



Grand Junction Area  
**CHAMBER**  
OF COMMERCE

# VOTER GUIDE 2016

*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 8, 2016. Below please find the positions of the candidates and positions of the Chamber.*

## LOCAL AND STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

### **AMENDMENT 69:**

The Colorado Creation of ColoradoCare System Initiative, or Amendment 69, would create a statewide healthcare system by contracting with providers to pay for certain healthcare benefits, as well as administering Medicaid, basic child health programs and all other federal and state healthcare funds. In order to pay for all of this, the state would collect 10% of all Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) over W2 wages, plus a 10% payroll tax on W2 wages broken down to 3.33 percent for workers and 6.67 percent for employers.

**Chamber Position:** Vote **NO**. **Amendment 69 will cause huge financial problems for all of Colorado, making the state unattractive to business and increasing taxes to a burdensome amount, especially for small business owners.**

### **AMENDMENT 70:**

Amendment 70 will increase the statewide minimum wage from \$9.30 to \$12 an hour by the year 2020. To do so, there will be an annual increase of \$0.90 to the minimum wage until it reaches \$12. If passed, this statewide increase of the minimum wage could have devastating impacts on small businesses, especially those located in rural communities.

**Chamber Position:** Vote **NO**. **Amendment 70 will negatively affect small, family owned businesses within our community and could lead to reduced hours, reduced benefits and layoffs for employees all over the state.**

### **AMENDMENT 71:**

Amendment 71 will create a distribution requirement for all citizen- initiated constitutional

amendment petitions. It will require that initiative petitioners gather signatures from two percent of the total registered voters from all of Colorado's 35 senate districts, making it more difficult for citizen-initiated amendments to qualify for the official ballot.

**Chamber's Position:** Vote **YES**. **With a broader distribution of signatures, Amendment 71 will require that the initiatives that make it on the ballot be of interest to all of Colorado and not just the Front Range.**

### **PROPOSITION 107:**

Proposition 107 will restore Presidential primaries in Colorado, replacing the current caucus system, starting in 2020. The primaries will be open and will be held before the end of March.

**Chamber's Position:** Vote **YES**. **Switching to a primary system will increase the attention candidates give to Colorado during their campaign circuits.**

### **PROPOSITION 108:**

Proposition 108 will allow unaffiliated voters, or independents, to participate in primary elections without having to declare affiliation to either major political party first.

**Chamber's Position:** Vote **YES**. **Proposition 108 will allow for more political participation by permitting Colorado's biggest voting bloc, Independents, to participate in the primary elections.**

# FEDERAL LEGISLATURE:

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

- 1. What do you believe are the biggest threats to business growth in Colorado/Western Slope? How do you plan on addressing these threats?**
- 2. How do you plan on protecting the livelihood of the business community across Colorado, and especially in the Western Slope, against calls for increased environmental regulations that have the potential to inflict serious damage to rural economies?**
- 3. What are your top priorities as a U.S. Representative?**
- 4. Why should the business community of the Western Slope vote for you and not your opponent?**

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

### SCOTT TIPTON (R)



1. Over-regulation and excessive taxation are persistent threats to business growth. As a member of the Financial Services Committee, I put forth the TAILOR Act, a bill that repeals a provision of Dodd-Frank that regulates small banks and local credit unions the same as a big bank on Wall Street. Our local financial institutions have been destroyed by the one-size-fits-all regulatory approach of this legislation and reinstating responsible, common-sense regulation will be critical in catalyzing business growth that gives small businesses access

to capital to hire workers and grow our economy.

2. I sponsored the Separation of Powers Restoration Act in order to restore regulatory power to congress and stop executive action that is being used to replace the legislative process. The President's Clean Power Plan and Paris Climate agreement have been implemented without a single vote in Congress, unilaterally raising your electrical bill and destroying coal communities across the nation. We have seen suggestions from Governor Hickenlooper that he might follow a similar path with his own climate agenda. Restoring accountability for the Executive branch and passing legislation that prioritizes businesses and ratepayers will be critical for prosperity in Colorado.
3. My number one focus will be jobs and economic growth on the Western Slope. Creating a common-sense regulatory environment and a business friendly tax structure are certainly a huge part of job creation. Beyond that I have always prioritized balanced use of our public lands between natural resource development, outdoor recreation and cattle grazing. Water rights underpin the prosperity of all these interests and I sponsored the Water Rights Protection Act to protect our rights from federal overreach.
4. I was a small business owner for 30 years. I know what it's like to balance a budget and grow a business. I know first-hand the negative impact an overbearing government can have on businesses. I have spent my time on the Financial Services Committee working to find solutions to empower small banks and local credit unions who have struggled

under Dodd-Frank. My opponent doesn't have the private sector experience and believes more government and more regulation is the answer to business growth, something that as a small business owner, I can tell you simply does not work.

## **GAIL SCHWARTZ (D)**



1. The Western Slope is experiencing high job loss in the extractive industries due primarily to low worldwide energy prices. It is important to identify and develop resources to help diversify our economy and attract new businesses to the 3rd Congressional District. I will continue to support job training or retraining of our workforce, tax incentives to attract businesses to rural areas, and building on our strengths including outdoor recreation and agriculture, which currently supports thousands of jobs across Western and Southern Colorado.
2. Good leadership and strong representation are needed to help address potential negative impacts on our rural economy from the implementation of federal regulations. Greater collaboration between states and the federal government is necessary during the rulemaking process and when crafting regulations. It is important that the federal government provide resources to support local businesses and industries that would be impacted by potential regulations. I will always prioritize maintaining the air and water quality in our state.
3. My top priority has always been expanding jobs and economic opportunity in rural Colorado. By example, I was

chosen to chair the state's Job Creation and Economic Growth Committee in 2008, which resulted in important legislation. As chair of the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy Committee, I worked at the state level on attracting businesses, infrastructure development, tax incentives, and job training programs to rural areas. I will continue to support facilitating growth in manufacturing and other industries and pursue greater broadband connectivity in rural areas.

4. Given my experience in the private sector and evidenced by my moderate, bipartisan record in the state legislature, I have a forward-looking approach to economic development for our district. My future-oriented perspective is vital in order to compete with other regions, states and nations in a global economy. It is important that we diversify and develop stable, long-term industries that support jobs, including those in our outdoor recreation economy, which will require protecting and maintaining our public lands. I believe I am better suited to identify resources and solutions to address future challenges of population growth and increasingly constrained water resources and the challenges to the future of agriculture.



## STATE LEGISLATURE:

- 1. What have you done during your time in office to encourage economic growth in the Western Slope?**
- 2. What do you believe are the biggest threats to business growth in the Western Slope? How do you plan on addressing these threats?**
- 3. If elected, what are your top three priorities for the upcoming legislative session?**

## HOUSE DISTRICT 54



### **YEULIN WILLET (R)**

1. I was the prime sponsor of the "Jump Start" Bill, which has resulted in at least seven new prospects coming to our area within the first year of the program. (I take credit for coming up with the idea originally, before I was elected, but I admit I "borrowed" the idea from NY.) I was also a co-prime sponsor on bills to help nurse practitioners and to expand cottage foods opportunities/products. I took the lead on getting Highway 340 widened, both for safety and the cycling economy.
2. Government meddling, both Federal and State, which unfairly impacts the free market. Lack of fast and reliable high-capacity internet for the rural parts of Mesa and Delta Counties. "Brain drain" and need for more talented workforce. I will continue to fight for limited government, infrastructure improvements, and will work with CU and

CMU to bolster and grow their joint engineering program.

3. Proper criminal treatment of "sexting", judicial selection and retention; and the continued study of the pros and cons of marijuana will be my focus next year. Beyond that, it's hard to say, not knowing what the make-up will be at the Capitol.

**The Chamber endorses Yeulin Willet.**

## HOUSE DISTRICT 55



### **DAN THURLOW (R)**

Dan Thurlow was first elected to represent District 55 in the State House of Representatives in 2014.

During his first term he served on the Business, Labor, Economic, and Workforce Development Committee, the Joint Technology Committee, the Local Government Committee, as well as, the State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. Dan Thurlow is currently running uncontested for a second term in office.

Responses were not received.

**The Chamber endorses Dan Thurlow.**

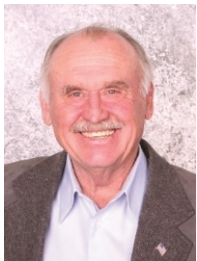
## MESA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

- 1. How do you plan to further economic growth in Mesa County?**
- 2. Mesa County along with the Chamber is currently suing the Grand Valley Drainage District over their unilateral implementation of a fee to address drainage. If elected will you support this suit? Why or why not?**

**3. How do you plan to address the current budget crisis in Mesa County?**

**4. Why should members of the Chamber vote for you and not your opponent(s)?**

## **DISTRICT 1**



### **JOHN JUSTMAN (R)**

1. Our "personal property tax rebate" is very helpful for our existing businesses to help create expansion for their companies. Several

companies had their rebates approved at our hearing this morning. Several were manufacturing companies that are great community leaders. "Jump Start Colorado" has created more interest to attract new businesses here than all other things we have tried in the last three years. It is available for existing businesses also, if they meet the requirements. The Workforce Center programs will work well to match employees with the needed work skills to employers.

2. Yes, I will support this law suit. Over four years ago the Drainage District was very concerned about new water standards for the water they handle. These standards still have NOT been set and now their focus is on water quantity. The County has received approval for grant money to build a detention pond under Mount Garfield (Bosley Wash) and Orchard Mesa area to control flooding. Where is their list of priorities? They should have worked on getting their message out to the voters and held an election.

3. Start by working closely with Department Heads and Elected Officials to control

spending. We are a very efficiently run County and will be looking for savings and efficiency everywhere. We will be looking at all of our revenue streams to be certain we are collecting money properly and efficiently. Look for better investment opportunities for our money to return better yields.

4. As a farmer/business man I had payroll, worker' comp. insurance, planned what crops to plant, all needed inputs, did the marketing and everything it takes to succeed. I understand the irrigation water delivery systems and the political side of water in the Valley. I served on many boards over the years including Fruita Coop, Grand Valley Irrigation, Mesa Soil Conservation District, Colorado Onion Growers, Mesa County Planning Commission, Lower Valley Fire, and many Commissioner appointments. I understand all areas of Mesa County. Serving on City Councils gives you the urban view, but County Commissioners do so much more.

**The Chamber endorses John Justman.**



### **MELVIN MULDER (D)**

1. I believe Mesa County has historically relied on the extractive industries for too long, thereby missing the move to diversify our

economy. The inherent nature of the boom and bust cycles has not been able to be controlled. I support a diversified economy based on livable wages, quality of life, better job training and working to attract the development of sound industries managed by educated leaders and workforce.

2. If elected I would not support the lawsuit. The GVDD needs the to revenue to pay for the upkeep and upgrade necessary in Mesa County brought on by development in the county and by the fact that developers are not being required to pay their own way. The drainage problems are real and the GVDD's ability to charge this nominal fee is legal as indicated by one judge already. Note the recent front page article in our Daily Sentinel explaining what that entity does.

3. According to recent news that budget is facing more cuts due to the recent pull outs of oil and gas and now the claim they overpaid taxes, I feel the current commissioners failed to take into account the fact that over several years ago there were signs that this pull out could happen, and that the revenue they had come to rely on, was going to decrease. Then when the pull out happened they froze the county employees' wages, with a hiring freeze. I would support high speed internet, Foreign Trade Zone membership, the Business Incubator, GJEP, our recreation industry and the technology industry so as to really diversify our economy.

4. I feel the Chamber should vote for me rather than my opponents because: Although my two opponents have served in office, one on the commission, one term and the other on Grand Junction's Council for two terms, both have voted yes on everything I could find and neither have done much. Mr. Justman has helped get certain roads improved, Mr. Doody forgets that it was with the support of \$14,000 from the City of Fruita, the donation of the land, and someone donating the helicopter, along with help writing grants and selling bricks, that he achieved the Veterans' Memorial in that

city. I have a plan in place, 20 years in and out of Fruita City Government, working with slim budgets, seeing what we achieved, has shown that I can best do this job. I would put in motion that the County become Home-Rule as Fruita is now. I would form a partnership with the school districts in the county to best pressure the State to fund our schools equally with all others in the State.



## **JIM DOODY (UNAFFILIATED)**

1. Partnerships, Partnerships & Partnerships. One example is the Broadband discussion. By not

forwarding this to the ballot we have lost the opportunity of being able to have a dialogue with the service providers. I am NOT wanting to get in the business of broadband but would like to be able to have conversation with them. Currently the law does not let us do this without a vote of the people. The partnership could be as simple as "we are doing a road project and we will install the conduit in the ground which in turn you would run the fiber".

2. As a former 5-2-1 Drainage Authority Board Member, I was disappointed when they implemented their fee. I understand that they were frustrated but the community would be better served by everyone working together to mitigate storm water. The 5-2-1 Drainage Authority does hold the MS-4 permit. I believe moving ahead with the lawsuit is appropriate and it's my hope we can get them back to the table for further discussion on how we together can mitigate storm water.

3. I would look for partnerships throughout the County. For example, I would like to see where the County and Municipalities are duplicating services and how can we combine them. One study states a retired couple has the equivalent economic impact as 3.4 manufacturing jobs. Low hanging fruit, they purchase homes, start businesses, buy cars, pay taxes and volunteer. We have an outstanding medical community, downtowns, trails and allot more which would attract 2K of them if we invested in a campaign to bring them here.
4. I am a Voice of Reason. I have numerous accomplishments including the building of the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park in Fruita as a lasting tribute to our Vietnam Era Veterans. I have worked with many diverse minded councilmembers. When you have three "same minded" Commissioners it does not bode well for good governance. I am open minded to ideas and my door will be opened to all. I will work diligently for the hard working men and women of Mesa County. I am a life time resident and proud to call Mesa County my home.

### **DISTRICT 3**



#### **ROSE PUGLIESE (R)**

1. I will continue to advocate for business-friendly policies at a state and federal level that would directly benefit Mesa

County businesses, such as potential legislative changes to the business personal property tax incentive. I will continue to support existing programs, such as Jumpstart, to retain and attract businesses to Mesa County.

2. The County is currently a litigant in this lawsuit so I do support it. It is important to defend the rights of our businesses and residents to vote on tax increases, as mandated by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.
3. I will continue to prioritize core county government services and look for additional grant opportunities to enhance revenue to the county to pay for services.
4. I am a proven leader on a state and federal level defending private property rights and advocating for policies that will help us grow our Mesa County economy.

**The Chamber endorses Rose Pugliese.**

#### **DAVE EDWARDS (D)**

Responses were not received.



**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

*To update your voter registration please visit*

[www.govotecolorado.com](http://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 24<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday**

**9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., ELECTION DAY**

Mesa County Fairgrounds, Community Building - 2785 Highway 50, Grand Junction

Mesa County Central Services- 200 S. Spruce Street, Room 40, Grand Junction

Clifton Hall- 126 2nd Street, Clifton

**Open Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> through Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday**

**9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., ELECTION DAY**

Colorado Mesa University, University Center Room 213- 1100 North Avenue, Grand Junction

Fruita Civic Center, Lions Room- 325 E Aspen Ave., Fruita

Goodwill Retail Center- 630 24 1/2 Rd., Grand Junction

**Open Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, ELECTION DAY**

De Beque Community Center – 381 Minister Avenue, DeBeque

**Mail Ballot Drop Off Locations:**

**OPEN 24 HOURS ALL DAYS! Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**through 7:00 p.m. on ELECTION DAY, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Grand Valley Transit, West Transfer Facility- 612 24 1/2 Rd., Grand Junction

Department of Human Services- 510 29 1/2 Rd., Grand Junction

Clifton Motor Vehicle- 3225 I-70 Business Loop., Clifton

Mesa County Central Services- 200 S. Spruce Street, Grand Junction

Fruita Civic Center- 325 E Aspen Ave., Fruita

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