

Q1

Contact Information

Name- Ann Howe

Office you are seeking- El Paso County Commissioner for District 1

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Q2

Please, provide a brief summary of you personally (family, education, occupation). (200 words or less)

Ann was born in New York, but moved with her family to Colorado in 1970. She attended public school in Littleton, CO. After graduation, she went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Computer from Colorado State University. She has worked as a Quality Engineer, Cost Account Manager, Systems Engineer, and Risk and Opportunity Manager in the Telecomm and Defense industries for the last 29 years. Ann is wife to Christopher Howe. They were wed in Colorado Springs and have been married 27 years. They have two children who were born and raised in Colorado Springs.

Ann was elected as a State Representative in New Hampshire and to her town's Budget Committee. Ann is also a grassroots activist working on road safety.

Q3

Why do you want to serve in this elected position? (200 words or less)

I believe there are many challenges facing us in El Paso County. We will experience immense growth, and with that we will have to plan to expand our infrastructure, resolve our demand for limited resources like water, and deal with issues that arise with increased population (crime, homelessness), all the while maintaining the quality of life we love in Colorado. I am a Constitutional Conservative, so I will protect individual liberties and freedoms. I am a fiscal conservative as well, so I will do everything possible to make effective use of taxpayers' money. I believe my background and experience have prepared me to face those challenges. I have a servant's heart and want to do good in my community.

Q4

Do you support widening the I-25 Gap from Monument to Castle Rock to 4 lanes in each direction without charging tolls and without raising taxes? Please, answer yes or no and explain. (200 words or less)

I have worked as a grassroots activist since the fall of 2016, trying to get I-25 widened. We are very close to starting improvements on "the Gap". The last thing I am fighting for is to do this work WITHOUT TOLLS. CDOT's own usage studies show we need 4 lanes NOW! There is a way to do this with the current planned footprint. This has been proposed to CDOT and is under consideration.

I founded the "Fix I-25 NOW!" Facebook group, which champions road safety improvements and acts as a watchdog for CDOT officials. I have met with government officials at the local, state, and federal levels to resolve this. I have kept the Gap on the minds of these officials to the point CDOT and a coalition of local officials announced it was the State's #1 transportation priority. We even got Gov. Hickenlooper to budget \$134M towards roads and bridges. Something that hasn't been done since 2009! Legislators continue to find ways to fund future road projects.

I would like to think I had a hand in all that.

Q5

Do you support TABOR as it is written? Please, answer yes or no and explain. (200 words or less)

I believe in TABOR to the extent that state and local governments cannot raise tax rates without voter approval and cannot spend revenues collected under existing tax rates without voter approval if revenues grow faster than the rate of inflation and population growth, and that revenue in excess of the TABOR limit, commonly referred to as the "TABOR surplus", must be refunded to taxpayers, unless voters approve a revenue change as an offset in a referendum.

Q6

What is the most critical spending issue in El Paso County and how would you address it? (200 words or less)

The most critical spending issue facing El Paso County would be dealing with public health and safety due to issues from growth. We need to fund our first responders adequately to deal with increased crime and the fires we will be dealing with, due to drought and lack of stored water, and increased human activity in wild areas.

Q7

Will you pledge to the taxpayers that you will oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes? Please, answer yes or no and explain. (200 words or less)

Yes. I will pledge to refuse proposed increases to taxes. I will do my best to be a fiscal conservative and a watchful steward of taxpayer dollars. I will look for efficiencies in existing budgets.