

August 25, 2024

Mr. Adam Frisch  
P.O. Box 1240  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Dear Adam,

Restore the Balance is a 501(c)4 organization that educates the public about the danger political extremism poses to a healthy democracy. We urge citizens to learn about candidates running for public office and to support those who best put public interest first and work to bring citizens together.

To help citizens learn about candidates, we have created a questionnaire for you and your opponent running for U.S. Representative for Colorado's Third Congressional District.

We will share your responses, question by question, along with those of your opponent with our 2,900 members and supporters on our website. We will also share them with various media outlets which we believe will help citizens make the best decision about whom to support.

We have provided you with a set of seven political principles we believe should guide political conduct in Western Colorado. Please review them carefully. One of our questions will be about these seven principles.

Please have your answers completed and sent to [Restorethebalance@outlook.com](mailto:Restorethebalance@outlook.com) by September 10, 2024. Please meet the deadline. Restore the Balance strives to educate voters about your views toward public service, and toward important issues. It would be a disservice for the public to see only your opponent's policies and not yours.

Thank you for your participation. If you have any questions about the questionnaire or the process, please send them to me at [restorethebalance@outlook.com](mailto:restorethebalance@outlook.com).

Thank you,

Tim Sarmo  
Restore the Balance

## **Restore the Balance**

### **Seven political principles to guide political conduct**

We must do more than simply be against extremism. We must act against it whenever we can. We embrace the following set of principles to govern political conduct by candidates and citizens alike. **WE BELIEVE:**

1. Political parties, citizens and elected officials should vigorously compete over values, principles, and ideas, but must also find common ground to solve problems and pass needed legislation.
2. Facts, supported by objectively examined evidence, are the basis for what to believe and how to act.
3. No one person or political party has a monopoly on the best public policy proposals; communication and good faith negotiations are essential to the legislative process.
4. The public interest must come before party interests, for voters and elected officials alike.
5. Extremists of all kinds attract supporters and money by appealing to fears and resentments, amplifying divisions instead of truly addressing problems.
6. Citizens should be free to run for or hold office without being threatened or harassed.
7. Citizens may certainly exercise their personal freedoms, but they may not ignore their personal responsibilities to the community at large.

Candidate Questionnaire  
For U.S. Representative

1. What is your motivation for running for CD3 US Representative? What are your qualifications to serve?

I decided to run because I believe too often both political parties cater to the extremes and are corrupted by corporate money and interests, and that divisive politicians like Lauren Boebert — CD3's current representative — make it impossible to get things done for the good of the people.

I am a life-long coalition builder/get stuff done person in my businesses, my non-profit work, and civil service experience.

I have driven over 67,000 miles through CD3 starting when I challenged Lauren Boebert, and those who I've had the privilege to meet can tell you I am laser focused on breaking through the Team Republican/Team Democrat division. I am focused on CD3.

Having spent 8 years on my local city council, plus additional years on civic board, I have invested a lot of time of listening to community members and working with them to find common sense solutions that are now affecting all of CD3 - working to tackle the affordable housing, cost of living, and supporting our small business communities.

As the only business person running for CD3 - a combination of working in large organizations in finance, as well as being a long-standing small business owner on the Western Slope, I understand the importance of having and supporting our business communities and how over-regulation can depress the importance of a vibrant small business community in all our 27 counties in our district.

I would add another qualification in 2024 is to have the honor of being endorsed by RTB in 2022!

2. What do you perceive as the top three issues facing CD3 that you propose to address, and how would you address those issues if elected?

After spending 67,000 miles on the campaign trail, the top three issues that I hear the most about are keeping CD3's water in CD3's hands, lowering the cost of living, and securing the border for a common-sense immigration policy.

Water is the lifeblood of our district, and is critically important to our agriculture and energy sectors. I will oppose any effort to divert water from the San Luis Valley and bring funds home for responsible water projects in Western and Southern Colorado. My job is to be a conduit from the water experts and leaders of Western and Southern Colorado to the policymakers in D.C.

Government spending and corporate price gouging are driving up the cost of living on hardworking Coloradans. CD3 deserves a representative who will stop reckless spending in Washington and who does not rely on corporations to fund their campaign.

We need to secure our border with more resources for border agents, physical barriers, and drug-detecting technology, as well as more funding for immigration judges and processes to fix the broken asylum and visa processes. CD3 business owners, farmers, and ranchers need a workforce that isn't beholden to the whims of politicians in Washington.

Having spent most of the last 2+ years on the road 20-25 days a month meeting and listening with as many people as possible in as open/public settings as possible I am confident I have the pulse of the district.

Keeping as much CD3 water in CD3, tackling the cost of living that is hammering so many people in our district, and getting rid of political gamesmanship to secure our border and have a working immigration policy that can support our district's economy and communities.

3. Do you believe Colorado's current election laws and procedures provide for secure elections? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Yes.

Colorado has some of - if not the most - secure elections in the country. I believe this so much that when my last election — the closest house election in the country — went to a recount after the cure process, I conceded before the citizen mandated recount was started.

We took some grief for what was perceived as accepting defeat too soon, but I believed it showed a public show of trust in CO's election laws. And we were right, as the election process was the entire time.

4. Do you believe that Joe Biden's election in 2020 was legitimate? Please explain the reasons for your answer either way.

Yes. The 2020 election was not stolen. President Biden's victory was legitimate, as was every other Democrat and Republican who won their election in 2022. The places where concerns arose were investigated and proved legitimate by the courts over and over again. Case closed.

5. Article 2 of the US Constitution sets out an electoral process for choosing our president. The results of this process will produce a winner in the 2024 election. Lacking any objective evidence that the 2024 Presidential election is illegitimate or illegal, will you vote to certify the results of the election in accordance with the Constitution?

Yes.

6. What is your perspective on the events of January 6, 2021 in Washington, DC?

The January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection was a blight on our great country and our democracy. Peaceful transitions of power are a cornerstone of our democracy and stability. Disruption of that process cannot be tolerated.

7. Is there a current policy, platform plank(s), or pieces of legislation that your party has endorsed or supported that you disagree with? Why?

Many.

The timeline provided by the majority of the Democratic party when it comes to renewable energy transition is not feasible. For the sake of our district's economy, national security, and the global climate, we need to look at an all-of-the-above approach to energy production which will include gas and oil for the foreseeable future. Reliable, affordable, and responsible energy production can be done here in the Western Slope across many energy sources. To meet our growing demand, we need to increase the use of renewables and other innovative energy sources as well.

I also disagree publically with Democrats on student debt forgiveness, BLM uses, and President Biden's LNG export ban. Not to mention, I was the first Democrat candidate in the nation to call for President Biden to step aside.

Too often policies put forward by the Democratic Party focus on the largest urban areas in the country and glaze over rural communities. There is also a lack of focus on those pursuing a future outside of the four-year college path. I want to bring attention to these overlooked issues even as it means breaking with my party. I am not focused on which person or party brings legislation; my only focus is if the policy is Pro-CD3 or not.

8. If elected, what actions would you take to help ensure more effective bipartisan communication and collaboration to facilitate better outcomes for CD3 constituents?

I have committed to joining the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus (equal number of Republicans and Democrats) once elected to Congress and I pledge to work with anyone willing to sit down and negotiate good legislation that benefits the people and businesses of CD3.

A lot of CD3 work is going to be with a majority of Republicans in the Western United State including protecting western water, supporting domestic energy, supporting our very important public land use to protect some of the most beautiful lands in the country, while making sure a CD3-focused approach to making sure agriculture remains an important use, as is multi-use recreation and responsible domestic energy production. We can do all of these as well as protect the important biodiversity, rural economic development, and supporting our veterans.

From day 1 of my campaign, this has been about Team CD3, not Team Republican or Team Democrat.

9. What are the elements of an immigration policy that would you support?

Shame on both parties for politicizing our needed border security and immigration reform.

Before we can focus on much needed immigration fixes, we need to secure our Southern border. We need more resources at the border to aid in securing it but also to process more legal immigration to support our needed workforce. Once that is accomplished, we can look at protecting Dreamers and creating a merit-based, fair approach to immigration. Our farmers and ranchers — as well as many small businesses — rely on immigrant employees via our important H-2A visa program and we need to ensure we're able to match employers with workers.

10. Do you endorse *each* of the seven principles Restore the Balance proposes to guide political conduct in Western Colorado? If there are one or more principles you do not endorse, please identify them, and explain why.

I am all in.

On all 7.