health care affordability crisis in rural Colorado won't be easy, but I'm ready to go toe-to-toe with the insurance companies if I have to in order to make sure that patients have equal access to care and that our local providers can afford to keep their doors open.

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

Please send answers to huerfanodems100@gmail.com

Thank you in advance

Dale Lyons Huerfano county democratic party chair