



FREEDOM WATCH

Citizens Project

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This publication is a free, nonpartisan service provided by Citizens Project to encourage informed voting and voter turnout. Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 50 words or less. *The responses were not edited for grammar, punctuation, or spelling.* Responses can also be viewed on our web site: www.CitizensProject.org.

★ ★ ★ OCTOBER 2009 ELECTIONS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

More election information and **Harrison School District 2** Voter Guide available at www.citizensproject.org

SAVE THE DATES

Manitou Springs Council and School Board Candidate Forum
 October 12, 2009
 5:30-7:30pm
 Manitou City Hall,
 606 Manitou Ave,
 Manitou Springs
 Admission is FREE

Colorado Springs Candidate and Ballot Measure Forum: 2C, 300, District 2, District 11
 October 13, 2009
 5:30 – 7:30pm
 Carnegie Room,
 Penrose Library,
 20 N. Cascade
 Admission is FREE

Falcon School District 49 School Board Forum
 October 14, 2009
 5:30 – 7:30pm
 Sand Creek High School auditorium,
 7005 N. Carefree Circle
 Admission is FREE

COLORADO SPRINGS BALLOT MEASURES EXPLAINED

In the current election, Colorado Springs voters will decide on two ballot measures with enormous consequences for funding of city services. Every election season Citizens Project endeavors to provide the most accurate and accessible information to voters about candidates and ballot measures, with an eye toward protecting our nation's founding principles of equality, religious freedom and respect for diversity. We hope the following explanations help you understand the issues. You will find even more information and useful links (events, news reports, important dates, resources) on our election information page at www.citizensproject.org.

Measure 2C

Proposed by Councilwoman Jan Martin, this measure was placed on the ballot by City Council to give citizens an option to maintain funding for city services that will otherwise have to be cut due to declining sales tax revenue. It raises property taxes by 10 mills over five years, starting with six mills in 2010 and adding one mill per year in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. For a home worth \$100,000, one mill is \$7.96, so for a house worth \$200,000, the additional annual tax would be \$159 after five years.

The city's current projected revenue shortfall for 2010 is \$24.5 million, which follows \$54 million in cuts made over the past 18 months. In order to reduce city expenses by this

amount, the draft 2010 budget includes the following cuts: eliminate 35 Fire Department staff positions, 25 Police Department positions, 33 Parks and Recreation positions, close Pioneers Museum, close six community centers, close all seven city pools, close Rock Ledge Ranch, close five visitors centers, eliminate all city funded transit services including all evening, weekend, holiday, Shreiver and Ft. Carson service.

The tax increase is calculated to bring the city back up to 2009 funding levels.

Measure 300

This measure, proposed by anti-tax activist Douglas Bruce, was petitioned onto the ballot. It will phase out, over eight years, all payments in lieu of taxes from city owned enterprises to the city. Its author states that the measure will eliminate the Stormwater Enterprise, which assesses a fee to property owners to pay for city drainage infrastructure improvements to mitigate flooding. However, the City Attorney has suggested that the ballot language of measure 300, which does not mention the Stormwater Enterprise by name, could be subject to interpretation in a way that leaves the enterprise untouched. If the measure passes, we surmise the courts will be asked to make a determination. The measure is nearly identical to one rejected by voters last fall.

The city owns several enterprises including the airport, cemeteries, Colorado Springs Utilities, Stormwater Enterprise, Development Review Enterprise, Human Services Complex, Memorial Health System, Parking System, Patty Jewett Golf Course, and Valley Hi Golf Course.

Since these enterprises are government-owned they do not pay property taxes. Payments in lieu of taxes, from the enterprise to the city, are a commonly used substitute that ensures enterprises contribute toward the cost of government services. These payments also help defray the costs of shared services, such as legal, accounting and maintenance, which create efficiencies by eliminating duplication. The largest of these payments is from Colorado Springs Utilities, which pays an estimated \$27 million annually in payments in lieu of taxes.

Our Positions

Citizens Project urges a yes vote on Measure 2C and a no vote on Measure 300. The projected reductions in city services could literally cut some citizens off from their jobs, family, and community. For many low income, senior, and disabled residents, bus service and community centers are not mere amenities for entertainment or convenience. These services are lifelines, making it possible for them to participate as full citizens in our community. These services guarantee a minimum standard of humanity necessary to the promise of equal opportunity and democracy.

VOTING INFORMATION

The 2009 Coordinated Election is a mail-ballot only election

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3
 Ballots will be mailed to voters beginning October 12, 2009.
 Ballots must be received by the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder by 7:00pm on November 3.
 Additional information available at: car.elpasoco.com/Election or by calling (719) 575-VOTE (8683).

Ballots may be returned by mail (\$.44 return postage; \$.61 for ballots with proof of identification enclosed)

or dropped off at the following locations:

El Paso County Clerk & Recorder's Office
 Centennial Hall
 200 South Cascade Avenue

Chapel Hills Branch
 Chapel Hills Mall
 (On North side next to JCPenney)

Powers Branch
 5650 Industrial Place
 (Southeast corner of Powers Blvd. and Airport Rd.)

Permit No. 463
 Colo. Spgs., CO
PAID
 U.S. POSTAGE
 Nonprofit Org.

Citizens Project
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? Candidate Questions



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Education: BS Sports Medicine

1. Why are you running for school board, and what are the most pressing issues the school board should address in the coming year?

2. Do you support instruction and expansion of access to comprehensive health education programs, including age-appropriate, science-based sex education standards created by passage of House Bill 07-1292? Why or why not?

3. Explain your philosophy regarding prayer in the classroom, school auditorium, and school facilities.

4. How do you plan to ensure your traditionally marginalized students, such as students of color, disabled students, English-language-learning students, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) students receive equal access to education? Please include your thoughts on preventing and disciplining bullying and harassment, ensuring that unique learning abilities and needs are accommodated, and allowing students to participate in support systems such as student clubs and groups. ***

5. Do you think counselors and school personnel in your district should be mandated to provide accurate, non-judgmental information and referrals for youth struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity? How will you ensure the safety of transgender students, and how will you ensure all students receive appropriate education about diversity?

6. What place, if any, does the teaching of alternatives to evolution such as intelligent design have in your district?

7. Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to approve or reject an application for a new charter in your district?

8. Do you support random drug testing of high school students involved in extracurricular activities? Why or why not?

9. The “No Child Left Behind Act” requires school districts to provide the names, addresses and phone numbers of high school students to the United States military for recruiting purposes. The law also requires that schools give both students and parents the opportunity to deny the release of that information. What procedures will you put in place to ensure adherence to “No Child Left Behind” mandates, while also upholding the individual privacy rights of students and parents with respect to military recruitment?

*** The word limit for responses to this question has been expanded to 150 words.

1. I am running to serve. The most pressing issue is graduating students and providing the support to the classrooms to meet the needs of all students.

2. House Bill 07-1292 is the law on this topic? If so, we should all be in compliance with the laws

3. Prayer is a personal decision

4. All children are sent to school to be educated. Again, where there are state or national or local laws in place, the standard response is compliance

5. Students are protected by law

6. Parents have a voice in the choice of curriculum offered to their child and can opt out of curriculums with which they have an issue

7. Vouchers are against the law. Charters are public schools. The basis for the approval of a charter is determined in the chartering process is laid out and the argument for or against the appropriateness of the charter applicant is determined.

8. It is important to follow the policy established by the school district. Again, the established policy must be understood and fairly implemented

9. School boards have one employee that is the superintendent. School boards expect the superintendent to keep the district in compliance with the law

1. I’m running for school board to promote parent involvement, the teaching of strategies and techniques that empower students to take responsibility for their education, and increase support for teachers in the classroom. I believe that eliminating the achievement gap and retaining quality teaching staff are the most pressing issues for SD #11.

2. I do support House Bill 07-1292 because I believe in teaching science based sex education that is age appropriate. All students should have access to this knowledge and the choice to manage social situations that have a lifelong impact

3. I believe in the separation of church and state at all levels and support the current policies of SD #11 regarding this issue.

4. I believe SD #11 should support and review equal access policies to quality curriculum for all students. I also support a strong comprehensive anti bullying program that supports and protects all students. Furthermore, all students should have access to and support from all student clubs and groups

5. Counselors and school personnel in SD #11 should be mandated to provide accurate, non-judgmental information and referrals for youth struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity. I believe the district should encourage a strong civic program that engages the diverse community that makes up SD #11.

6. I believe in the separation of religious beliefs and science based education.

7. A strong curriculum that is brought forth by a proposed Charter School would be better utilized in an existing public school. My idea of a quality comprehensive curriculum is one that brings new ideas and approaches to educating children and provides equal access for all children. Such a curriculum deserves further consideration.

8. Yes I do support random drug testing. I believe in promoting fair competition that encourages students to obey the law and adhere to high ethical standards.

9. I believe the district should provide forms to parents and children so that there is written documentation for opting in or out of military recruiting programs.

>> DISTRICT 11 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES: VOTE FOR THREE



D-11 Albert Loma

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Education: Bachelor of Science Business/Public Administration, University of Phoenix; Master of Science Strategic Leadership, Mountain State University; Candidate for the Doctoral program in Executive Leadership at Mountain State University



D-11 LuAnn Long

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Education: Some college



D-11 Sandra Mann

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Education: 4 years of college

1. I am appalled that researchers have confirmed more teens are dropping out of high school than is being reported, good teachers are not suitably rewarded, and dropouts are more likely to end up in jail. My upbringing and education gives me the proper perspective to solve these unfortunate situations.

2. I agree in principle with the general assembly's declaration that the objective of HB07-1292 is to reduce sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and abortion among teenagers with primary emphasis on abstaining from sexual activity. Research indicates the best place for this type of instruction is in the privacy of one's home.

3. Protecting one person's civil rights at the expense of another is to be avoided. "Freedom of religion does not mean we need to try to have freedom from religion, doesn't mean that those of us who have faith shouldn't frankly admit that we are animated by that faith"--Bill Clinton.

4. Because I have suffered the ill effects of prejudice, (I was too often labeled the Mexican employee) I do not adhere to placing our students into categories. I strongly believe that all children must be given access to education, be protected from any forms of harassment, and be given needed support. Upon the review of current D11 policies, it is clear that bullying and harassment of any student is not tolerated. As long as teachers and administrators adhere to stated policy and set their sights on stated goals, unwanted behavior will be minimized to expected levels. If one is guilty of non-compliance he or she must be dealt with accordingly

5. Sexuality or gender-identity is a sensitive issue demanding personal privacy. This would be best addressed in the confines of the home with the assistance of organizations that specialize in this area. All students must have a safe place to learn.

6. School should be a place where valid academic teaching is taught. Any science which has legitimate theories and lend itself to academic growth in real time thinking should be encouraged.

7. I am pro-public school and for improving education delivery. Our focus must be the child's education. I appreciate the new vision D11's superintendent has brought to bear. Parents must ultimately decide what is best for their child. The vision of any school must contain measurable and attainable goals.

8. The use of steroids must be avoided by any means within the law without violating one's personal privacy. This drug could create a hazard to the person using the drug and a person in direct competition (i.e. Imagine a steroid induced player hitting an opponent during A football game).

9. Clearly this is an issue of choice. Each family must be given clear information to decide what they should do. I commend any family for participating with the requirement of No Child Left Behind act and respect any family who chooses to opt out.

1. I am a native of Colorado Springs. My children and I graduated from District 11, and my grandson is in District 11. I have always worked and fought for a better quality of life for all children. Issues for the coming year are budget, school reconfiguration, and boundaries.

2. I do support instruction and expansion of access to comprehensive health education programs as defined by House Bill 07-1292, because I believe we must teach our children these concepts for their own well-being and safety. Statistics for our county prove the need for age appropriate, science-based sex education.

3. I believe in separation of church and state and support personal choice when it comes to religion and prayer. I feel it is important not to offend anyone's beliefs. If there are those who choose to pray, let them pray; however, no one should expect others to do the same.

4. ALL students should receive equal access to a quality education without labeling or identifying them as part of any specified group. In my opinion, students should not be labeled, but taught to the highest standards possible. No student should be subjected to bullying, harassment, or any other type or level of discrimination by other students or by district staff. I would insist that strict anti-bullying and harassment policies be enacted and strictly enforced. I would also insist that the superintendent hold the entire district staff accountable for enforcement of such policies. School board members should not have to monitor these policies, but I am aware that they have ways of knowing when the policies are not enforced.

5. I believe counselors and school personnel should be mandated to provide accurate, non-judgmental information and referrals for all students, including those struggling with their sexual orientation. School counselors spend a lot of time scheduling and have too little time for counseling students with special needs. This must change.

6. This is a controversial topic, and District 11 has policy on teaching controversial subjects. I believe teachers should present all theories on how the earth began and how intelligent life came about. Presenting all theories and letting the students decide is the best way to present this in the classroom.

7. I support public education. I have nothing against choice of schools, but believe if a school accepts any public funds, they should be held to the same standards of accountability as all other schools supported by public funds and governed by and accountable to a board elected by the taxpayers.

8. I do not support random drug testing. My first question would be, "Who is paying?" I do not think there is a legitimate purpose for random drug testing of students in our schools. If parents want their children tested, let them have them tested at their own expense.

9. District 11 is in compliance with the law by distributing the "Annual Notification of Parents' Rights." I believe we must be compliant with the "No Child Left Behind" mandates while giving parents the right to deny the release of information. We could publicize this notification a little more.

1. The most pressing issue is funding. Because the state budget is in such turmoil, public school funding will be cut dramatically. It will be up to the school board to manage the local budget to make sure those cuts have the least negative impact on the classroom.

2. Any instruction must coincide with established curriculum and must advance the goal of improved student achievement. It also must be respectful of the parents' wishes. I am not opposed to comprehensive health education programs as long as they meet those criteria.

3. I believe in separation church and state. However, if a student wants to pray and in doing so does not force their beliefs on others or make others feel uncomfortable they should have the right to make that personal choice wherever they are.

4. Public education exists to give EVERY student the best education possible, regardless of his or her personal situation. District 11 is sensitive to unique learning abilities and will continue to accommodate those needs. Because D11 serves such a rich and diverse population of students it has many programs already in place to address those issues. As a member of the school board it is my job to monitor those programs to make sure they are accomplishing the expected outcome, which is to treat every student with dignity and respect.

5. It is important to work with parents in deciding what is best for the student regarding all referrals outside the prevue of the district's main goal, which is providing a quality education. I am not opposed to providing accurate information, but I do not think there should be a mandate.

6. I am not opposed to teaching alternatives to evolution as long as students are not required to take such classes. As with any topic, it should coincide with proven curriculum and be subject to the same academic standards as any other subject taught in school.

7. I believe in choice and competition. District 11 offers both to parents and students. Charter schools have a place IF they offer something that students can't get within the bounds of existing D11 curriculum and programs. Colorado voters have rejected vouchers and I abide by that.

8. I do not support random drug testing of high school students. I believe that is a personal issue that should be handled between the parent and student. However, if school personnel become concerned that a student may be "under the influence" then the established district protocol should be followed.

9. District 11 does not have a choice but to comply with all mandates, including NCLB. D11 has the appropriate procedures already in place to comply with the law. If anyone feels those procedures are not being followed then they should bring those concerns to the administration/school board for review.

Candidate Questions

>> DISTRICT 20 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES: VOTE FOR THREE



D-20 Catherine Bullock

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D-20 James M. Jenista

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Education: Master's Degree, Aerospace Engineering, University of Notre Dame, 1983; Bachelor's Degree, Aerospace Engineering, University of Notre Dame, 1981

<p>1. Why are you running for school board, and what are the most pressing issues the school board should address in the coming year?</p>		
<p>2. Do you support instruction and expansion of access to comprehensive health education programs, including age-appropriate, science-based sex education standards created by passage of House Bill 07-1292? Why or why not?</p>	<p>1. As a parent of five children in D20, I have a strong, vested interest in ensuring that our schools are the best in Colorado and meet the needs of every student. The most pressing issues are attracting and retaining quality teachers, exercising fiscal responsibility and maintaining transparency.</p>	<p>1. I want to sustain District 20's past success through a mutually supportive combination of teacher accountability, student responsibility, parent commitment, and School Board fiscal stewardship. Our most important challenge, amid today's cultural cacophony, is to ensure the educational experience is challenging, engaging, relevant, and of personal value to each student.</p>
<p>3. Explain your philosophy regarding prayer in the classroom, school auditorium, and school facilities.</p>	<p>2. I support abstinence-based sex education, provided parents are given the opportunity to opt their child out. However, I don't believe the state or federal government should mandate what is taught. This should be decided at the local level.</p>	<p>2. A child's sex education is a principal responsibility of the parent or guardian, more so than the school. When accurate supporting information is available in the school curriculum, and subject to a parent's right to opt their child out of certain topics, the school's role can complement the parent/guardian effort.</p>
<p>4. How do you plan to ensure your traditionally marginalized students, such as students of color, disabled students, English-language-learning students, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) students receive equal access to education? Please include your thoughts on preventing and disciplining bullying and harassment, ensuring that unique learning abilities and needs are accommodated, and allowing students to participate in support systems such as student clubs and groups. ***</p>	<p>3. I support freedom of religion and believe that a person should neither be forced to pray, nor prohibited from praying.</p>	<p>3. Private prayer and personal expression are the right of every citizen, and to the extent such expression is not presented as an official position of the government—in this case the school—it is entirely compatible with the public school environment. I do not support, however, overt evangelization on public school grounds.</p>
<p>5. Do you think counselors and school personnel in your district should be mandated to provide accurate, non-judgmental information and referrals for youth struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity? How will you ensure the safety of transgender students, and how will you ensure all students receive appropriate education about diversity?</p>	<p>4. I believe that bullying should not be allowed at any level on any student. Our bully prevention methods need to be improved. For instance, we spend a lot of time teaching about bully prevention, yet our students are discouraged from tattling on other students. Every student needs to feel safe and able to learn regardless of their ethnicity or physical ability.</p>	<p>4. Students should have access to public education regardless of race or sexual orientation, and students with disabilities or difficulty with English should be accommodated as practicably as resources allow. (Peer-to-peer programs, with appropriate adult supervision, can leverage limited resources and be mutually beneficial for both students.) All students deserve a safe environment in which to learn; those who bully or harass their fellow students affect not only their targets, but many others trying to learn, and so they forfeit the right to be among the learners until they demonstrate both self-discipline and their own willingness to learn. Although students should be allowed to form their own groups and clubs, responsible adults charged with their formation (parents, teachers, and administrators) should play a decisive role in determining which organizations may be sanctioned by the school or, in the case of extreme groups predicated on hate, which groups should be disallowed.</p>
<p>6. What place, if any, does the teaching of alternatives to evolution such as intelligent design have in your district?</p>	<p>5. I believe that counselors should always provide accurate, non-judgmental information no matter what the situation may be. All students should feel safe at school so they can get the most from their educational experience.</p>	<p>5. One cannot ensure compliance with such a mandate without jeopardizing counselor-student confidentiality. The focus should be on proper training for school personnel. Understanding diversity is one component of education, best reinforced by not pointing out how someone is different, but by treating them like any other student eager to learn.</p>
<p>7. Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to approve or reject an application for a new charter in your district?</p>	<p>6. All scientifically supported theories, including intelligent design, should be open for discussion in our classrooms. Critical thinking and analysis, not political correctness, need to be the emphasis of our science curriculum.</p>	<p>6. Public education should be science-based, and can certainly include the role of religion in human history as an appropriate subject. Parents who desire to extend their children's education to encompass their own personal beliefs and convictions may choose private schools, home schooling, or supplemental studies offered by their faith organization.</p>
<p>8. Do you support random drug testing of high school students involved in extracurricular activities? Why or why not?</p>	<p>7. Charter schools provide a valuable alternative in many school districts. Charter schools can also make our public schools better as we strive to excel in a more openly competitive environment. In deciding whether to approve a charter, I will consider as credentials: experienced leadership, qualified teachers, and stable funding.</p>	<p>7. If approved by voters, vouchers would allow parents more options in selecting the educational path for their children. Public schools would be encouraged to compete for those students through their own excellence. A charter school application should demonstrate viability, and fill a niche not already available in the public system.</p>
<p>9. The "No Child Left Behind Act" requires school districts to provide the names, addresses and phone numbers of high school students to the United States military for recruiting purposes. The law also requires that schools give both students and parents the opportunity to deny the release of that information. What procedures will you put in place to ensure adherence to "No Child Left Behind" mandates, while also upholding the individual privacy rights of students and parents with respect to military recruitment?</p>	<p>8. I will support random drug testing for extracurricular activities - provided that parents and students are notified prior to the beginning of the season and the policy is transparent and fairly applied. We cannot tolerate the use of performance enhancing drugs at any level.</p>	<p>8. Yes; the enormous pressure young athletes are under to perform at unrealistically high levels, and the prevalence and easy access they have to performance-enhancing substances, have led to an environment where a combination of random testing and a "play clean" campaign may be the only way to reverse this trend.</p>
<p>*** The word limit for responses to this question has been expanded to 150 words.</p>	<p>9. I believe that proper procedures are already in place to allow parents to opt out of the military recruiting program if they choose</p>	<p>9. Military service is a noble calling, but is not for everyone. The mandate to provide contact information does not in itself violate a student's privacy, and with the provision to opt out of the release of the information, only those students interested in considering military service will be contacted.</p>

>> DISTRICT 20 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES: VOTE FOR THREE



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HUNKEL



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Education: MA in Education



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Education: 5 years of college coursework

1. My candidacy's impetus is to bring experience acquired during my educational and professional careers, skills as a non-profit leader (with the Junior League of Colorado Springs), attorney and mediator as well as insights gained as a parent of children attending ASD20 schools to its board. Top issues: funding, growth.

2. I support the ASD20 belief statement, "(t)he education of each student is a responsibility shared by students, families, schools, and communities;" which would include implementing any standards created by House Bill 07-1292. Thus, science curriculums should address human sexuality, while providing penalty-free alternatives for those disagreeing with HB07-1292's mandate.

3. I am in accord with the founding principle of separation between church and state. A public school district is an arm of the state and thus its agents should not be seen as advocating one form of prayer or religion over another during conduct of official school activities.

4. Current policies and programs established to ensure that ALL ASD20 students receive equal access to education seem effective from my observation. Philosophically, I believe the emphasis upon character education, which is an important and highlighted component of most ASD20 curriculums, goes a long way toward illustrating and counteracting the harm caused by bullying and harassment. I rely personally on the principle, "do unto others as you would have done unto you" and believe that modeling this simple creed in word and deed answers most questions as to how to ensure equality of educational opportunity.

5. No, school officials should not be mandated to provide such information. It would tip the delicate balance away from the state as an education-provider towards one as primary caregiver, a role school districts are not designed to play. Student safety policies should be regularly revisited to ensure maximum efficacy.

6. Evolution as an anthropological theory should be presented within science curriculums in accord with generally accepted supporting data. Intelligent design as an alternative creational proposition is a core religious belief to some and may best be considered within a course examining religion.

7. Charter schools, such as ASD20's outstanding The Classical Academy, are a preferable alternative to voucher programs. Voucher programs seem like a "hide and seek" solution to the problem of failing public schools whereas charter schools attempt to replicate the perceived advantages of private school within the public school context.

8. No, for the same reason I cited in response to question 5; i.e., schools should not be assigned the role of principal caregiver. Schools should be responsible, however, for ensuring that extracurricular activities are not conducted in an atmosphere that condones or encourages the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

9. The policy outlined in ASD20's "Disclosure to Military Recruiting Officers" found within its Student Policies section seems to me to establish an adequate safeguard for individual privacy rights by permitting release of requested information within 90 days barring a student's written request denying such release.

Terry Kunkel did not respond to survey

1. As a retired teacher, I love education. This is one way I can help "repay" a lifetime of fun with the kids. I also feel that I can help the staff, as having been "one" all my life. One challenge is accomplishing high standards with a changing set of demographics.

2. House Bill 07-1292 is a current Act of our House and as such mandates that we conform to the requirements. Our district already provides for the details set forth in this House Bill.

3. Prayer in the classroom is a personal option. It is not for group practice, at school, but for an individual to do personally, as appropriate.

4. Equal rights for all students are something that must be aggressively pursued, regardless of what "category" they fall into. This begins at the administrative level as mandated requirements and training, but plays out even more strongly at the teacher level. While teachers must be trained in how to be fair and equitable with all students, their actions are obviously most critical. This is something that must be practiced every day by all students and teachers. It must be rigorously adhered to and aggressively defended at all levels. Through active teaching we will model for our student's proper behavior and we will demand nothing less.

5. This answer has ties with number 4 above. Through in-service and active supervision by administration, all students will receive fair and appropriate education. That applies to the entire educational community.

6. Intelligent design is a belief and as such plays no role in science. Our district teaches science in schools, not religion.

7. Parents can place their children where they feel the kids will reach their greatest potential. In addition to numerous choice options, D20 also has an excellent charter school that services children in a slightly different approach than most public schools.

8. At this point, I do not support random drug testing of students. It is a particularly intrusive approach to something that is currently not needed in D20.

9. Counselors are trained to adhere to state mandates on how to appropriately carry out procedures to ensure adherence to "No Child Left Behind".

1. All good decisions in education begin with the focus on what is best for kids. My experience comes from serving in leadership positions, and contributing to many district committees. My experience has equipped me to serve as a kid-focused board member with a passion for continued educational excellence.

2. I support the D-20 health education program. D-20 has had a science-based, sex education / abstinence program in place for over a decade. Parents are given the opportunity to review curriculum, and provided with appropriate educational options.

3. I grew up in the church, and I believe in the separation of church and state. I have no problem with student praying silently in class, or gathering in small groups on school grounds according to district rules.

4. All districts are required by law to have a district policy on bully prevention and education. District 20 is in compliance with the law. Professional development provides training for district employees to promote consistency of approach for a safe learning environment for all students. I also support D-20's character education programs.

5. I support school safety for all kids. D-20 has a non-discrimination policy in place, which addresses all students, and employees. Professional staff development training is provided to ensure district employees promote fairness and ensure the safety of all students. I support D-20 policy and its' compliance with current law.

6. I was brought up in the church and I believe that the best place for religious teaching is in the home. I have no trouble with comparative religion classes, but not as part of the science curriculum.

7. District 20 has one of the best charter schools in Colorado, because of the strong working relationship between TCA and the district. A decision regarding a new charter must be based on the value added to district children. Vouchers allocate public dollars to private institutions with no accountability - No.

8. I support student drug prevention education, and counselor support for students and their family in crisis. Drug testing crosses a line between education and parenting responsibility.

9. I believe that all children in our country deserve a quality public education. The implementation of legislation is time consuming for districts, but it is the practice of D-20 to comply with the law while also respecting the right to privacy of students and parents.

? Candidate Questions

>> DISTRICT 20 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES: VOTE FOR THREE



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<p>1. Why are you running for school board, and what are the most pressing issues the school board should address in the coming year?</p>	<p>1. Securing the educational future of our children and the economic future of our country is a parent's most pressing challenge. It is our duty to ensure our children are prepared to answer their individual callings.</p>	<p>1. My motivation is to provide sound decisions and reinforce standing policies that have made D20 Colorado's finest district. Amendment #23 and Referendum C is our most pressing issue. Recommend a comprehensive review of current and projected expenditures. Fiscal responsibility is key to meeting needs without compromising achievement and educational excellence.</p>
<p>2. Do you support instruction and expansion of access to comprehensive health education programs, including age-appropriate, science-based sex education standards created by passage of House Bill 07-1292? Why or why not?</p>	<p>2. Health education about what changes a child should expect as he or she ages is vital to a young person's development. I feel it is appropriate for the education system to incorporate education on these topics. If a parent objects, the school should be prepared to offer alternative subject matter.</p>	<p>2. A well thought out and comprehensive program, House Bill 07-1292 gives Coloradoans a guideline with the latitude of what and when health programs will be taught. Although good, this is too important an issue to leave solely in the hands of legislators and educators, the parents need to be involved.</p>
<p>3. Explain your philosophy regarding prayer in the classroom, school auditorium, and school facilities.</p>	<p>3. I believe religion is a deeply private matter. I am very supportive of any student that wishes to have a moment of silent prayer that does not interfere with on-going business of education.</p>	<p>3. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." I have no difficulties with students having a personal time of silent prayer. I neither advocate nor condemn any student(s) who wish to honor their faith in a manner that does not disturb others.</p>
<p>4. How do you plan to ensure your traditionally marginalized students, such as students of color, disabled students, English-language-learning students, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) students receive equal access to education? Please include your thoughts on preventing and disciplining bullying and harassment, ensuring that unique learning abilities and needs are accommodated, and allowing students to participate in support systems such as student clubs and groups. ***</p>	<p>4. I believe all students should feel safe and they should feel empowered to seek their own educational goals. As a school within a nation known to offer freedoms to all citizens regardless of race, gender or creed ... I would encourage our schools to focus on the melting pot mentality that has shaped this country for the past 200+ years. We should focus our children on what they have in common rather than attempt to encourage and sponsor what separates them. As for discipline, I would encourage schools to discipline students guilty of bullying to the extent the principal at the student's school feels necessary to discourage its continuance. I'd be less supportive of "traditionally marginalized" based clubs than I would be activity based clubs. Encouraging groups or "clubs" with a sexual orientation as its focus is simply not appropriate.</p>	<p>4. It's presumptuous to categorize any group as "marginalized" or insinuate that their access is limited solely based on a demographic. I'd first like to see the study's results that may support such a claim. If indeed education is compromised for a student, any student, appropriate measures need to be enacted to provide the opportunities afforded to the entire population. Unfortunately, bullying and harassment are still commonplace in our schools. My grievance with current policies is that of "privacy." When a student reports an instance of bullying, generally the act(s) are known by students, teachers, administrators, and the parents of the victimized student. But when the matter is being "dealt with," suddenly a cone of silence surrounds the perpetrator(s), and any disciplinary action is cloaked in privacy. Therefore, neither the victim, parents, nor the student body have closure or understand the ramifications for such actions.</p>
<p>5. Do you think counselors and school personnel in your district should be mandated to provide accurate, non-judgmental information and referrals for youth struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity? How will you ensure the safety of transgender students, and how will you ensure all students receive appropriate education about diversity?</p>	<p>5. School counselors should be equipped, trained and empowered to assist our students with any potential issue they may face. Therefore, I would support initiatives that ensure the safety of all students equally and uniformly, without regard to race, gender or creed.</p>	<p>5. Professional counselors should be trained to address a variety of needs, to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Unless transgender students have a specific learning issue that can be addressed by either a 504 plan or IEP, then their education and safety needs are handled as any other student's.</p>
<p>6. What place, if any, does the teaching of alternatives to evolution such as intelligent design have in your district?</p>	<p>6. Teachers and schools should be prepared to discuss "intelligent design", but to expect a given teacher to be able to speak of the multiple creationist theories is a bit exhaustive and probably something more appropriate for parents to address.</p>	<p>6. Computer mapping generally has three options: traffic, aerial, and hybrid views which combine the traffic on top of the aerial view. Our journey to discover where we came from can best be accomplished by using all "maps" available to us and not excluding or promoting one over another.</p>
<p>7. Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to approve or reject an application for a new charter in your district?</p>	<p>7. Charter schools and voucher systems in certain areas are a good thing. School choice for parents is a strong tool that allows parents to have a voice in their student's education.</p>	<p>7. Charter schools are a great community asset, and afford families another opportunity for their children to learn in an environment that best suits their needs. Fortunately, Academy has outstanding public and charter schools; but having lived in other regions of our Nation, I wholeheartedly endorse a school voucher program.</p>
<p>8. Do you support random drug testing of high school students involved in extracurricular activities? Why or why not?</p>	<p>8. I do indeed. There is nothing wrong with trusting your child but verifying his or her integrity. As a parent, I would rather know my child has a problem and work to address it, than let that problem to linger and grow larger over time.</p>	<p>8. In this age of rampant availability, promotion, and professional athletes condoning of performance enhancing drugs, I believe it would irresponsible not to support mandatory drug testing of our youth athletes. This not only protects them from outside pressures to experiment, but also elevates the ethical dilemma from the athlete.</p>
<p>9. The "No Child Left Behind Act" requires school districts to provide the names, addresses and phone numbers of high school students to the United States military for recruiting purposes. The law also requires that schools give both students and parents the opportunity to deny the release of that information. What procedures will you put in place to ensure adherence to "No Child Left Behind" mandates, while also upholding the individual privacy rights of students and parents with respect to military recruitment?</p> <p>*** The word limit for responses to this question has been expanded to 150 words.</p>	<p>9. Our school board needs to follow the procedures as outlined by the US Dept of Education http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/hottopics/ht-10-09-02a.html: I'd ensure information is provided to parents so they know their rights to "opt out". If a parent "opts out", the opt-out relating to name, address, or telephone number applies to military requests.</p>	<p>9. Current policy establishes enough safeguards that uphold privacy rights of students and families by the schools. However, there have been cases where a student has later sought out military recruiters or been referred by a friend. This leads to a misconception that the military has usurped the opt-out.</p>



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1. As a current board member and 10 year District 20 volunteer, I believe that access to tuition-free, quality education is essential to our nation and our schools are a valuable community asset. I want to ensure our outstanding student achievement continues. Funding is our most pressing issue this year.

1. I believe all kids deserve the best education our schools can provide and we should prepare them for whatever future they will face. I will ensure we have the best resources, facilities and staff. Our issues are easing overcrowding, increasing test scores, strategic planning, communication, and increasing community involvement.

1. I am running for the school board in hopes of bringing an objective viewpoint to the decision making body for District 49. I believe the most pressing issue is to build trust and confidence in the school board to make non politically motivated choices focusing on students and staff.

2. District 20 currently delivers a comprehensive health education curriculum which includes age-appropriate information on many topics, including human sexuality. This program was designed by educators working together with parents and patrons to meet the needs of the children in our community, an approach I wholeheartedly support.

2. While I support local control over state mandates, I do support comprehensive health education programs and feel HB1292 is a step towards reducing sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy, and abortion among teenagers; while maintaining parental control, abstinence instruction and allowing for an opt out clause for any school.

2. I support offering instruction focusing on health education, including age-appropriate, science-based sex education. I believe students need to have information which will assist them in making wise choices regarding their lifestyles, activities, and physical health and how those choices can affect their future.

3. I support the free speech rights of all students, staff, and members of the public to engage in any speech, prayer included, anywhere on school grounds so long as it is completely voluntary and not disruptive to the learning environment.

3. One of the most confusing school issues and while I do not support formalized prayer in school, I do support the right to individual prayer and to organize prayer groups or activities as long as they are not district sanctioned. Faith is a family matter, not a school issue.

3. I have no quarrel with anyone who wants to pray at school providing it does not interfere with instructional time or infringe on the rights of other students/staff who choose not to pray. I don't believe there needs to be any formalization of prayers or prayer times.

4. I believe the best way to ensure that all students, including those who could be classified as traditionally marginalized, receive equal access to education is through hiring the best possible staff, providing excellent training, and clearly and firmly communicating our cultural expectations. The best programs in the world will not prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination or guarantee equal access to opportunities without well-trained, conscientious staff who truly care about every child. Staff who care teach students to care, creating an environment where bullying and harassment are not tolerated. District 20 currently has in place programs to accommodate unique learning needs and abilities, but, again, the value our staff places on serving EVERY child makes these programs effective. Because we know that kids who are involved in student clubs and activities are more successful than those who are not, D20 administrators actively encourage participation. It's all about people and expectations.

4. It is my belief that all students should be treated equally and no individual or group should have special preferences or privileges. I will ensure that all students have equal access to educational opportunities by establishing policies that promote equality. Administrators and teachers should be trained in recognizing the first signs of bullying and strict guidelines need to be implemented to assure the well being of all students. Our district recently implemented a Diversity Policy to address this issue and I will work to improve, expand and enforce that policy so that all students can feel safe in our District. As was stated in my answer to question 3, I support the students' rights to organize groups and clubs, to include faith or support based.

4. As a school board member, my responsibility would be to ensure that the superintendent and district administration have put into place programs which provide equal access to educational opportunities for all students. I believe schools do an excellent job of allowing students to become involved with groups/clubs providing those groups adhere to set district policies. I believe that parents, community members, and educators need to stop labeling students as one subgroup or another. It seems that governmental, religious, and political factions create more difficulties for students by labeling them. I would much prefer that all students be looked at and labeled as young people. No more, no less.

5. District 20 personnel currently refer any students struggling with social/emotional issues to a qualified professional depending upon their individual needs, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We ensure the safety of all students through policy and procedures and by conducting staff training and school assemblies on diversity.

5. I feel that our school personnel should be consistent and non-judgmental in the guidance and support they are providing to all students, regardless of the issue the student has; and that we should provide diversity education to all students and ensure the safety of all students.

5. No mandates needed. I believe counselors and school personnel should be made aware of resources that can be provided to students who may come to them in search of advice or assistance. I do not have enough information to know specifically what an "appropriate education about diversity" might be.

6. Intelligent Design and Evolution are both legitimate scientific theories. Any legitimate scientific theory deserves consideration in the educational setting.

6. The teaching of Intelligent Design is controversial and I would never support making it an integral part of the district science curriculum, but if the staff were to propose it as a comparative module of the overall curriculum and justified the need, I would support their recommendation as experts.

6. I do not believe there is a place in public schools for the teaching of alternatives to evolution such as intelligent design. The federal and state government consistently mandates that schools design educational programs using scientifically-based instruction, so why offer alternatives that are not based on science?

7. I support D20's charter school (TCA). New charters should meet a unique need and deliver quality instruction. I support vouchers for any private school willing to adopt state content standards, submit to the same CSAP testing as public schools, and provide quality education to all, including special needs students.

7. Parents should have choices in schools - public, charter and private. New charters would have to have curriculum substantially different from the four already in Falcon before I would support the approval of their application. Until research proves otherwise, I do not currently support vouchers.

7. I do not support the idea of charter schools. Rather than establishing charter schools, districts should use the funding to make regular schools more effective. I believe charter schools create an atmosphere of de facto segregation. Also, charter schools have not proven to be significantly higher achieving than regular schools.

8. Random drug testing of high school students participating in extra-curricular activities should only be conducted in rare instances when there is reason to suspect drug use and where such drug use could affect the outcome of the competition.

8. Random drug testing has not been effective in decreasing drug usage in high schools and testing only a select group is discrimination. Parental involvement is a greater deterrent to drug-free kids so I would advocate for any and all means to increase parental involvement with their children.

8. Although there are too many instances of drug use in schools, to single out a group of students simply because they choose to be involved in extra-curricular activities is wrong.

9. Academy District 20 currently has in place procedures to comply with the reporting and "opt-out" provisions of the military recruiting information requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation. I support the current procedures and see no changes necessary.

9. I strongly believe in compliance with all laws and would never advocate non-compliance with NCLB; but I firmly support parental rights and would implement an email notification using the district system to inform all families and students of their rights and their option to deny release of the information.

9. I believe schools are doing exactly what the law states. They are providing the names and contact information to the military, minus those that have opted to not be included. Parents should be made aware early that they have the choice to have their child opt out.

More answers on page 8 >>

>> SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



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1. I am running because I feel that I have a skill set that is needed in District #49. Student achievement, community relations and growth are emergent issues that need to be addressed by the school board and the superintendent. Stability needs to be a requirement for the new school board.

2. Yes I support these programs in schools, because research shows that comprehensive health education reduces risky sexual behavior by teens. I do feel that letters need to go home informing parents of the information being shared and allowing parents the opportunity to discuss the information with their child.

3. I believe that prayer is a very personal issue and should be left up to the individual. If a child want to pray in the classroom school auditorium or school facility then they should be allowed to do this on their own.

4. I believe that all children deserve equal access to a quality education. I believe that by continually assessing how all students are doing. Taking a look specifically at those "traditionally marginalized" student groups and continually assessing and reassessing all needs and addressing those needs will insure that everyone has equal access to education. Prevention of bullying and harassment needs to start in Pre-kindergarten and follow the students thru all grades. Discipline for bullying behavior need to be strong and consistent. Districts need to be consistently looking for inventive ways to teach all students, regardless of learning ability or needs. Technology needs to be integrated for all students to be able to be successful wherever their path leads them. Equal access should be made available to all clubs and groups.

5. School personnel should know how to direct students to accurate, non-judgmental referral-sources. This will be accomplished by supporting the training-of-personnel on community resources. Education about diversity should be incorporated across all curriculums, starting at pre-k. The schools need to provide for the safety of all students regardless of gender identity.

6. The teaching of intelligent design does not have a place in the district at this time.

7. Charter schools provide choice. Decisions to approve a charter schools need to include the following, what is the charter offering that is different than the traditional-schools, is the curriculum tried/proven/data driven, and how will the charter effect the district financially. Vouchers are not an asset for the public school system.

8. Yes, I believe with the support of the community random drug testing can be another tool to help student achievement.

9. I believe that the schools need to do a better job of informing parents of their rights to be able to deny the release of information.

John Koster did not respond to survey

Danielle Lindorf did not respond to survey

Donahue Quashie did not respond to survey

Christopher L. Wright did not respond to survey

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