

2022 El Paso County Assembly Voter Guide

501c3 - compliant and Nonpartisan

Democratic Party Candidates

County Assembly | March 19, 2022 | Precinct Delegate Voting Only: By Party



**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**

County Assembly: March 19, 2022

Contact Church Voter Guides at: Info@ChurchVoterGuides.org | Updated 3/17/22

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: ChurchVoterGuides.org

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

The Voter Guide information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501c3-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidates

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Introduction to the Voter Guide

Church Voter Guides is an independent 508c1a faith-based nonprofit organization. We serve the public by providing objective research and education on matters specifically of interest to Christians, primarily through the production and distribution of 501c3-compliant, nonpartisan Voter Guides.

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

We are based in Colorado Springs, and the April 2021 City Council election in our hometown was our inaugural project, followed by Voter Guides for the 2021 Pikes Peak Region School Board Elections. Our new Voter Guide for the 2022 El Paso County Assembly is being distributed electronically-only through our website via downloadable and printable PDF files. This Voter Guide is specifically to inform Delegates and Alternates at the County Assembly, with a separate Guides produced for the Republican and Democratic party candidates.

The purpose of our Voter Guides is to educate and inform voters of each candidate's positions on a variety of policy issues that they are likely to address if elected. As as Voter Guides designed to be promoted through Churches, we ask the candidates questions on topics that are of utmost interest to the Christian voter.

How to Get the Most Benefit from this Voter Guide

The core information in this Voter Guide comes directly from the candidates themselves. We asked them questions, they answered (with a 120 word limit), and we have published their responses here. In order to understand and utilize this information to the fullest, so that you may vote in the most informed way, we suggest the following:

1. Pray and ask the Almighty for discernment. The Kingdom of God is all about truth, while politics is a system fraught with compromise. Make sure you consider the candidates' answers with a Heavenly mindset.
2. Ask yourself, "Did the candidate actually answer the question, or rather side-step it, or give a fluff, wishy-washy, and/or 'political' type answer that leaves you not really knowing where he/she truly stands on the issue?"
3. Learn more about the candidates, including their positions on issues we did not cover in our Questionnaire, by visiting their official campaign websites. The website URL for each candidate is listed in the Voter Guide, if they have one.
4. Use search engines to find additional information about each candidate, including written articles and videos, other voter guides, and even voting records for those who have served in public office before. You may even want to watch online recordings of governmental meetings, as well as events held by candidates and organizations, to learn more about each candidate.
5. Reach out to the candidates themselves through the provided email addresses and other means, in order to ask them questions of personal importance to you. Please make sure to show great respect toward each candidate and his/her time, especially to those with whom you disagree. Running for office is hard, stressful, time-consuming work, and these are your fellow citizens who have lives, families, jobs...and feelings (just like you!)

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What makes a Voter Guide 501c3 - compliant and Nonpartisan?

Federal tax law permits nonprofit 501c3 organizations to develop and distribute materials about political candidates' positions on issues, in order to educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis; meaning that it is free from party affiliation, bias, or designation. The IRS states that 501c3 organizations may conduct any range of activities to promote voter participation and educate voters so long as it is nonpartisan. But, 501c3 organizations are explicitly prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

Some of the activities 501c3 nonprofits MAY perform: Conduct or promote voter registration; educate voters on the voting process; distribute nonpartisan sample ballots, candidate questionnaires, and **voter guides**; organize get-out-the-vote activities; encourage and help people to vote; educate the candidates on issues important to their organization; and continue to do issue advocacy during an election.

So, first and foremost: **Church Voter Guides** does NOT endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Second, all of our staff and volunteers are required to act in a nonpartisan manner when working for or representing the organization and the creation of the Voter Guide.

Third, we do not edit, revise, or editorialize candidate responses to our Questionnaire. We do not even correct typos. **Candidate answers are published verbatim**, ensuring that their responses accurately represent their positions and perspectives on these issues. We then simply share this information through the Voter Guide, and you decide whom you believe to be the best candidate.

To be fair and impartial, we reached out by email, text, and phone when determined necessary, to all registered candidates running for office throughout El Paso County for both County and State offices, inviting them to answer our Questionnaire. Candidate information is presented in alphabetical order by last name. If a Candidate did not respond at all, or did not choose to participate, or did not choose to respond to certain answers in the Questionnaire, then that is noted where applicable. We finalized our Candidate list from TRACER (<https://tracer.sos.colorado.gov>) on March 2, 2022. Candidates who declared their candidacy after that date were contacted "last minute", and some choose to participate while others did not. Those who did not are not mentioned in any way in this Voter Guide.

Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens, Churches/Nonprofit Organizations, and Media Partners Committed to Producing and Promoting the Voter Guides throughout Our Region

Church Voter Guides will be back for the 2022 Primary election! Help us create the Guides and get the word out!

It's simple. Just share our website URL all around the Pikes Peak region:

www.ChurchVoterGuides.org

Tell your friends and neighbors. Post on social media. And ask your Pastors to promote it to your congregation (we'll even provide you/them with the announcement info and the PowerPoint promo slide, 'cause this is how we roll!)

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to colabor with you: **Info@ChurchVoterGuides.org**

The "Small Print": *The information contained in this document is being provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501c3-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.*

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El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

CLERK &

RECORDER

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LISA WILKES

Candidate Information

Campaign Website URL:	www.LisaWilkes.org
Email Address:	info@LisaWilkes.org
Occupation/Vocation:	Commissioner
Resident of the El Paso County:	21 years with 2 years in Seattle

Your Experience: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as Clerk and Recorder that will benefit our county?

As a Commissioner on the Colorado Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission, I have helped to redistrict the whole state of Colorado. With the passing of Colorado House Bill 21-1047, the process of redistricting the County Commissioner Districts will align with the process I implemented as a commissioner. This is a vital role the Clerk and Recorder does for El Paso County. With over 15 years in the IT field, I have a strong project management background. The position of the Clerk and Recorder is one that oversees many different departments with constantly moving needs and deadlines. My skill set allows me to easily manage multiple complex situations with transparency and efficiency.

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Your Vision: What is your vision for being our county's Clerk and Recorder?

As the Clerk I want to acknowledge the successes of the past, while working to bring about more accessibility and transparency to the position. I want to invite others to participate as election judges so they can see the security measures, the tasks being done, and how we protect our data. I would like to work seamlessly within all the wheelhouses of the Clerk and Recorder, following the laws that govern the County's working. We can utilize more technology to make sure that we increase our efficiency for all of El Paso's constituents.

Clerk and Recorder's Role: What are the roles, rights, and duties of the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder?

The Clerk and Recorder in El Paso County is responsible for overseeing four different departments that all have very important functions within our county's management. One department serves as Clerk to the board of County Commissioners, taking care of all the paperwork and requirements they need to govern the County. Another department is the Motor Vehicles Department, which is responsible for the licensing of our cars and drivers. The Records Department is responsible for keeping, updating, and providing access to all our important records, including birth, death, and marriage records. The final, and some would say most important, is our Elections Department, which is responsible for facilitating smooth, fair, transparent, and accessible elections for the electorate of El Paso County.

Operational Changes: How would you run the Clerk and Recorder's office differently from your predecessor?

I would try to bring in more computerization of tasks at the Dept of Motor Vehicles to increase efficiency and reduce wait times for our customers. I would also make voting more accessible with the addition of more drop boxes within our County so that boxes would be in a reasonable walking distance in our metropolitan areas. I would make sure that the County Commissioner Districts are drawn by an independent commission whose members accurately represent the political affiliations of the county, including unaffiliated voters. This step will make voting in El Paso County more fair and transparent.

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Election Integrity: Is the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Election Department doing enough to ensure election integrity? If not, what are your proposals to secure our Colorado Elections?

The El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Election Department does a detailed look at signatures, which is a good way to catch those who would fraudulently sign their name to someone else's ballot. We then take those cases to the District Attorney. We also work to ensure no person can vote more than one time. I believe the Department is following the laws and is working hard to prevent fraud. The best way to secure our elections is to invite the public in as Election workers so they see the process firsthand. They will then be able to see the integrity that comes with having Mail-in ballots and in-person voting. Transparency is the most important key.

Colorado Secretary of State: Do you believe that Colorado's current Secretary of State is facilitating or hindering the Clerk and Recorder's performance of sworn duties?

The job of the Secretary of State is to oversee the work done by the Clerk and Recorders to maintain integrity and to provide a check and balance to the hard work the Clerks are responsible for. The Secretary of State also fields some of the work around non-county candidates and provides a standardization that the Clerks help to maintain. This is all done to facilitate the Clerk and Recorder's performance, and to make for the most transparent, and standardized elections for our electorate. Checks and balances and processes and procedures are there to make sure that all levels of our government uphold the law, regardless of their own personal affiliations.

Satellite Offices: Given the population growth in Colorado Springs, what is your position on the number and operation of satellite offices that the Clerk and Recorder currently has in place?

Our current Clerk and Recorder has spent time expanding the amount of satellite offices, but we still need more options. We could investigate what is possible for a virtual office, see what work could be done with both our staff and constituents being remote. This feature will help people by providing shorter wait times in the comfort and safety of their own home. This is something especially important to keep business moving in unprecedented times, such as with COVID, while still protecting the health of all involved. We need more voting boxes, and small offices with only a ballot box and kiosk could help those that need something done but don't have their own computer.

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Department Priorities: What are your priorities for the following departments: a. Recording
b. Motor Vehicles c. Election

For both Recording and Motor Vehicles the largest improvement would be to provide virtual offices where both staff and customers could get work done with us from the comfort and convenience of their residence.

As for Elections, increasing transparency and accessibility is my main priority. There are many checks and balances that we can advertise. People can see those security functions firsthand by becoming an election judge or staff at election times. We can also increase accessibility by providing more locations within a reasonable walking distance in metropolitan areas. The mail-in ballot option increases the time for voting, but more boxes will help people to be able to potentially walk to a ballot box to participate in democracy.

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

SHERIFF

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KEVIN FOLEY

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact him multiple times through his official email (no phone number could be located). Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether he is aware and chose not to participate.

Candidate Email Address: Foley.John34@gmail.com

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

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ROB ROGERS

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact him multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether he is aware and chose not to participate.

Candidate Email Address: Mister@RobRogers.org

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

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JOE ALVIN SEXTON

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact him multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether he is aware and chose not to participate.

Candidate Email Address: AlvinSexton@AlvinSexton.com

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

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STEPHANIE VIGIL

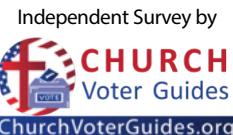
Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact her multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether she is aware and chose not to participate.

Candidate Email Address: StephanieJeanVigil@gmail.com

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidates for STATE REPRESENTATIVE HOUSE DISTRICT 17





REGINA ENGLISH

Candidate Information

House District:	17
Campaign Website URL:	ReginaEnglish.org
Email Address:	Regina4COstaterep@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Business Owner
Resident of the El Paso County:	24 years

Your Experience: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as Representative that will benefit our state?

I have served as the past Vice President of Harrison School District Two Board of Education and now serving as Treasurer creating effective policy and responsible allocation of funding has prepared me to serve you, my constituents at the State Legislature and be effective in my role because I have a proven track record of getting results. I serve on many boards and committees across the state of Colorado which has shaped me into the well-rounded leader that I am today. Being a wife, mother of five adult children, and grandmother of 10, founding a non-profit, and being an entrepreneur has propelled my impact and influence to be meaningful and purposeful as a leader in my community.

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Your Vision: What is your vision for being a Colorado State Representative?

My vision for being a Colorado State Representative is to level the playing field and ensure a better quality of life for our community through creating effective legislation and responsible allocation of funding that will create access and opportunity. I plan to look closely at the state budget and allocate funding for communities to provide more resources that will create generational wealth through entrepreneurship, homeownership, and financial literacy. I will bring economic development in a responsible way creating jobs and keeping tax dollars in our community and work with developers to provide a fair share of affordable housing that everyday hard-working people deserve and establish bi-partisan partnerships by working across the aisle for the betterment of the community.

Election Reform: Do you believe that elections in Colorado should be conducted differently? Should voters in Colorado be required to verify their identity and residential status in the respective counties in which they vote? Are you in favor of a single-day, in-person voting system consisting of all-paper ballots? Why or why not?

I believe elections should be held with integrity at the forefront with transparency and equal access for everyone to participate in the legislative process. Our democracy is for we, the people. The elections in Colorado have been honest and fair, and we must continue to keep it this way. The system and processes and how we vote should be transparent, and voters should make decisions collectively using a ballot measure and not the government changing the voter system. Inclusivity is vital for a fair democracy and voting system.

TABOR: What is your position on the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR)?

Tabor allows taxpayers/voters to vote on certain things, for example, mill levy increases and new taxes, to name a few. Still, TABOR in its entirety can be very confusing for voters because of its complexity. Constituents having a clear and concise understanding will help make informed decisions concerning tax dollars for the people when conversations arise on TABOR. TABOR is a large piece of how we govern on a state level, and my position is that taxpayers must have a general understanding to vote in an informed way. The language of TABOR has pros and cons that can be re-imagined as we grow and evolve to govern responsibly and effectively.

Education: As a State Representative, what will you do to improve the education of our K - 12 students? What is your position on parental authority in education, including school choice?

As your state representative, I will take a close look at the education budget and make sure education is adequately funded, ensuring all students have the supplies they need to be successful in school, and increasing funding to pay teachers a higher salary will be a priority. Bringing back home economics, teaching essential life skills, offering trade and vocational back into schools will provide a skilled workforce for students who choose not to attend college right away. I plan to serve on the education committee to make this possible for students.

Government Authority: Do you believe that the government has the legal power and authority to dictate what a person does with his or her body? If so, how?

I do not believe that government should control nor dictate what a person chooses to do with his or her body.

1st Amendment: What will you do as Colorado State Representative to protect our 1st Amendment rights to: the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, peaceably assembly, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances, all of which are becoming more difficult to exercise in America (and around the world)?

Our democracy, as framed by the founding fathers, requires that we must hold those in power accountable for what they do, and this requires transparency in the exercise of power. I will hold officials in power responsible for protecting our 1st amendment rights. We, the people, can demand transparency and have the ability to choose whom we would like to represent us. As your state representative, I will hold leadership accountable to protect our rights. My personal belief is that we must elect transparent, authentic leaders to represent the people that have shared values and honor and respect life at every level of government.

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2nd Amendment: Do you believe that gun ownership is a civil right, and what are your positions in regards to red flag laws, magazine capacity bans, legislation that regulates gun storage, and permitless "Constitutional carry"?

We should not have to walk around in fear while people carry military assault rifles and large magazines. Gun ownership is a right, but guns should only be in the hands of responsible people. Smart storage of firearms would save the lives of millions of people yearly. We must re-imagine gun laws by keeping communities, schools, and businesses safe at the forefront by regulating permits to carry and in what arenas guns can be carried.

Infrastructure Spending: How do you believe that tax revenue in Colorado should be best utilized to improve our infrastructure?

Tax dollars should always be used responsibly. It will require a commitment to standards, time, and money. I believe that safe communities and safe streets are wise investments that we must make to protect our families and ensure healthy and safe living environments. As a mother, grandmother, and business owner, I know that public safety is unequivocal; and essential infrastructure components are imperative for safe living and working conditions. I will prioritize infrastructure during state budget discussions because this is the primary means of connecting disparate parts of the state, strengthening the economy, and alleviating challenges associated with a quickly growing population.

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MISCHA SMITH

Candidate Information

House District:	17
Campaign Website URL:	MischaForColorado.com
Email Address:	info@MischaForColorado.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Political Consultant
Resident of the El Paso County:	31 years, with breaks in 2016 and 2020 when I left temporarily to work on Presidential Campaigns

Your Experience: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as Representative that will benefit our state?

I have witnessed first-hand some of the greatest issues my district faces from my time running a small business, working as a substitute teacher, and working in long-term Medicaid. I have spent my career working to improve people's lives in this community, and I plan to use those experiences and the concerns of people in my community to inform my decisions in the legislature, and be an advocate for my district.

Your Vision: What is your vision for being a Colorado State Representative?

For the past decade, I have worked on campaigns to elect strong representation for Colorado and for communities across the country. I've seen the power that strong representation has, and I want to be a representative that is accessible and accountable to the people in my district and across the state. I know that representing this district is not a one-person job, and I will always make sure that my constituents have a seat at the table. I value servant-leadership and compassion, and I will always put in the work to serve the needs of my district and be a voice for our schools, our working families, and our Veterans.

Election Reform: Do you believe that elections in Colorado should be conducted differently? Should voters in Colorado be required to verify their identity and residential status in the respective counties in which they vote? Are you in favor of a single-day, in-person voting system consisting of all-paper ballots? Why or why not?

I do not believe in spending millions of taxpayer dollars in favor of a single-day in-person voting system that would only make it harder for working people and people with disabilities or health concerns to vote. Colorado's vote-by-mail system is demonstrably secure and accessible to the people of our state, especially during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Our goal as leaders in a democracy should be to guarantee that every eligible voter has the opportunity to vote, regardless of their socioeconomic status, age, race, religion, gender, disability status, or political party. Colorado's vote-by-mail system allows all eligible voters to participate in their democracy by voting safely and securely from their homes or voting in person if they choose to.

TABOR: What is your position on the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR)?

Tabor is the most restrictive government spending law in the country, and limits the ability of our elected leaders to make critical decisions about the budget. As our state continues to grow, we need to be able to fund infrastructure projects to create jobs and economic opportunity. We need to pay our teachers, who have been on the frontline of this pandemic, a livable wage. We need to invest in affordable housing as the cost of living continues to rise. Instead of limiting the growth of our state budget, TABOR has shrunk it and cut funding for important programs such as college tuition support.

Education: As a State Representative, what will you do to improve the education of our K - 12 students? What is your position on parental authority in education, including school choice?

My biggest priority is Education. We need to ensure that our students and teachers have the support they need, during and after this pandemic. I support investing in before-and-after school programs aimed at getting students caught back up, and providing extra support outside the classroom. I believe that every parent should have an equal opportunity to get the best education for their child. Your zip code should not dictate the quality of your education. We need to fully fund and invest in our schools so that no matter where you live in Colorado, you have access to a high quality education.

Government Authority: Do you believe that the government has the legal power and authority to dictate what a person does with his or her body? If so, how?

I believe that the government does not have the power to dictate what a person does with their own body. I will always be a strong advocate for bodily autonomy especially as it relates to women's reproductive healthcare and rights in Colorado.

1st Amendment: What will you do as Colorado State Representative to protect our 1st Amendment rights to: the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, peaceably assembly, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances, all of which are becoming more difficult to exercise in America (and around the world)?

I will always fight to protect our rights to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly. Regardless of opinion or political background, we are all entitled to these basic tenets outlined in the First Amendment. We should be able to critique our government and know that we are protected from things like unlawful arrest or targeted harassment. As a representative, I will always vote for policies that best represent the will of the people, and their constitutional rights and protections.

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2nd Amendment: Do you believe that gun ownership is a civil right, and what are your positions in regards to red flag laws, magazine capacity bans, legislation that regulates gun storage, and permitless "Constitutional carry"?

I support Coloradans' constitutional right to bear arms. However, we need to protect our communities from gun violence and mass shootings. I will support common sense gun violence prevention laws to keep guns out of schools and out of the hands of perpetrators of domestic violence. I support stronger background checks, safe storage laws and magazine capacity limits to ensure the safety of our community members.

Infrastructure Spending: How do you believe that tax revenue in Colorado should be best utilized to improve our infrastructure?

Colorado is one of the fastest growing states in the country. As our economy continues to expand we need to ensure that our infrastructure can support that growth. I believe tax revenue should be used to improve our highway systems, update our broken infrastructure, make our cities more pedestrian friendly, and expand public transportation options like high speed rail. Investing in new infrastructure, and making updates and repairs to existing infrastructure will ensure that Colorado continues to be a hub of economic growth and opportunity for all.

El Paso County, Colorado

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Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

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MARC SNYDER

Candidate Chose Not to Participate

Candidate Email Address: Marc@ElectMarcSnyder.com

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

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**No Democratic Candidate was Declared for HD20
at the time that we sent our Questionnaires**

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

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KOLTEN MONTGOMERY

Candidate Information

House District:	21
Campaign Website URL:	www.KoltenMontgomery.com
Email Address:	KoltenMontgomery@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Asset Protection
Resident of the El Paso County:	I've lived in El Paso County since the 3 rd grade

Your Experience: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as Representative that will benefit our state?

I am a former small business owner and was also a Detention Deputy Sheriff with the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office. I currently work in Asset Protection where I specialize in limiting and preventing theft from retail companies within the state of Colorado. I am an avid political activist, writer and young member of the LGBTQ community.

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Your Vision: What is your vision for being a Colorado State Representative?

I firmly believe in a philosophy of "People before Politics" - The duties of a state representative are not just to represent their party and personal political ideologies, but to act as a representative for all constituents within their district. I plan to consistently work with community members to make our state and community stronger. I do not believe in absolutist partisanship where the will of the political party and of political ideology are made to outweigh the interests and concerns of the people - If elected, I will work diligently to ensure that all members of my community are heard and their interests represented and voiced.

Election Reform: Do you believe that elections in Colorado should be conducted differently? Should voters in Colorado be required to verify their identity and residential status in the respective counties in which they vote? Are you in favor of a single-day, in-person voting system consisting of all-paper ballots? Why or why not?

I believe that elections within the State of Colorado are already conducted safely, securely and efficiently. I do not believe that further election reforms are needed and I believe that the consistent fear mongering of "voter fraud" is only a political ploy aimed towards attacking the very foundations of our Democratic institutions. We should constantly be striving to make elections more convenient and accessible to all. I trust our election officials across the state who have continued to ensure that our elections are fair and secure.

TABOR: What is your position on the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR)?

In principle, I believe that the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) is ideologically sound; however, I also believe that in reality TABOR has placed a consistent chokehold on the ability of our State to act on behalf of the interests of all Coloradans. This legislation makes it nearly impossible for our elected officials to carry out their duties effectively on behalf of the people. Taxes are not inherently evil nor are they unconstitutional, and our elected officials should have the ability to levy them when necessary to ensure that our state infrastructure and resources continue to scale with the massive population growth we've seen over the past few years.

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Education: As a State Representative, what will you do to improve the education of our K - 12 students? What is your position on parental authority in education, including school choice?

I am a firm believer in the power of our public education system to provide our children with the education that they deserve as well as the resources they need to be successful. I believe that we should focus on improving our school infrastructure as well as the resources available to students across the state of Colorado (For example: ALL STUDENTS should have access to FREE mental health and professional counseling programs). We should also focus on better funding our teachers and their classrooms as well as providing enhanced funding for technological innovation in our educational system.

In terms of parental rights, I believe that all parents have an inherent right to school choice.

Government Authority: Do you believe that the government has the legal power and authority to dictate what a person does with his or her body? If so, how?

The government does not; in any way whatsoever, have the power to legislate what an individual does to his/her body UNLESS an individual's action can be reasonably articulated to constitute an immediate threat of harm to themselves or others. Government simply cannot infringe upon the civil rights of individuals unless that individual's actions represent a clear and present danger to themselves, to others, or to public order.

1st Amendment: What will you do as Colorado State Representative to protect our 1st Amendment rights to: the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, peaceably assembly, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances, all of which are becoming more difficult to exercise in America (and around the world)?

The first amendment is imperative to our society - As a constitutional republic, the rights of individuals MUST be protected by the government (This is why government exists in the first place as dictated by our founding documents). If elected as a Colorado State representative, I will work diligently to ensure that the separation of church and state is established and enforced throughout all systems of state government, that freedom of speech is respected and protected (as it currently is) under Colorado Constitutional law and legislation, that the right to peaceably assemble is protected and free from government infringement, and that the right to petition the government is protected through our ability to recall public and elected officials.

2nd Amendment: Do you believe that gun ownership is a civil right, and what are your positions in regards to red flag laws, magazine capacity bans, legislation that regulates gun storage, and permitless "Constitutional carry"?

I am an avid supporter of the second amendment and believe that all Americans have an inherent right to protect themselves and others through the possession and (in some cases) use of a firearm. With this being said; however, I DO NOT believe that this right extends to the irresponsible and reckless use or storage of a firearm. All individuals wishing to carry a firearm SHOULD be required to pass a background check including an analysis of any severe mental health ailments or criminal charges that would prevent them from reasonably and responsibly carrying a lethal weapon. I do not believe in Constitutional carry either, and am a firm believer in Colorado's current concealed carry legislation,

Infrastructure Spending: How do you believe that tax revenue in Colorado should be best utilized to improve our infrastructure?

Tax revenue in Colorado SHOULD NOT be used to support toll roads or other privatized/semi-privatized forms of infrastructure within our state - Our tax revenue should be used to repair, rebuild and expand our current roads and infrastructure. Coloradans should not have to pay to travel and we should work towards continually enhancing our transportation infrastructure throughout the state.

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

22

Independent Survey by



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BLAKE GARNER

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact him multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether he is aware and chose not to participate.

Candidate Email Address: loflin013@gmail.com

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT

56

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PERRY DEEDS

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact him multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether he is aware and chose not to participate.

Candidate Email Address: BigState88@gmail.com

El Paso County, Colorado

2022 County Assembly Voter Guide

Democratic Candidate for

STATE SENATOR

SENATE DISTRICT

11

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YOLANDA AVILA

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact her multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether she is aware and chose not to participate.

Candidate Email Address: CS.YolandaAvila@gmail.com



THOMAS "TONY" EXUM

Candidate Information

Senate District:	11
Campaign Website URL:	www.TonyExum.com
Email Address:	Exum3672@comcast.net
Occupation/Vocation:	Firefighter, State Rep.
Resident of the El Paso County:	65+ years

Your Experience: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as Senator that will benefit our state?

I've lived in southeast Colorado Springs for more than 60 years. After serving more than 35 years as a firefighter with the CSFD, rising to the rank of Battalion Chief, I retired in 2010. I then won election in 2012 to serve in the Colorado House of Representatives, as the representative from District 17 – covering Southeast Colorado Springs. I won election again in 2016, 2018, and 2020. I currently sit on the House's Education committee and serve as Chair of the House's Transportation and Local Government committee. I also serve on the Board of my church, the Solid Rock Christian Center, and I'm an umpire/referee for youth sports. All of this experience improves my work as an elected state legislator.

Your Vision: What is your vision for being a Colorado State Senator?

I'm running for the State Senate to continue representing and helping my constituents: students, low-income families, people of color, the elderly, military personnel, first responders, and everyone in Senate District 11. I've had people tell me they were worried about not being able to drink clean water, which is why I introduced and passed bills to reduce water contamination from toxic PFAS firefighting foams. I listen when people tell me they want safer schools, better education, environmental protections, police accountability, and improved elder care, among other things; and I work hard to support legislation addressing those issues. I believe my legislative record proves that. I'm running again to continue doing this good work.

Election Reform: Do you believe that elections in Colorado should be conducted differently? Should voters in Colorado be required to verify their identity and residential status in the respective counties in which they vote? Are you in favor of a single-day, in-person voting system consisting of all-paper ballots? Why or why not?

Colorado has one of the best election systems in the country. People must present a valid form of ID in order to register to vote, and you can register to vote even on election day itself, which is a good thing. Once you're registered, the state mails your ballot to you weeks before election day, so you have time to research the candidates and issues before you vote. You can then return your ballot by mail, or by ballot drop boxes, or by going directly to the county clerk's office. Or, if you don't want to vote by mail, you can vote in person, weeks before the election or on election day itself. Our system is good, secure, and accurate.

1st Amendment: What will you do as Colorado State Senator to protect our 1st Amendment rights to: the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, peaceably assembly, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances, all of which are becoming more difficult to exercise in America (and around the world)?

As a man of faith, my religion is important to me and a prominent aspect of my life. In fact, it is because I am religious, and because I have faced discrimination because of the color of my skin, that I am against the idea of people using their religion as an excuse to be bigoted, disguising intolerance as religious freedom. I believe it is critical that we continue to fight to protect our first amendment rights, and I believe our community should be a safe, inclusive place for everyone.

2nd Amendment: Do you believe that gun ownership is a civil right, and what are your positions in regards to red flag laws, magazine capacity bans, legislation that regulates gun storage, and permitless "Constitutional carry"?

Some guns have a place in American life, for hunting, sport, and home defense. There's nothing inherently wrong with that. When rights are abused, though, that's a problem. I believe military-style weapons have no place in civilian hands or in our communities, and keeping deadly weapons out of the hands of dangerous people should always be our top priority. This is why I've supported bills to close background check loopholes, and why I've also supported bills requiring waiting periods, because "in the heat of the moment" is not when anyone should be given a gun. I've also supported legislation requiring the safe storage of firearms in houses with children in them, among other sensible measures.

Government Authority: Do you believe that the government has the legal power and authority to dictate what a person does with his or her body? If so, how?

There's always a choice to be made between what a government can do and what it should do. A government can use its inherent police powers to protect public health by requiring certain vaccinations, as laws and courts have consistently upheld, but many people believe the government shouldn't do that. A government can find ways to restrict abortion access or gun ownership, but again, many people believe the government shouldn't do that. Every time the government has the legal power to do something, it also has a moral responsibility to decide whether or not to do that thing. How a government should act in any situation depends on the circumstances of that situation.

Education: As a State Senator, what will you do to improve the education of our K - 12 students? What is your position on parental authority in education, including school choice?

This is not a question which can be answered in just 120 words, so let me say this: As a member of the House's Education committee, I am very aware of the problems facing our public education system – from strained funding sources, to deteriorating buildings and vehicles, to teacher shortages, and curriculum controversies – and I have worked as a legislator to help address these problems, and I've run many bills myself to help solve some of them. If I am elected into the State Senate, as I hope I will be, I will continue working with teachers, students, parents, administrators, and elected officials to improve our whole education system, not just K-12 but also higher education too.

School District Taxes: Do you believe that the Colorado legislature should make any adjustment to the level of taxes paid by residents in order to fund school district budgets? If so, how?

For decades in Colorado, school districts were funded mostly by local property taxes, with some money coming from the State. But for years now, school districts have been mostly funded by the State, with some money coming from local property taxes. These funding ratios have effectively reversed, and that's been bad for public school funding. The State simply can't afford to be the primary payer for all public education in Colorado. We need to find ways to better balance these funding dynamics – and fixing TABOR, Gallagher, and Amendment 23 are three very obvious and effective ways to begin improving the funding situation for public education.

National Popular Vote: What is your position on Colorado joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which would effectively eliminate the electoral college's role in presidential elections in favor of a national popular vote?

It's public record that as a member of our state legislature in 2019 I supported and voted for the bill which joined Colorado to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

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