

El Paso County Candidate Survey 2018

SpringsTaxpayers.com is conducting a candidate survey in order to share how candidates for elective office stand on various issues.

Please provide your answers to our survey questions. Many answers have a word count limit. Please return at your earliest convenience. We will post surveys as they are received.

Thank you.

Name: Holly Williams

Office you are seeking: El Paso County Commissioner District 1

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Background Information:

Please, provide a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office you are seeking. (200 words or less)

I have lived in Colorado since 1992 and love this community.

I have served as the Public Trustee of El Paso County, a political appointment by Governor Bill Owens, from 1999 to 2007. I quadrupled net revenues returned to El Paso County from \$281,000 in 1999 to more than \$1.2 million in 2005 and reduced the operating cost per transaction of the office from \$26 per transaction to \$10 per transaction.

I was elected by my peers to serve as President of the Colorado Public Trustee's Association in 2002-2003. I also served as a caseworker for Congressman Lamborn's district office and assisted individuals with the resolution of problems with federal agencies.

In 2013, I continued my service to the El Paso County Republican Party working as the caucus and county assembly coordinator, organizing more than 200 precinct caucuses. In 2014 I trained the volunteers and organized the El Paso County Assembly.

I have served as a precinct leader, El Paso County GOP office manager, delegate to county and higher assemblies, many Republican leadership positions, and am a dedicated volunteer.

I have a degree in American Government from University of Virginia and my Master of Public Administration from UCCS.

Survey Questions:

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

I strongly believe in and have lived a life of public service and dedication to my community. I believe that I can make a difference by serving you. El Paso County government is the most fiscally conservative amongst the top ten largest counties in Colorado with each citizen only paying an average of \$243 per year for our government. I want to continue this tradition. As your next County Commissioner, I have four primary goals:

- Ensure taxes remain low
- Fund transportation
- Fund essential services such as public safety
- Protect and enhance our quality of life

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

Transportation infrastructure in El Paso County deserves more attention and traffic management and road repairs are very, very important. El Paso County owns and manages 2,179 centerline miles of bridges and roads. In 2015, citizens were only paying \$6.20 of their property taxes to their roads.

Transportation in El Paso County is funded by road impact fees for new subdivisions, local sales and property taxes, and the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) - which comes from the state gas tax and registration fees. With current funding, more than 50% of our roads will fail before they receive maintenance.

I am committed to directing additional funding to our roads and bridges. I will also be responsive to citizens requests for road improvements – taking the time to personally inspect roads as often as possible and ensuring that unsafe roads are repaired in a timely fashion. I am committed to adopting free technology such as the Waze app by Google for reporting of unsafe roads and for increasing deputy response time.

More on my Waze proposal can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/hollyforcolorado/posts/1710106619032633>

3. 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. El Paso County has the lowest mill levy of the ten largest populated Colorado Counties. El Paso County's combined per-person tax revenue for 2018 is estimated at \$243. In 2018, El Paso County's per-citizen property tax revenues were estimated at \$71 per person.

I am committed to maintaining the lowest tax rates amongst the ten largest counties. Should El Paso County need additional revenue, then I am committed to seeking additional revenues within the county's current budget and seeking creative ways to address funding issues in the County.

With the passage of El Paso County issue 1A this past November, I will not place any new tax measures on the ballot. There are two taxes that expire over the next eight years. The first will be the Public Safety Sales tax – I want to evaluate whether we still need this sales tax (.23%). I will vote to place a renewal of the Pikes Peak Regional Transportation Authority on the ballot for citizen approval (1% sales tax).

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

YES! The shortage of transportation dollars in Colorado is the failure of a Democrat governor and Democrat failing to fund our road for nearly ten years. The citizens of El Paso County should not be tolled simply because of the lack of leadership in our Capitol. We voted to put additional funding to the project as a “freeway” not a toll road.

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

Yes. I believe that limiting the growth of government as well as requiring voter approval for tax increases has placed El Paso County in a very good financial position as the economy starts to grow. I will support limiting the growth of government and believe that tax increases require voter approval.