



Grand Junction Area
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

2020 FALL VOTERS GUIDE



BALLOT ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE FOLLOWING GUIDE INCLUDES CANDIDATE POSITIONS
& CHAMBER ENDORSEMENTS

MEASURE 2A

**City of Grand Junction
Use of TABOR Funds**

INITIATIVE 7A

**Property Tax Increase
to Fund Colorado River
District**

PROPOSITION 113

**Enter Colorado into the
National Popular Vote
Compact**

PROPOSITION 114

**Reintroduction of Grey
Wolves to Colorado
Public Lands**

PROPOSITION 118

**New Colorado Paid
Family Medical Leave**

AMENDMENT B

**the Repeal of the
Gallagher Amendment**

FEDERAL LEGISLATURE

U.S. SENATE

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 3

STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE DISTRICT 54

HOUSE DISTRICT 55

MESA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 3

VOTER GUIDE 2020

As the voice of business for the Grand Junction area, the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce has worked to represent business and promote economic growth since 1884. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020. Below please find the positions of the candidates and positions of the Chamber.



LOCAL AND STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION REFERRED MEASURE 2A

This measure would allow the City of Grand Junction to collect, retain, and spend all revenue received over the TABOR revenue cap, in order to pay for police, fire, parks and other government services.

Chamber Position: vote **Yes**. **This measure does not increase taxes and just provides the City with the flexibility to fund services like police, fire and parks, that may otherwise see cuts.**

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT INITIATIVE 7A

This measure would increase property taxes, within the Colorado River District, in order to protect water security and fund projects to improve water use and healthy streams. If approved, the tax increase would amount to approximately \$1.90 for every \$100,000 in residential property value.

Chamber Position: vote **YES**. **Due to closures of power plants and oil and gas facilities, the Colorado River Water Conservancy District has seen a decrease in funding. If passed, this measure will provide the District with the critical resources needed to fight to keep water on the Western Slope, protect water supplies for Wester Slope Farmers and Ranchers, protect sustainable drinking water, and protect fish, wildlife and recreation.**

PROPOSITION 113

This measure would enter Colorado into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). The interstate compact would award member states' presidential elector votes to the candidate that wins the nationwide popular vote. The NPVIC would go into effect if states representing a minimum of 270 Electoral votes adopt the legislation.

Chamber Position: Vote **NO**. **The Electoral College ensures that states with smaller populations have a role in electing the President. Skirting the Electoral College by tying Colorado's electoral votes to the National Popular Vote gives states like California, Florida and New York, greater influence in the election, ultimately minimizing the voice of Coloradoans.**

PROPOSITION 114

This measure would require the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to create a plan to introduce and manage the gray wolves on public lands west of the continental divide by the end of 2023.

Chamber Position: Vote **NO**. **The introduction of gray wolves will have severe consequences on the agricultural industry, which contributes more than \$40 billion to the Colorado economy each year, and provides more than 173,000 jobs.**

PROPOSITION 117

Proposition 117 would require statewide voter approval of new state enterprises that have an actual or projected revenue, from fees or surcharges, greater than \$100 million within its first five years.

CHAMBER'S POSITION: VOTE **YES**. The legislature has been using fees as a way to get around the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR). Fees, like taxes, are paid by individual Coloradans and businesses, so voters should have a say in their implementation.

PROPOSITION 118

This initiative would establish a paid family and medical leave program in Colorado, providing up to 12 weeks of paid leave. The program will be funded through a payroll tax, in a 50/50 split between employees and employers.

Chamber's Position: vote **NO**. While the Chamber supports paid family and medical leave, a state-run and mandated, one-size-fits-all approach is not the answer. Furthermore, this initiative is costly for both employers and employees at a time when many are just trying to stay afloat.

AMENDMENT B

This amendment will repeal the Gallagher Amendment which sets residential and non-residential property tax assessment rates in the state constitution, so that residential property taxes equal 45% of the total share of state property taxes and non-residential property taxes equal 55% of the total share of state property taxes. If Amendment B is passed, the legislature would be prohibited from adjusting the assessment rates, effectively freezing the current rates of 7.15% for residential property and 29% for non-residential property.

Chamber's Position: vote **YES**. Although Gallagher has allowed for \$35 billion in residential tax cuts, it has continually placed more and more of the tax burden on commercial properties. 2021 projections under Gallagher predict that businesses will be on the hook for five times the amount of the residential tax rate. If Amendment B is passed, residential property and

commercial property valuations would freeze at the current levels.

FEDERAL LEGISLATURE:

U.S. SENATE

Each candidate responded to the following questions. Candidate responses are listed in this Voter Guide.

- 1. How will you, as a US Senator, work to mitigate the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic in the state of Colorado?**
- 2. How specifically do you see using your role as an elected official to ensure a viable Western Slope economy long term?**
- 3. Over 70 % of Mesa County is public lands that have a huge impact on our local economy. How would you ensure that this resource continues to provide economic benefits to our region?**
- 4. What would you do to "reach across the aisle" and help resolve the gridlock we see in Congress?**

CORY GARDNER (R)



1. Well, there are three things that I've focused on: making sure we address the health pandemic itself, making sure we provide assistance to individuals, and making sure that businesses are able to snap back to their full strength of the economy. I've done that through introducing bills that would expand the Paycheck Protection Program, allowing additional loans - to be eligible through the PPP, through expanded economic injury disaster loans, through my RESTART Act and Rehire Plan that I have continued to help support small businesses, including minority owned businesses and unserved and underserved businesses like those in rural communities. I will continue to support all of our efforts to get our economy and businesses moving again and our doors open.
2. All of Colorado matters. As a rural Coloradan, I recognize the incredible importance of Western Colorado. Eastern and Western Colorado have a lot in common. So many of

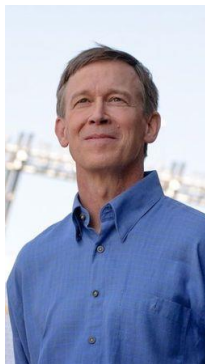
our politicians think that the only thing that matters is I-25 but Grand Junction, Montrose, Craig, Meeker, Cortez, Durango, and everywhere in between matters greatly to the success of our state. So, I have fought, and will continue to fight for rural Colorado and Western Colorado. That's why I moved the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to Colorado, it's why I've worked to expand energy opportunities, to fight for Jordan Cove oil and gas export opportunities, why I helped pass the Great American Outdoors Act, it will create thousands of jobs in Western Colorado.

3. We have an all-of-the-above, multiple-use doctrine when it comes to our public lands. There are some areas that are appropriate only for our enjoyment as wilderness. There are some areas that are available for National Parks and should never be developed for energy. There are other areas (where) it's common sense to develop for energy, whether that's traditional or renewable. Grazing lands, water storage opportunities - all of that should be going toward our multi-use public lands doctrine, but I believe that our public lands decisions will be better made and our economy better protected when decision-makers are located in the communities that they serve, that's why I worked hard to lead the move of the BLM to Grand Junction.
4. I continue to reach across the aisle every day. I'm the third most bipartisan member of the Senate. All of my bills - including the Great American Outdoors Act - passed with tremendous bipartisan support. The way we're going to protect rural economies, the way we're going to fight for jobs in Western Colorado is to make sure that we are working across the aisle. The fire-borrowing fix was one thing that is a tremendous help to Western Colorado - which gives us the resources we need to fight fires. That was a bipartisan success that I helped to lead and we're going to continue those efforts to get work done.

The Chamber endorses Cory Gardner.

JOHN HICKENLOOPER (D)

1. COVID-19 has created an unprecedented economic crisis, but Colorado has seen tough times before. When I became Governor, we were in the midst of the Great Recession and Colorado was ranked 40th in job creation. But with a bottom up approach, working with communities across the state, we built the number one economy in the



country, the Colorado way. It'll take Washington coming together to build back better by-passing legislation to help out struggling Colorado families -- instead of looking out for big corporations and putting off real action for months as the Senate has done.

2. The key to a thriving Western Slope economy is conserving public lands while growing opportunities in outdoor recreation and renewable energy. As Governor, I made both a priority: we fought to protect public lands and established the Outdoor Recreation Industry Office to grow Colorado's outdoor recreation economy which generates 37 billion dollars annually. We also need to complete the expansion of broadband to rural areas and provide support for small businesses to thrive. I'll lead in the Senate by passing legislation like the CORE Act that will grow the Western Slope's outdoor economy while conserving its natural beauty.
3. Public lands are the heartbeat of our multi-billion-dollar outdoor recreation sector, which employs over 500,000 Coloradans. As Governor, I worked with Western Slope stakeholders to defend our public lands, boost outdoor recreation, and expand access to our trails. In the Senate, I'll continue to champion public lands by getting the CORE Act across the finish line and keeping public lands accessible for all Coloradans.
4. Washington is a mess, and part of the reason is that politicians have forgotten how to put partisan squabbles aside, roll up their sleeves, and get things done for the American people. I believe it's time for a different approach. I have a record of bringing folks together across the aisle to make progress on what really matters, from investing in our infrastructure to expanding health care to 500,000 more Coloradans to expanding skills training and apprenticeship programs. As Governor, I worked with everyone regardless of political party — and that's what I'll do for Colorado in the U.S. Senate.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 3

1. **How will you, as a Representative, work in addressing the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Slope?**
2. **How specifically do you see using your role as an elected official to ensure a viable Western Slope economy long term?**
3. **Migrant workers are our vital to our agricultural community. How will you work to strengthen relationships with migrant workers, and make**

sure our farmers always have access to H-2A workers?

- 4. Over 70 % of Mesa County is public lands that have a huge impact on our local economy. How would you ensure that this resource continues to provide economic benefits to our region?**

**DIANE MITSCH BUSH
(D)**



1. I will push for investment in infrastructure, which will create good paying jobs and have significant multiplier effects. Our broadband, water infrastructure, electrical grid, and transportation infrastructure are inadequate for businesses and our communities. I will develop a Federal infrastructure bank to fund those projects—creating real opportunities so that Coloradans who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic can get back to work, and businesses that desperately need 21st century infrastructure can thrive. I will support programs like the Paycheck Protection Program to support our small businesses and make sure that they can weather this pandemic.
2. First, I will protect our public lands because they are a major economic driver on the Western Slope. Second, sustainable investments in our aging, inadequate infrastructure will ensure our businesses and communities thrive. An infrastructure bank and other Federal partnerships with state and local entities would provide consistent funding for broadband, transportation, the electric grid, and water infrastructure and create good paying jobs on the Western Slope. Third, I will support developing incentives, loans, and grants for existing and new small businesses—as well as job training and apprenticeships that help people gain the technical skills they need to compete.
3. Migrant workers contribute to our communities and help our agricultural economy thrive. I will advocate for migrant workers and support the H2A visa program. It is shameful that my opponent criticized Congressman Tipton for his support of these visas. Her attacks on his vote demonstrate that she just doesn't understand how critical these visas are to our agricultural economy and how migrant workers help our communities.
4. Our public lands are our heart and soul as well as a major economic driver. Small businesses have created a thriving outdoor economy in Mesa County and across the Third Congressional District that relies on public lands. Outdoor retail, outdoor manufacturing, and guiding/instructing are

key businesses that need protected wildlife habitats, free flowing rivers, and healthy wildlands to flourish. Family agriculture relies on public lands, and water originates on public lands. Protecting and conserving Western Slope water is critical for us and for the lower basin states that legally use Colorado River water and derive hydropower from it.

LAUREN BOEBERT (R)



1. We have to be open for business and cannot allow the federal or state government to force one-size-fits-all solutions on our local communities. Mesa County was a responsible early mover in opening back up, while other counties moved slower. I am a vocal small business owner who demanded all businesses be treated equally and be allowed to open responsibly. I won't be shy about using my voice in Congress to represent rural and small business interests because we face far different challenges than Boulder and Denver.
2. We need a job-creating economy with thriving energy, agriculture, steel, and recreational industries, access to affordable healthcare, safe communities, and great educational opportunities. Making sure that the goods and services our farmers, ranchers, and workers produce have access to markets is key to our rural economy. I will tackle regulations and taxes that prohibit growth and help promote opportunity zone development. I'm the only Congressional candidate who supports the Jordan Cove pipeline, which is essential to keeping high-paying energy jobs in our district.
3. Migrant workers are essential for our livelihood in CD3. Their efforts help secure our nation's food supply chain. I will work to ensure that, even during COVID, our agricultural community can rely on a streamlined H-2A visa program that meets their needs. I will also fight to secure our border because an unprotected border endangers our families and communities. Legal immigration and migrant work are both good, and they are foundational to the American Dream. I'm proud to have the endorsement and input of Harry Talbott, one of our valley's longstanding leaders in agriculture.
4. Public-private partnerships on federal land are an important economic driver. Of course, not every piece of public land is right for every use, and some wilderness designations are necessary. However, I support multi-use concepts that allow for the rental and lease of public lands to our essential industries, including energy,

agriculture, and recreation. All of these uses can co-exist, and we must welcome them all on public lands where appropriate to ensure a vibrant economy in Mesa County and across the Western Slope. We also need to encourage responsible forest management on our public lands to help mitigate wildfire risk. As a Republican, I want to enjoy and use our resources wisely so they last for all the generations to come.

STATE LEGISLATURE:

- 1. What issues are critical for the next General Assembly to address in light of COVID 19 and our economic crisis?**
- 2. How specifically do you see using your role as an elected official to ensure a viable Western Slope economy long term?**
- 3. In recent years, we've seen a trend of the legislature implementing fees, that are not subject to TABOR, to fund various enterprises. What are your views on the legislature implementing fees to supplement state revenue?**
- 4. How would you work to address the cost of healthcare for people on the Western Slope? Please be specific.**

HOUSE DISTRICT 54

MATT SOPER (R)



1. On account of the COVID response, Colorado will have a significant shortfall in revenue. The next General Assembly must focus on getting Colorado fully re-opened for business and balance the budget. In balancing the budget, the state will need to prioritize what government functions are important; I'd propose eliminating things like the film subsidy and privatizing/leasing state assets. I will fight against the Democrats attempts to eliminate tax credits and exemptions (Eg. Senior/Veteran Homestead Exemption) to raise revenue. This would be detrimental to many and the ripple effects would be felt by area businesses.
2. My job is to fight for a stronger and more economically viable Western Colorado. Infrastructure is key for

businesses to thrive in the long-term. Colorado needs a ten-year transportation plan, which includes making US-50 a viable alternative to I-70. Protecting our water from Out-of-State interests is critical to allowing our cities to grow and for agriculture and tourism to continue as major industries. Increasing our investment in incubators and entrepreneurs is also part of my plan, as a business that grow up here will do more for the long-term economic viability of the region than chasing companies to relocate here.

3. The trend of circumnavigating the Taxpayer Bill of Rights is disturbing. (Eg. Federal Health Insurance Tax (HIT) is expiring at the end of this year. The State Democrats passed a law substituting a fee for the HIT to fund reinsurance and other programs. In leading the opposition on the House floor, I argued this was an illegal tax.) Fees are levied on users of a particular public resource/service to help pay for that service. Taxes are levied on anything and can be used for anything. The legislature cannot create a fee for raising general revenue. My job is to stand up for our Constitution and fight against taxes disguised as fees.
4. This year, I passed legislation leveling the reimbursement rates for telehealth and in-person visits. The law also prohibits carriers from requiring specific software platforms, imposing additional requirements as condition of reimbursement, or that there be an established provider-patient relationship. Telehealth utilization will reduce healthcare costs by keeping patients healthier or allowing a specialist to quickly make a determination. In the long-term, this will reduce healthcare costs. To reduce commercial premiums, Medicaid needs to pay the actual cost of treatment and hospitals shouldn't have different prices based on carrier type. This would be emulating the old Rocky Mountain Health Plans model.

The Chamber endorses Matt Soper.

ALICEMARIE SLAVEN-EMOND (D)



1. Supporting small business recovery especially tourism. Maintaining healthcare coverage for Medicaid insured families. Protection of the Ag Industry. Getting new non-polluting industries into our area. Re-tooling our workforce for the future.

2. True advocacy for the majority. Using the knowledge base, a legislator has to communicate to citizens and use for good decision making. We owe it to those who employ us to work for them! Working with the House majority will be critical to getting our area a share of the “pie”. We haven’t been able to do that with the people we have been sending to date. Water compacts need CAREFUL guarding. Pre-planning for the coming of the “Front Range Refugees”. Working to get broad band into our rural areas.
3. I suggest we put a “HOLD” on the Tabor for 2-4 years till we have recovered from COVID issues. Fees may be an inevitable. I believe those should be charged of the out-of-state folks who use our beautiful Colorado.
4. Stabilize our rural hospitals. Get insurances to stop their new demands on providers. Recycling of specific unused medication that are bubble sealed. Limiting insurance groups from any price hikes for 2-3 years. Pressing the Federal government for more FFCHC’s. Making telehealth a lasting resource. Keep Colorado Access alive. Widening the scope of practice for nurse practitioners.

HOUSE DISTRICT 55

JANICE RICH (R)



1. Legislation that will assist our businesses getting back on their feet and our workers back to work is key. Also, we need to have productive conversations concerning healthcare-related issues, including the needs and costs of these services in our diverse areas of the state.
2. I believe economic development is key. When we have a healthy economy, our way of life is better and families thrive. We must protect our Western Slope water. A secure and sustainable water future for Colorado is essential. We also must prioritize transportation, tourism and recreation. All of these are vital drivers to rural Colorado’s economy. I see my role as being a strong voice in fighting for these Western Slope priorities.
3. Whether it’s a tax or a fee, both are three-letter words that costs the taxpayers money. “Fees” have been used (sometimes abused) as a work-around to TABOR. I oppose this tactic. It is just an avenue to get more money without asking for voter approval. Instead of “word play”, why not just ask the taxpayers?

4. In 2019, I was a co-prime sponsor of HB19-1168 (Reinsurance), which was designed to decrease costs of care, leading to lower premiums and restraining the growth of federal spending commitments in the individual market. While I don’t have that silver bullet that solves all of our healthcare issues, a good starting place is to invite our health care professionals, hospitals, and insurance carriers to the table. For rural areas, it is vital that we keep our primary care physicians and our rural hospitals. Our healthcare decisions must not be turned over to the state.

The Chamber endorses Janice Rich.

SCOTT BEILFUSS (D)



1. Obviously, many workers have lost their healthcare due to layoffs. I will work to expand outreach efforts to make sure all uninsured know their options and can enroll in an affordable program to tide them over. The state needs to extend unemployment benefits for long term unemployed and begin retraining programs for people whose jobs will not come back. Our economy of the future will no doubt include many more small businesses as traditional jobs are replaced by automation. Streamlining the startup, licensing and tax compliance process for small businesses is critical. Stabilizing funding for our public schools and colleges is important for growing our economy. We must educate our future workforce and we are not competitive for teaching talent. School funding is front and center.
2. I have been a salesman and community organizer for many years so recruiting and selling are second nature. I come from a town that has more jobs than people and know the benefits of manufacturing industries. In talking to young people here, they welcome a more diverse economy and better paying jobs. We need an economy that supports families to more than just get by. I view my role as an economic development ambassador and connector. I have a strong desire to help Mesa County capitalize on opportunities for the future. Agriculture, health care, outdoor recreation gear, tourism, and tech all present great opportunities here that I would work on. Because of sending an endless parade of legislators to Denver who go over to fight the Boulder liberals, we miss out on lots of opportunities that come with being part of

Colorado. Instead of holding on to hopes for resurgences in old industries, I would work to aggressively promote and grow more creative knowledge-based industries.

3. We have dug ourselves into a big hole with Tabor and I am not hearing much optimism for repealing it. The fee process for funding enterprises is not popular and dumps more paperwork and compliance requirements on self-employed and small businesses. I am not in favor of burdening business with added layers of fees and requirements. I hate to sound like a Republican, but most Democratic small business owners do not get excited about added fees being added to their plate. Laws that help level the playing field for competition are welcome and needed as new business models often undermine competitiveness. I will support a repeal and replace bill to get rid of Tabor to bring sanity back to the state budgeting process.
4. The fastest way to reduce insurance costs here would be to end the community rating system in the state. Western Colorado got the short straw on that deal and we have paid dearly for it ever since. Having a single rating system for the state would save insurance buyers 15-20%. The public option bill will probably come up during the next legislative session and I would support it as it would cut deductibles and copays a great deal and give consumers another option. The other big focus must be on reducing prescription prices. The Canadian purchase program I do not believe will be effective for a broad base of prescriptions. I would work on banding states together to negotiate for lower prices as well as push for pricing transparency. I will also work to incent new primary doctors to locate to our rural areas. More primary care over the long run will help hold healthcare costs down as people have access to wellness care.

MESA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. **Given the current climate, and the resulting economic fallout from COVID-19 Pandemic and shut down, how will you prioritize funding allocations with a restricted budget?**
2. **How specifically do you see using your role as an elected official to ensure a viable Western Slope economy long term?**
3. **As the county continues to grow, what are the most critical capital and infrastructure needs that have to be invested in by the county?**

4. **What do you believe is the counties role in helping businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic? And economic development in general?**

DISTRICT 1

CODY DAVIS (R)



1. To begin with, I believe in limited role of Government, and the response to financial structure should start with the most fundamental roles of government and make sure they are adequately funded. The most pertinent roles in County government, as I see them, are equal protections under the law and public safety (i.e. Sheriffs and DA), maintenance of public infrastructure (i.e. road and bridge), health (i.e. DHS, Health Department, and Landfill), and elected offices that ensure accurate representation in a republican style government (i.e. Treasure, Clerk, and Assessor). Allocations of funds should be prioritized accordingly.
2. Small, smart, and efficient government are absolutely pertinent characteristics to a sustained economic environment. I'll bring a business-oriented perspective to the office along with a track record of success. I'll make sure business can thrive by limiting regulation and continuing to keep taxes low so that business can thrive.
3. If a critical need for capital and infrastructure exist, it would be those expenditures and projects that allow for economic growth and development. One project that has the potential to stimulate growth is the 29 Rd interchange. Such a project will not only be a boon to local construction companies and the economy, but it also provides another avenue for business and industry to take place.
4. Undoubtedly, the government response to COVID has created a very tough environment for businesses because the market has been hampered and shut down. The quickest path back to a thriving community is to reopen the economy and let people get back to work. The approach to reopening must be thoughtful and safe, but it must reopen, and it must do so as quickly as possible. Mesa County Commissioners can facilitate that through public policy and through leadership.

The Chamber endorses Cody Davis.

KATHRYN BEDELL (D)



1. I think that the most important investment the county needs to continue is essential services such as sheriff, fire dept, human services and workforce center. If people can be safe in the community and keep or find a job and at least have housing and food, we have a much better chance of thriving in the future. No one will invest in a community that has completely fallen apart. The next important thing would be to help our small independent businesses survive. They are the largest employers and community builders.
2. There are at least two things the commissioners can do to ensure the West Slope has a long-term viable economy. The first is to make sure the county is friendly to small business while at the same time acknowledging that the workforce is equally important. And yes, I understand this may not be easy, but I think with careful complete consideration it is possible. I would also try to ensure that small businesses are supported both with technical help in business planning, especially financial planning, and physical or preferential spending support. County services and purchasing should support county businesses.
3. We need to maintain current roads and bridges and public spaces to encourage community pride. Increasing multimodal transportation options in heavy use corridors would encourage alternate modes of transportation which is important to young people. Conduct a countywide drainage study and implement improvements to keep the county safe from weather events and to potentially head off water quality issues in the Colorado River from the urban and agricultural activities. And we need to invest when necessary in water saving infrastructure to be ready for drought management in the river basin.
4. As I said previously small business are important to employment so I would support direct monetary support to existing businesses if funds are available. I do think the county has a role in economic development as a cheer leader and recruitment force. I think it would be hard to refrain from picking winners and losers so direct assistance from the county is not an option or a role I would want the county to assume. That said if a startup or a business relocating seeks non-monetary assistance and the assistance would provide benefit to the community in addition to the business I can see considering helping. I have no example, but it could arise.

The county should definitely act in recruitment of homegrown startups and relocating businesses by being able to showcase what the county offers and point groups to resources.

DISTRICT 3

JANET ROWLAND (R)



1. Keeping taxes low on businesses is a priority. When we faced an economic crisis in 2010, we eliminated planning fees, to encourage business growth, and refunded the business personal property tax. These are the types of solutions I support. We're fortunate to have a Public Health Department that values business and supports businesses staying open, especially during COVID, so continuing to support Public Health is a big budget priority. With federal funding through the CARES Act, we have an opportunity to strengthen/support our community. I would find ways to leverage that funding with county dollars to better serve our businesses.
2. The proper role of government is to create a business-friendly environment and invest in public infrastructure benefiting **all** businesses, rather than incentives benefiting only a few. Public infrastructure isn't limited to roads. The Workforce Center is a good example of infrastructure that serves all businesses, through recruitment/training assistance. We need a diversified economy that isn't reliant on one industry. We should continue to advocate for projects such as Jordon Cove, and continue to diversify. Our economic development partners have worked hard to diversify. I commit to work alongside them as a strong advocate, encouraging a range of businesses in Mesa.
3. The biggest project will be the 29 Road interchange, with an estimated price tag of \$100M. This will require funding from Mesa County, the City of Grand Junction, and the federal government. This must be prioritized into the county's capital plan. An overcrowded jail is another capital need. Currently the jail population is under capacity, so we have some time to prepare for the inevitable. It might require expanding the jail or expanding capacity of the Justice Center - to allow for additional judges. Most inmates are pre-trial, so speeding up the court process will help reduce the jail population.
4. Part of the county's role of creating a business-friendly environment is removing bureaucratic red tape, so the

county should look for ways to remove barriers and unnecessary regulations, especially as it relates to COVID. Mesa County Public Health has done great work in this area and we should continue to advocate for all businesses to be able to operate at full capacity. I commit to working alongside our Public Health Director, advocating for the state to allow us to be fully open for business. We should also consider tax relief for businesses while they are getting back on their feet.

DAVE EDWARDS (D)

Responses were not received from Dave Edwards.



The Chamber endorses Janet Rowland.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, November 3rd, 2020

To update your voter registration please visit
www.govotecolorado.com

Or visit the Mesa County Elections Office at:
200 S. Spruce Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970)-244-1662

Voter Service and Polling Centers:

Open Monday, October 19th through Tuesday November 3rd

8:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday

9:00am-1:00pm, Saturday October 31st, 2020

7:00am-7:00pm, ELECTION DAY, Tuesday, November 3rd

- Elections Office- 200 S Spruce St., Grand Junction
- Mesa County Fair Grounds- 2785 US Hwy 50, Grand Junction

Open Friday October 30th through Tuesday November 3rd

8:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday

9:00am-1:00pm, Saturday October 31st, 2020

7:00am-7:00pm, ELECTION DAY, Tuesday, November 3rd

- Fruita Civic Center - 325 E Aspen Ave., Fruita
- Clifton Christian Church- 3241 F 1/2 Rd., Clifton

**Open Monday, November 2nd through Tuesday,
November 3rd**

8:00am-5:00pm, Monday, November 2nd

7:00am-7:00pm, ELECTION DAY, Tuesday, November 3rd

Colorado Mesa University-1100 North Avenue, Grand Junction

Ballot Drop Off Locations:

**OPEN 24 HOURS ALL DAYS! Thursday, October 9th
through 7:00 p.m. on ELECTION DAY, November 3rd**

- Mesa County Central Services - 200 South Spruce Street, Grand Junction
 - Fruita Civic Center - 325 East Aspen Avenue, Fruita
 - Clifton DMV - 3225 I-70 Business Loop, Unit A2, Clifton
 - GVT West Transfer Facility - 612 24 /12 Road, Grand Junction
- Department of Human Services - 510 29 1/2 Road, Grand Junction
- Colorado Mesa University - 1100 North Avenue, Grand Junction
- Mesa County Fairgrounds - 2785 US Highway 50, Grand Junction
 - Palisade Community Center - 120 West 8th Street, Palisade

**BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE 7:00 P.M ON
ELECTION DAY**

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