

Restore the Balance
La Plata Candidate Questionnaires

1. Why are you running for Colorado State Senate? What qualifications do you bring and how are you preparing to serve if elected?

I was motivated to run in 2020 to offer a strong, experienced voice for rural Colorado. I seek reelection to this senate office for largely the same reason. There is so much political influence within a sixty-mile radius of the Capitol, that having a thoughtful, engaged, experienced senator is vital to assuring rural Colorado interests are well represented and we highlight our relevance in the policy conversation space. Born in the San Luis Valley, growing up farming and ranching and continuing that family tradition as the fourth generation of my family to farm and ranch, creates a very unique bond to our rural communities all across Colorado. Time spent away from Colorado in Texas and Australia developing and honing leadership skills in the business world helped prepare me for this opportunity. Along with business leadership responsibilities I have been committed to a variety of public service roles; school district accountability committee (appointed), Farm Services Agency County committee (elected), county land use planning committee (appointed), mosquito control district (elected), higher education board of trustees (appointed), water resources committees (appointed and elected) and then Colorado State Senator (elected). I am preparing to serve by doing exactly what I have been doing serving the constituents; being accessible, listening to concerns and policy ideas from all constituents regardless of political affiliation, serving on a number of

interim committees and hearing from Coloradans across the state. Thinking about the opportunities to improve the livelihood and standard of living for folks in our beautiful state.

2. Do you agree with the seven principles Restore the Balance feels should guide political conduct in Colorado. If you do not agree with one or more of these principles, please identify and explain why.

I certainly agree with the principles and have demonstrated my commitment to those principles over my lifetime generally and more specifically have demonstrated them in my time at the Colorado General Assembly. Treat people with dignity and respect, value our differences and learn from one another.

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

Yes, we have secure elections. I have great confidence and support of our county clerks and recorders and their commitment to a trusted voting process. While the process is not without some flaws, it is not perfect, it does provide confidence in the outcomes. We should continue to challenge ourselves to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

4. If elected, what actions will you take to help find common ground with your fellow elected officials on both sides of the aisle.

I already have a track record of working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to put forward successful legislation that has always had bipartisan support. I have had a few of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle actually spend time with me and my family and get some additional perspective of life in rural Colorado.

5. If elected, how will you listen to and represent the concerns of constituents who don't agree with you?

By always being approachable and a demonstration of a good listener. I take pride in challenging myself to engage with folks with a different philosophy and intentionally work to better understand issues from a different perspective. I continue to believe we have more in common than we think and believe we want similar outcomes, it's just about the path to get there.

6. What are the top three issues facing Colorado and briefly how do you plan to address these issues if elected?

1. Cost of living – I worry about and continue to highlight the impacts of more and more enterprise fees on Coloradans. Sometimes as a mechanism to work outside of TABOR the general assembly brings forward creation of more and more of these enterprises, that are well intentioned, but just continue to burden Coloradans with more and more fees. Working in the minority requires a nuanced approach with the majority party to find ways to reduce the cost of living.
2. Affordable housing – I rely extensively on input from those closest to this issue, largely county entities and non-profits. Over the last 3 years the state has funded hundreds of millions of dollars to assist with creating more affordable housing. I think we are beginning to see some results, but it is still going to take some time. I continue to work on reducing some of the bureaucratic burdens to new construction.
3. Funding K-12 education – We finally eliminated the budget stabilization factor and I will continue to advocate a thoughtful approach to budgeting going forward that absolutely does not put the state back into a funding shortfall. It means prioritizing school funding above and beyond any new programs or offices. I worry about the potential for us to lose that focus.