

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICE  
PRESENTED BY RESTORE THE BALANCE, DELTA COUNTY  
a nonpartisan, nonprofit, organization

PLEASE RETURN YOUR RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE NOT LATER  
THAN 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024, BY EMAIL TO:  
[rtbdeltacounty@gmail.com](mailto:rtbdeltacounty@gmail.com)

**To: Walter Czech Candidate for Trustee  
Town of Paonia, Colorado**

1. What qualifications do you have that can give voters confidence that you should be a member of the Paonia Board of Trustees? Please be specific.

I am civic minded and want to contribute to my local community. I was politically active in Denver before moving to Paonia. I have spoken before the Denver city council on issues I cared about and worked in the campaign office for a ballot initiative in Denver.

2. By now, upon reading and considering the seven political principles we feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado.
  - a. Do you endorse each of the seven principles restore the balance feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado?

I agree with all seven principles to guide political conduct, they mirror my personal sentiments.

- b. If you endorse them all, please explain how you will work to execute these principles

By being open and honest, working in good faith and encouraging others to do the same for the benefit of the community.

- c. If there are any principles you do not endorse, please identify them and explain why.

In the seventh bullet point I would add to the end of the sentence "Citizens may certainly exercise their personal freedoms, but they may not ignore their personal responsibilities to the community at large ...*or infringe on the freedoms of others.*"

3. It is important to let people know that you put the public interest first. In looking back over the past year or two, are there any decisions of the Paonia Board of Trustees has made that you do not agree with?

No, there is no specific decision that I disagree with.

If yes, how would you change them?

4. In the aftermath of recent political events, some security experts cite increased risks to local governments from extremist groups which pose a threat to the right to peacefully assemble and to the proper functioning of government.
  - a. How would you define “extremist” activity and do you view it as a threat to the proper function of municipal government?

Yes, extremism is counter productive, whether economic, religious or political. Extremist, often, have the opposite effect of what their intended goals are. Economic extremes leads to monopolies, it might be good for a few but is bad for society. Religious extremist believe they are doing the right thing, but instead of persuasion they try to use force to get others to adopt their beliefs, causing more harm than good. Political extremist are a threat to the smooth operation of a functioning democracy. I would define an extremist as a person who when they don't get their way will take actions that obstruct or sabotage the function of the systems that they want to control. The actions they may take include deception, intimidation, harassment, or violence.

- b. What, if anything, should be done to protect elected officials and the public from those using harassment to stop civil engagement in the exercise of democratic processes?

Stricter penalty for those who break the laws regarding harassment.

5. Our county allows the use of mail-in ballots. Do you feel this method serves the public interest?

I believe mail-in ballots are a great idea, especially since elections pole workers are increasing being intimidated and threatened.

6. Do you feel municipal government in your Delta County community in the recent past has been moving in the correct direction?.

Yes, the town council deserves to be commended for trying to resolve difficult problems.

- a. What additional steps would you promote to maximize serving the interests of your community in an efficient and cost-effective manner?

Invite members of the community to submit concerns to the town council in writing so that important issues that are of concern to the public might be given consideration by the town council.

7. What do you feel are three important issues and/or concerns facing the municipality in which you are seeking elected office and what solutions do you have in mind?

Water has been an issue recently, there is currently an engineering assessment in progress and when it's finished recommendations will be considered and steps will be taken to improve the system.

Other infrastructure projects, streets and the sewer system needs addressing

Zoning regarding accessory dwelling units and short term rentals are problems that need analyzing and addressing.

Thanks for your help in encouraging public participation in our election process.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE NOT LATER THAN 5:00 p.m., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 TO:**

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