

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: Vickie Tonkins

Office you are seeking: County Commissioner District 5

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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)

Most of my life has been in some form of education from daycare to a Professor for the University of Phoenix teaching Critical Thinking to adult students. I have a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and a Master's degree in Education Administration and Supervision and I have a current school Principals license. In my early years, I worked in the Business Development Office for the City of Hickory, NC. Our job was to work with the area Mayors to bring in new businesses to our area. I learned how to work with big egos, the County Manager form of government, and still get the job done. I am a current Bonus Member to the El Paso County GOP as well as the President of the Colorado Springs Republican Woman's Club.

Survey Questions:

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

I want to serve El Paso County as the District 5 Commissioner because I want to serve the people of this County to make sure their voices are heard. Anyone running for public office needs to remember it is about serving the people not for fame or prestige...it is called public service for a reason. I have seen our county struggle with poor roads and bridges, an uptick in crime, and homelessness is on the rise. It is important to have leaders in place that are willing to make the tough decisions that keep the government in its place, which is very limited. Government is to take care of roads, infrastructure and our safety. Any more than that, government is too big.

2. 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 in El Paso County is one that coincides with the limited government roles of roads, infrastructure and our safety. We must look to a consistent plan to guarantee that roads, infrastructure and our safety are the top priority on the list for our tax dollars and not the second thought. This is going to require creativity and looking at innovative ideas that may be different from what has been done in the past.

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)

I pledge to the taxpayers that I will oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes. I truly believe that most governments are full of bloated bureaucracy that needs to be reined in by the citizens that government is to serve. We do not need more taxes but more wherewithal to stay within our income.

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 and absolutely! The state coffers are overflowing with an increase in revenue and our elected officials are playing games with the lives of the people in Colorado and particularly with the people of El Paso County. With less than 2 miles of the 18-mile gap within El Paso County, it makes no sense that El Paso County be held hostage by bureaucrats who are not doing the limited work of the government they swore to uphold. We need to be wise and widen the gap to 4 lanes so that we will not be back in 10 years looking to widen it again due to growth.

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

I support TABOR as written. I support TABOR because; TABOR is the one safety net we have in Colorado that is keeping us from becoming bankrupt like California and Illinois. What must be addressed is how we can stop elected officials who continue to attempt to put measures in place that circumvent TABOR. This type of State government overreach perpetrated on the citizens of Colorado must stop...no more tampering with TABOR.