

Pikes Peak Region 2023 School Board Elections Voter Guide

Nonpartisan and 501c3 - compliant Candidate Surveys

D8 - Fountain

School Board Elections | November 7, 2023 | Mail-In / Drop-Off Ballot Voting Only



**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**

October 17 - November 7, 2023

Contact Church Voter Guides at: Admin@ChurchVoterGuides.org | Updated 10/24/23

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.

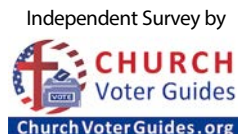


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Pikes Peak Region 2023 School Board Elections Voter Guide for District 8 - Fountain

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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.

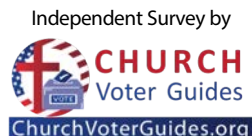
We are based in Colorado Springs, and the April 2021 City Council election in our hometown was our inaugural project, followed by Voter Guides for the 2021 Pikes Peak Region School Board Elections, the 2022 State and El Paso County Assemblies, the 2022 Statewide and El Paso County Primaries and General Election, and the 2023 Colorado Springs Municipal Elections for Mayor and City Council, including the Mayoral Runoff Election. Our Voter Guides are distributed electronically-only through our website via downloadable and printable PDF files, as well as mobile-friendly interactive webpages.

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 a 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 verbatim. 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, as they are (supposedly) running for their office in order to represent 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!)



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 or political parties.

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 and text, as well as by phone and their website contact form when determined necessary, to all registered candidates running for Mayor and City Council in the 2023 Colorado Springs Municipal Election, inviting them to answer our Questionnaire. Candidate information is presented in ballot order. 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. The two remaining Mayoral Candidates are listed herein.

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 2024 El Paso County and Statewide elections, as well as training and supporting others around Colorado and the U.S. to produce their own local voter guides too! Help our efforts nationwide by (1) getting the word out, (2) working with us to produce local guides, and (3) financial support.

It's simple. Get more information on our website, and share our website URL all around America:

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.)

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to colobar with you: Admin@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.



Survey Questions for Pikes Peak Region School Board Candidates

Political Leanings: As a candidate in a nonpartisan School Board election, you are not officially associated with any specific political party. How would you describe your political leanings (socially, fiscally, etc.) and why do you define yourself in this way?

Your Experience and Vision: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as School Board Member that will benefit your district? What is your vision to help ensure the highest quality education for your district's students?

Improving Schools: What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of your district's schools? *How can your district make public school a more attractive choice for local families?*

Curriculum: What types of curricula, including library books and materials, do you believe should be added or removed from your district's schools? Why?

Financial Stewardship: Depending on the size of their district, School Board Members decide how to spend \$10s of millions of dollars, or even \$100s of millions, in taxpayer money each year. How would you seek to prioritize the funds being stewarded by your district's School Board?

Securing Constitutional Liberties: In recent years, established freedoms, including that of speech, peaceable assembly, exercise of religion, and medical autonomy, have been impacted by various mandates adopted by schools across America. As an elected representative of the citizens of your district, how would you seek to secure the Constitutional liberties of your schools' students and staff?

Parental Role: What do you consider to be a parent's role in a child's education? Do you believe that any information about a student should ever be withheld from a parent?

Sex Ed: Why do you support or oppose comprehensive sexuality education, including LGBT health and relationship information, in public schools K to 12? What are your positions regarding age appropriateness, curriculum transparency, and opt-out policies?

Gender Issues: Explain your positions regarding teaching and discussing gender issues in the classroom, including the use of "preferred pronouns"?

School Safety: As a School Board member, what will you do to help assure a safe and secure environment for both the students and staff of your district?

School Board Meetings: What do believe is the correct balance between the authority of School Boards and the rights of the public to present their views during School Board meetings?



JUSTIN BOWMAN

Candidate Chose to Not Participate

Campaign Website: None Found

Email Address: Justin.Bowman89@gmail.com



JILL GRUBBS

Candidate Information

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Campaign Website URL: | None |
| Email Address: | djmegbo4@gmail.com |
| Occupation/Vocation: | Administrative Assistant |
| Resident of Pikes Peak Region & District: | 45 years and 28 years |

Political Leanings: As a candidate in a nonpartisan School Board election, you are not officially associated with any specific political party. How would you describe your political leanings (socially, fiscally, etc.) and why do you define yourself in this way?

Politically I consider myself conservative fiscally and socially I have traditional conservative values. As a Christian, the Bible is my source of truth.

Your Experience and Vision: As a candidate in a nonpartisan School Board election, you are not officially associated with any specific political party. How would you describe your political leanings (socially, fiscally, etc.) and why do you define yourself in this way?

I served on the District 8 School Board from 2007 through 2015 and was term limited at that time. I also served on the teacher assessment committee for District 8 from 2016 through 2019. District 8 has provided highly qualified teachers, schools and opportunities for our students that need to be permanent and increasing in the future. Continuity in the leadership of the School Board can facilitate providing a high quality of education.

Improving Schools: What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of your district's schools? How can your district make public school a more attractive choice for local families?

I think that District 8 has supplied quality programs and negotiated COVID 19 with the least amount of interruption and negative effects, nevertheless all School Districts and students have been affected. The commitment District 8 has implemented to focus on meeting the students' needs; educational, social, and mental has helped our students with setbacks from the pandemic. Continued focus on rigor in educating District 8 students and giving them the options for specific tutoring and learning opportunities need to be followed for full recovery.

Curriculum: What types of curricula, including library books and materials, do you believe should be added or removed from your district's schools? Why?

Curriculum materials from various sources are reviewed by committees of teachers and administrators before being adopted and have been available for School Board Director review also. Reading, writing, math, history, social studies should all be curricula that is germane to the subject studied. The arts, sports and all programs providing students with career preparation should be supported with library materials pertinent to those topics. Books that are explicitly sexual and/or are not appropriate for school libraries should be removed. School libraries should have material that is age/grade relevant and not pushing an agenda for transgender/LGBT or critical race theory.

Financial Stewardship: Depending on the size of their district, School Board Members decide how to spend \$10s of millions of dollars, or even \$100s of millions, in taxpayer money each year. How would you seek to prioritize the funds being stewarded by your district's School Board?

District spending should prioritize student's learning needs to ensure the best education; teachers, administrators, student support (classified) employees, curriculum, safety, school buildings/facilities and extra-curricular activities. Working with other School Board members and the District Administration to ensure taxpayer funds are going to those priorities will be my focus. District 8 has NAFIS (National Affiliation of Federally Impacted Schools) due to housing on Fort Carson and the District has been able to construct new facilities and been able to keep teacher and employee wages more commensurate with the cost of living without having property taxes raised in several years or a necessity of pursuing school bonds.

Securing Constitutional Liberties: In recent years, established freedoms, including that of speech, peaceable assembly, exercise of religion, and medical autonomy, have been impacted by various mandates adopted by schools across America. As an elected representative of the citizens of your district, how would you seek to secure the Constitutional liberties of your schools' students and staff?

School Boards can legally opt out of some State policies which recently have affected free speech, exercise of religion, medical autonomy and peaceful assembly. Careful review of policies and making sure the policies meet the students, teachers, and community members (parents and constituents) Constitutional liberty rights is a responsibility I take seriously and plan to fulfill.

Parental Role: What do you consider to be a parent's role in a child's education? Do you believe that any information about a student should ever be withheld from a parent?

Parents' concerns should be addressed to teachers initially and if not handled there, by administrators and the School Board as necessary. No information about a student should be withheld from a parent and policies that support withholding information from parents/guardians should be omitted or changed. Parents are the persons ultimately responsible to raise their children and to make sure the education of their children are receiving meets the standards they want for their children-no entity should supersede the rights of the parent.

Sex Ed: Why do you support or oppose comprehensive sexuality education, including LGBT health and relationship information, in public schools K to 12? Explain your positions regarding age appropriateness, curriculum transparency, and opt-out policies?

Sex education should only be taught in a sex education class, not in social studies, science, health, history, or math; all these subjects can be taught without sex ed being part of the curriculum. If sex education is taught within any other curriculum, the parent(s) should be notified ahead so that they can “opt out” their child for that period of instruction. There should always be an “opt out” choice for parents to remove their children from sex education classes and that is the reason to have Sex Ed class separate from other curricula.

Gender Issues: Explain your positions regarding teaching and discussing gender issues in the classroom, including the use of “preferred pronouns”?

Teachers, students, and other school personnel should not be required to use “preferred pronouns” as this practice is disruptive to classroom instruction and not necessary for students to learn. Pronouns which match the student’s birth gender should be used and no person should be under corrective or disciplinary action if they do not comply with a student’s specific preferences in this regard. Gender discussions should not be initiated by the teacher unless it is during a sex education class.

School Safety: As a School Board Member, what would you seek to implement to assure a safe and secure environment for both the students and staff of your district?

District 8 has implemented a very comprehensive program in conjunction with the Fountain Police Department, having SRO’s (School Resource Officers) in all City of Fountain Schools. The District 8 administration is constantly upgrading all aspects of safety provided, an example of excellence in the area of school safety. This was a focus of mine when I was previously serving on the District 8 Board and it will continue to be a focus for me as a School Board Director, should I be elected.

School Board Meetings: What do believe is the correct balance between the authority of School Boards and the rights of the public to present their views during School Board meetings?

Since School Board Directors are elected by their constituents (parents, grandparents, guardians and community members), the public should be able to express their concerns at School Board meetings in an orderly manner and with respect to a reasonable timeframe. A group represented by one spokesperson for an inclusive matter or a single spokesperson for their single concern.



ROSE TERRELL

Candidate Chose to Not Participate

Campaign Website: None Found

Email Address: RTerrell132@msn.com

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