

August 15, 2022

Adam Frisch for Colorado
P.O. Box 371
Woody Creek, CO 81656-0371

Candidate Frisch,

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 2,300 members and supporters. We will also share them with various media outlets which we believe will help Mesa County citizens make the best decision about whom to support.

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

Please have your answers completed and sent to Restorethebalance@outlook.com by Tuesday, September 13 at 6PM. Please meet the deadline. We want voters to learn about your views. It would be a disservice for the public to see only your opponent's answers and not yours.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please send them to me at restorethebalance@outlook.com.

Thank you,

Steven Mandell
Restore the Balance

Restore the Balance

Seven political principles to guide political conduct

We must do more than simply be against extremism. We must embrace an alternative set of political principles. We believe these seven principles should guide us.

- **We believe** that political parties should vigorously compete over values, principles, and ideas, but also find common ground to solve problems and pass needed legislation. Gridlock is not an option.
- **We believe** facts, supported by irrefutable evidence, are the basis for what to believe and how to act. No civilization can endure when its citizens believe there is no such thing as objective facts or truths.
- **We believe** that no one has a monopoly on the best public policy proposals. That means the ability to listen to and understand both sides of a debate are a prerequisite to finding practical solutions.
- **We believe** public interest must come before party interest. This means putting what is right ahead of loyalty to a party or an individual party leader.
- **We believe** that problem-solving is more important than fund-raising. Extremists line their pockets then use the funds to amplify division instead of producing solutions.
- **We believe** citizens should be free to run for office or volunteer to support the candidate of their choice without being threatened or harassed. Extremism uses intimidation because it cannot stand up to independent, open-minded thinking. Instead, it relies on the mentality of the mob.
- **We believe** it is time to expect citizens to embrace individual responsibility. Extremists always talk about “freedom,” but never mention the responsibility to the community that comes with it.

Candidate Questionnaire
U.S. Representative – Third Congressional District of Colorado
Adam Frisch (D)

By now, you have read and considered the seven political principles we feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado.

1. Do you believe that political extremism poses a threat specifically in Western Colorado? If yes, please explain why. If no, please explain why not.

I do believe political extremism poses a threat to Western and Southern Colorado. As I drive around Colorado and visit with constituents, I notice a lot of flags and bumper stickers supporting the Three Percenters and QAnon. These radical organizations are rooted in extremism that does not hold any promise for democracy. Their organizations are based on hate, anger, and a lack of education in the actual history of our great nation. We live in the greatest democracy in the world, and these groups, and others like them, choose to destroy it and inflict terrorist acts on our citizens, not to enhance it through hard work and community building. Misinformation has taken root among elected officials and residents alike and fueled the growth of extremism, and it has undermined the ability of Western Colorado's people and communities to find common ground and work together to solve the important issues that we face, from drought and water security to economic growth and jobs. Lastly, while my opinions above are focused on the extreme right, I do not want to suggest that across the country that the left also has some political extremists.

2. Do you endorse each of the seven principles Restore the Balance feels should guide political conduct in Western Colorado? If you endorse them all, please explain how you will work to execute these principles. If there are one or more principles you do not endorse, please identify them and explain why.

Yes, I strongly endorse all seven principles.

I signed up and pledged to endorse the principles as soon as I learned about Restore the Balance. These principles embody not only how I plan to lead in the future, but represent the manner in which I have been working in my community for years. I provided eight years of elected community service on the Aspen City Council, and I've spent years in leadership roles of various civic and nonprofit boards and commissions. I always focus on the issues and the results. Even with those whom I do not agree, I always work in a respectful tone and in a consensus-building manner. Showing kindness and respect should not be viewed as weakness, and I will continue to lead by example in my tone and tenor to curtail those that would rather feed the "anger-tainment" industry, instead of growing together as a community that takes care of one another.

I have always been of the mindset, if there was a Get Stuff Done Party, I would be in that party. But sadly, that party doesn't exist in Congress right now. We need less talk and more action in order to benefit everyone in our district, regardless of their political party. We need to consider people before politics.

When I am elected to Congress, the first thing I will do is head straight to the Problem Solvers Caucus. This 58-member group is made up of 29 Democrats and 29 Republicans. They are the caucus that brought us the bipartisan infrastructure bill, the first Covid-19 bill and will likely be the driving force behind solving other issues facing our country such as healthcare, inflation and education. This group strives to listen and to understand, uses facts, and finds common sense solutions to problems.

3. We believe that public interest must come before party loyalty. It is important our elected officials have the courage to stand up for what is right even when their party puts pressure on them to "go along."
 - a. Is there any current policy of your party you disagree with? If yes, what are you doing to bring about change?

The pressure to submit to party line is one of the biggest problems with our current political environment. Prioritizing political purity over solutions for constituents undermines faith in our institutions and our government. One policy that I disagree with most of my party on is the approach to the transition to renewable energy. While I think it is an admirable goal we should pursue, it is going to take time and it will require us to continue to develop domestic energy options, like oil and natural gas. Colorado has the cleanest, most environmentally responsible energy productions in the world, and it is better for our climate, our economy, labor standards, and our national security to produce a barrel of oil or a cubic foot of natural gas here than it is to import it from Iran, Russia, or Venezuela. We need to lower emissions and transition to greener energy production, but it will not happen overnight, we should not sacrifice the economies of rural communities and our national security to achieve it.

- b. In the past, have you disagreed with a policy or piece of legislation your party has endorsed or supported? How did you stand up to get your point of view across? What actions did you take?

A very recent example of disagreeing with my party is my disapproval of the Biden student debt relief plan. While I will include the press release on this topic with my responses, the executive summary of my issues with it are: (1) no President should have a 1/2 trillion to 1 trillion dollar signing power without going through Congress, (2) I think it is illegal per (1), as even President Biden himself and Speaker Pelosi said only a few weeks prior, (3) offering relief to

people making up to \$250,000 jointly is not how we as a country should be addressing those 'most in need,' (there should have been a much stronger focus on Pell Grant recipients) (4) with only 1/3rd of adults having a BA, I would much rather see a focus on a wider variety of post-high school options and a much more focused on those most in need. While college can be a very important path for many, if we are going to make a huge investment in society, there is a strong case that medical debt for those most in need deserves a case to be made---but sadly the student debt relief plan was preordained at the start of the process in how to help a segment of society.

4. Can you provide some examples of how you worked with members of the opposing party to craft legislation as an office holder or in developing your policies as a candidate? Please be specific.

I have said the same things as a private citizen, as a primary candidate, and now as a general election candidate: I will work with anyone, from any party, from any state, to get common sense legislation passed in DC that benefits the 3rd Congressional District, Colorado, and America. Throughout this race, I have spoken with Republicans, Democrats, and independents about the issues that face us here in Western and Southern Colorado and I have incorporated those diverse perspectives into my campaign both in terms of policy proposals as well as outreach and communications. I did this as a member of my (nonpartisan) local city council, where I brought together different stakeholders to work on affordable housing, water security, and energy issues. Coming together and getting things done in a cooperative manner is at the heart of restoring the balance in our politics.

As I stated above, and in every single talk I gave in the primary and now in the general election, my #1 goal in Congress is to join the Problem Solvers Caucus.

5. There is much concern about mass shootings taking place across the country. Congress has passed bi-partisan legislation on the subject.

- a. Do you support the legislation that was passed this year? Why or why not?

I do support the common-sense bipartisan legislation that was passed earlier this year. Many of the policies contained within it have been law in Colorado for years, and they have contributed to our state's position in the top 10 states when it comes to gun safety legislation. The bill also contained significant resources for mental health projects across the nation, which I believe is a key piece of the puzzle when it comes to addressing gun violence in America.

Like other parents across our Country, I grieve the loss of so many young lives cut short and so many communities shattered. When COVID started, I obtained my substitute teaching license at my local public elementary school. My wife is president of our school board and is continually discussing safety and security concerns. We are parents of a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old. We have family friends with a child who attended Sandy Hook, and while he survived, the mental health ramifications for him and his classmates have been extraordinary. These are horrible tragedies, and I recognize the fear, outrage, and horrific sadness we all feel in our communities when the unthinkable occurs.

b. What other changes you would like to see in gun legislation?

I would like to see greater support for programs and tools to identify individuals who are most likely to commit these crimes and develop interventions. I have said some people I would trust driving a tank, others I wouldn't trust with a hammer. We need to be able to deal with the latter group.

6. The legitimacy of 2020 election has become a point of contention between 2022 election candidates. Do you agree that the 2020 election results were legitimate? If you do not feel that President Joe Biden was fairly elected, why do you feel that way and what factual evidence supports your belief?

Joe Biden is the dually elected president of the United States of America, the elections were free and fair, and the efforts to undermine his victory using misinformation are deeply troubling.

7. What are the three biggest issues facing citizens in Western Colorado? Briefly describe your proposed solutions to two of these three issues.

The three biggest challenges facing Western Colorado are protecting Colorado's water, combatting inflation, and boosting small businesses, and supporting Colorado's energy sector.

When it comes to water, we know the Colorado River is the lifeblood of this region and the ongoing drought poses a grave threat to our way of life, particularly for farmers and ranchers. In June, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation asked states to come up with a plan to voluntarily (for now) cut consumption by 2-to-4-million-acre feet, more than the entire state of Colorado consumes from the river per year. This poses an immediate and direct threat to CD3. If we do not have a serious representative at the table committed to finding a path forward, our district will suffer immensely. I will work at the federal level

to help expand water storage capacity in Colorado, encourage lower basin states to explore and develop alternative sources, and restrict water speculation from Wall Street to protect Colorado's water and the economic interests of our communities. I will also push to get more resources and tools for local jurisdictions to maintain forest health, which is critical to watersheds and conservation, and ensure local jurisdictions have greater say in the execution of these programs. Additionally, I support the more than \$8 billion in the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the \$4 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act to fund water resiliency and drought mitigation efforts, increase water storage, fund water recycling and other conservation efforts, and improve aging water infrastructure and will do everything I can to make sure Western and Southern Colorado get the dollars they need from these pots of money.

I will do everything I can to combat inflation and support our small businesses. From gas prices to housing to groceries, inflation is putting a huge strain on Colorado families and making it incredibly difficult to afford basic necessities. We need to attack inflation at the roots by supporting domestic energy production to get energy prices under control, working to address supply chain bottlenecks, addressing labor shortages through targeted immigration reforms, and increasing housing stock. I am a long-time advocate for more affordable housing, and it was my signature issue during my 8 years of service on my local city council. I support smart affordable housing policies, including cutting unnecessary regulation that drives up the cost of housing construction and advocating for more inclusive zoning policies. I also support expanding and streamlining the H2-A and J-1 visa programs for temporary workers in agriculture and tourism to address the labor shortage in these industries, and I will fight for projects that get local communities the resources they need to thrive, like state-of-the-art rail infrastructure in Grand Junction to assist local businesses in getting the materials they need.

Finally (extra credit ☺), when it comes to energy Independence and a responsible transition to renewables, I support an all-of-the-above energy policy that protects the good jobs that we already have while creating more jobs across all sectors from oil and gas to renewables. Colorado produces the cleanest energy with the highest environmental standards, and I will work to make sure this continues to be the case. If we are going to produce a barrel of oil or a cubic foot of natural gas, it is better for the environment, for labor standards, and for our national security if we do it here rather than importing energy from Iran, Venezuela, or Saudi Arabia. We can move America toward full energy independence and drive down energy costs by supporting our energy sector. I also know we need to address emissions, and that we should work to transition to lower carbon fuel sources, be it natural gas and renewables, going forward. But I believe that this is a math problem we haven't solved yet and rural communities and economies shouldn't take the hit for emissions from cities.