

Back to School:  
Candidates and Policies  
Worth Fighting For

September 14, 2021



# Liz Rosenbaum, EPC Dems, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair & Candidate Coordinator



In 2016 the communities in Southern El Paso were told they had been contaminated since the 1970's by toxic PFAS fire fighting foam. Since this was the 4th large scale contamination of various kinds in this small area, Liz met with others and they turned their anger into action, forming the Fountain Valley Clean Water Coalition. Thanks to FVCWC and Liz, local, state, federal legislation has been created, and we now have ground breaking prevention policies. Colorado is now moving in the direction of prevention instead of reaction. Grassroots community activism works, and Liz Rosenbaum did the organizing of her community to accomplish life saving progress forward.

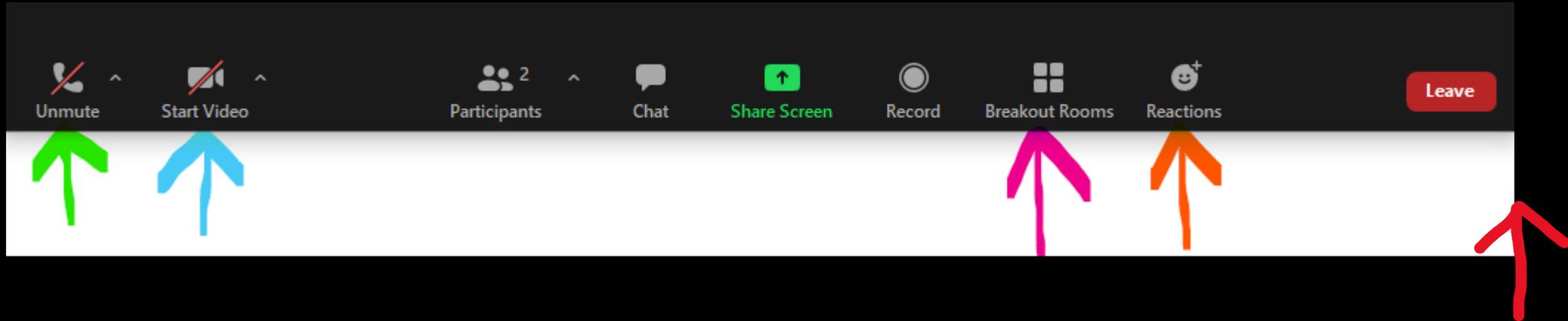
# 2nd Tuesday Showcase



Tonight's Showcase will cover a  
variety of topics

Please use your personal judgement  
when viewing and/or participating

# Tech INFO



Please make sure you are **MUTED** & **without Video**

We will be pushing you into **Breakout Rooms** Later

Feel free to use Chat/ **Reactions** – we will not have VERBAL questions in this section, but you can discuss more with the presenters later in the evening

If you need to leave the Event, use the **LEAVE button** on the Right Corner.

# Welcome To 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Showcase



Tonight's Topic: Back to School: Candidates and Policies Worth Fighting For

Format: Intro Discussion, Topic Presentations, Candidate Forums

Post-Event Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/x8Jc5DUpp>

# Terry Martínez, MODERATOR



Terry Martinez is a 5th generation Colorado native. He was Born and raised here in Colorado Springs. He recently retired after his 31 year career in education as Teacher and Principal. He is active in church and other community non-profits including the Concrete Couch, Westside Cares, LETAC (Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission). He and his wife Jennifer did a major home makeover for their 1892 house in Old Colorado City. He and his wife love to play sand volleyball, are avid skiers and work out only out of necessity to ski.



SUMMERS TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
1997

DANA SUMMERS, TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

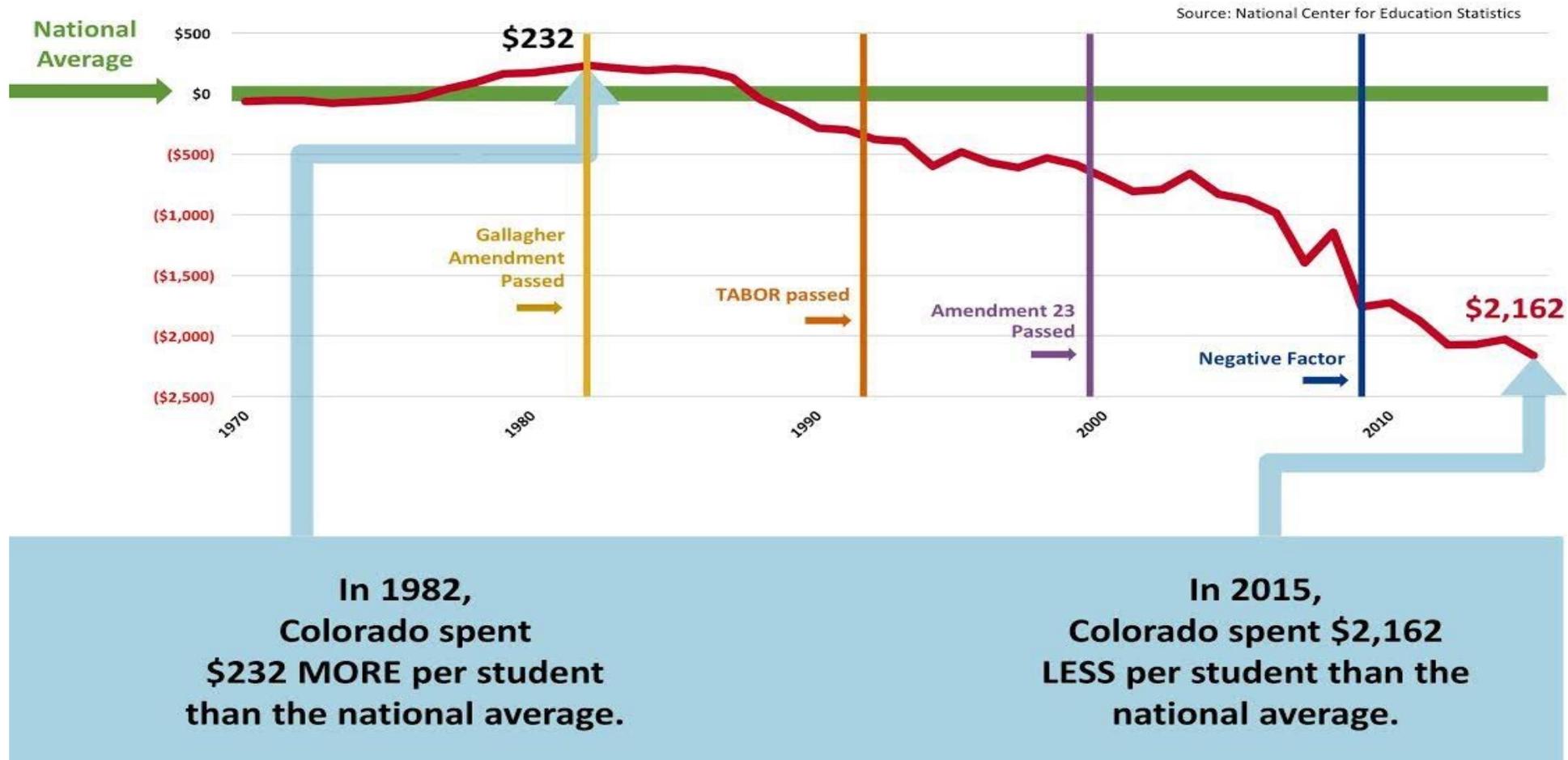
# Chris Idzik, UniServ Director Pikes Peak Education Association

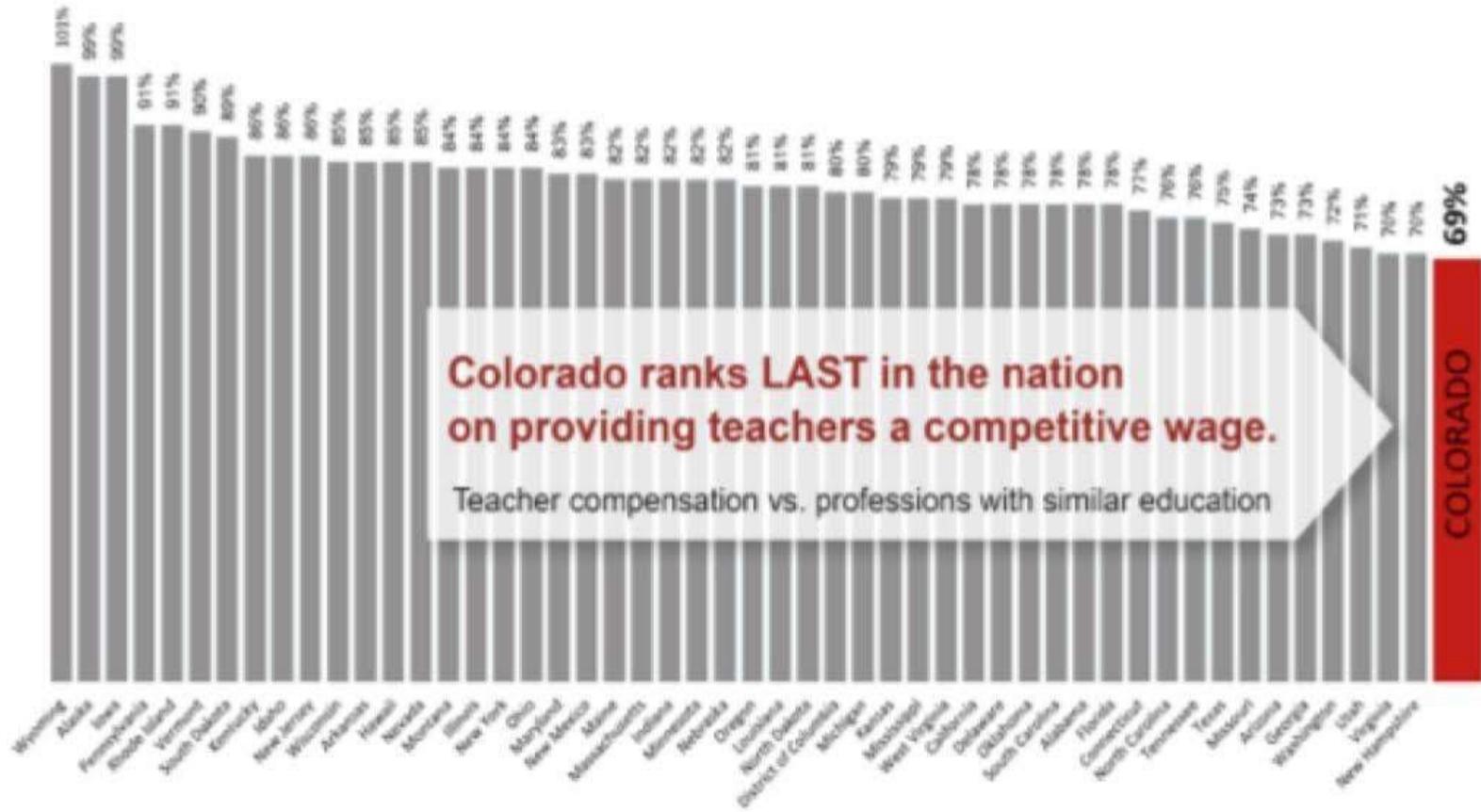


Chris brings to the PPEA over 15 years of experience in teaching (middle and high school social studies, adults in college and prison) and over 10 years in new teacher mentoring and curriculum development. He started in the labor movement as a building representative and then became the president of a local NEA affiliate in Massachusetts. He went on to be an organizer for SEIU in New Orleans, Texas AFT (worked the great Chicago strike of 2012!), AFT in Philadelphia, and a staff representative for ACE-AFSCME 6,000 support staff in the Prince Georges County, Maryland school system. Most recently, Chris was a UniServ Director with the Virginia Education Association.

Chris is interested in School Board races as a way to improve education in the Districts he represents; his Mom and grandfather were both Presidents of School Boards, so it is in his blood!

# K-12 Per Pupil Funding: Colorado versus National Average





## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WANT TO KEEP \$35M IN EXCESS TAX MONEY

Colorado Springs and El Paso County will ask voters in the Nov. 2 election for permission to keep a combined \$35 million in money collected above revenue limits imposed by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

The city wants to keep \$20 million and refund roughly \$10 million in excess revenue from 2021 to taxpayers via utility bills. The money would be used to set up a fund for fire mitigation, most notably in the Wildland Urban Interface. There are 35,000 homes in the city's WUI, most of them on the Westside.

The city's measure also seeks to reset the TABOR revenue cap, meaning the city would automatically keep that extra \$20 million every year if revenues reach that threshold. City Council referred the measure on Aug. 24.

That same day, county commissioners voted 3-2 to refer a TABOR question asking to keep \$15 million in excess revenue collected this year, which would fund parks and roads projects. (The board voted earlier this year to refund — through property tax bills — \$7.1 million collected beyond the TABOR cap in 2020.)

The county is asking voters to allow the TABOR cap to be pushed up by \$15 million permanently.

Commissioners Longinos Gonzalez Jr. and Carrie Geitner opposed referring the measure. Stan VanderWerf, Cami Bremer and Holly Williams favored asking to keep the money. — **PZ**

# Dr. Tim Kubik, Chair, Colorado Democratic Education Initiative



Dr. Tim Kubik's perspectives are based on more than 25 years' practical experience at all levels of education and politics, from primary grades to graduate and professional programs, and from local issues to national campaigns.

At work, Tim has helped over 5000 teachers in 49 of the 50 the United States and nine countries around the world to see the global connections between education, policy, and politics, and to help make those connections relevant to young people working on projects in their own communities.

As Chair of the Colorado Democratic Education Initiative, Tim works with the Colorado Democrats and our elected Democratic leaders to ensure that those connections have the talent and treasure to be sustainable for generations to come.



**COLORADO DEMOCRATIC  
EDUCATION INITIATIVE**



Chair, Dr. Tim Kubik



Secretary, Evie Hudak

**90+ Dues Paying Members**  
**400+ Email/Social Media List**



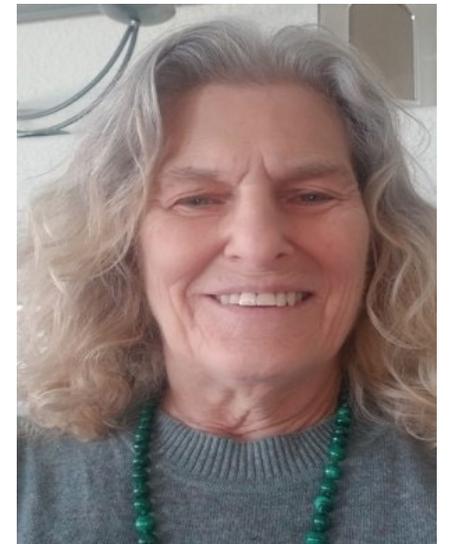
**20 YEARS** of  
**COLORADO DEMOCRATIC**  
**EDUCATION INITIATIVE**  
**2001-2021**

<https://coloradodems.org/educationinitiative>

Join us! Make a \$10 donation via  
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ei>



Vice Chair, Eliza Hamrick



Treasurer, Sue Marinelli

## Principles:

- **Education for All**
- **Equal Opportunity**
- **Fair Accountability Systems**





# AGILITY ALLIANCE

Threats?



J.A. and KATHRYN ALBERTSON FAMILY FOUNDATION



entangled.solutions



Screenshot



# Promoting Patriotism and Pride in American History

Changing The Future Of Our American History Education

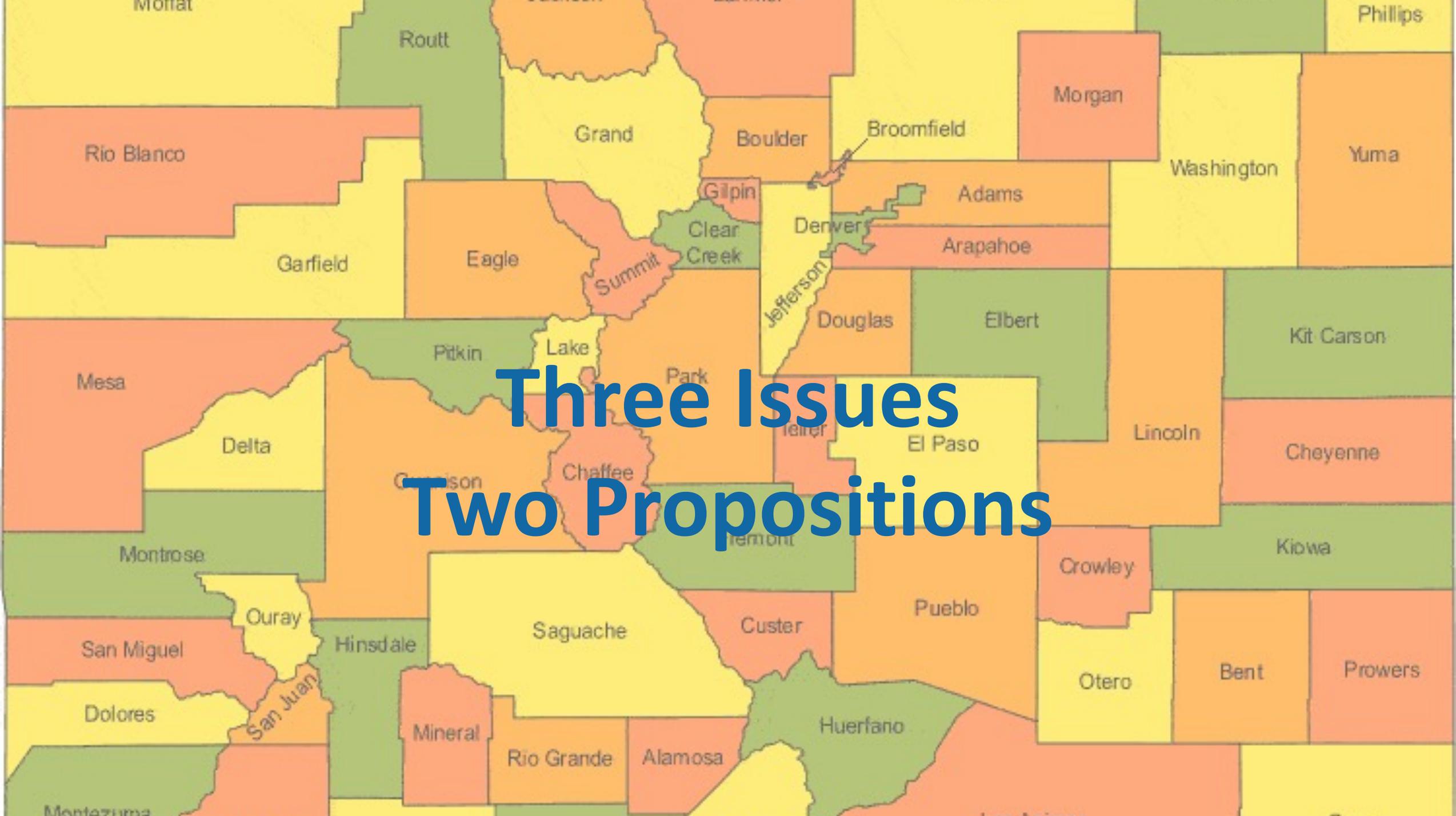
donate



# Koch Money + 1776 PAC

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The most aggressive attack on public schools and boards in ten years



**Three Issues**  
**Two Propositions**

# COVID

**General Statement:** *Students cannot learn, and teachers cannot teach, when they are concerned about their health and safety. It is a school board's responsibility to address those concerns.*

## **Likely Questions:**

1. Should your district require students and teachers to wear masks this fall?
2. What were the best responses to COVID in Colorado (open, hybrid, remote)?

## **Talking Points:**

1. School districts have control over the operation of their schools, and they are the best ones to determine how to deal with it, however we do know that hybrid is the most challenging response for students and teachers.
2. School districts should work with their public health department in making the decisions about whether to open school, require students to wear masks, etc.



# Learning Loss

**General Statement:** *COVID had an undeniable impact on learning in 2020-21, but it would be a mistake to focus only on the negatives.*

## Likely Questions:

1. How do we know students lost learning during COVID?
2. How would you address COVID learning loss?

## Talking Points

1. The idea of “learning loss” only refers to gaps that may show in testing certain subjects. Many students learned important Colorado Essential Skills and new technologies during the pandemic, and we should be sure to honor these as well.
2. Rather than fixating on the fully expected score declines, education policy makers should focus on providing necessary resources to schools and educators so they can address the academic, social and emotional needs of the families they serve.
3. We should take advantage of the state and federal grants to provide programs and additional staff for individualized instruction.



# Critical Race Theory

**General Statement:** *Attacks on Critical Race Theory are meant to trigger the public on three levels: it's critical, it's about race, and it's just a theory. It is not something you can explain in 30 seconds or a minute. Respond quickly and be done with it.*

## **Likely Questions:**

1. Do you support CRT and/or Gender Identity Curriculum?
2. Aren't we post-racial?
3. What do you think about the [1619 Project](#)?

## **Talking Points**

1. Colorado is a local control state. The best way to get to know what's being taught at your school is to get to know your teachers, principals, and school board.
2. Academic freedom and free speech are the foundation of protecting our democracy and enabling a world class education that prepares students with a fact-based curriculum.
3. Students who see themselves in the curriculum do better on standardized outcomes.



# Proposition 120

**General Statement:** Proposition 120. Property Tax Assessment Rate Reduction and Voter Approved Revenue Change, would reduce the residential property tax assessment rate from 7.15% to 6.5% and the non-residential property tax assessment rate from 29% to 26.4%.

## **Likely Questions:**

- Do you support Proposition 120
- How will Proposition 120 effect our schools?

## **Talking Points:**

- The measure decreases property tax revenue to local governments statewide by an estimated \$1.03 billion beginning in 2023.
- To make up for the lost property tax revenue to school districts, the measure would require an increase in state expenditures by at least \$257.7 million per year beginning in budget year 2022-23.
- Colorado has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest property tax rate in the nation. Only Hawaii and Alabama have lower rates. We owe our kids better! (Source: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states> )

# Proposition 119

**General Statement:** *Proposition 119, Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress (LEAP) Program, is a voucher. A voucher diverts funds from state coffers to subsidize private education.*

## **Likely Questions:**

1. Do you support Proposition 119 (LEAP)
2. Won't LEAP help address learning loss due to COVID?
3. Isn't it good that we're using marijuana revenue for schools?

## **Talking Points:**

If allowed to pass, the Proposition will:

1. Use public tax dollars to fund vouchers for extra-curricular programs, while our classrooms already rank 47th in the nation in per pupil funding
2. Create a private agency with an appointed board.
3. Redirect to private providers millions of dollars of public-school funds from the State Land Trust (created in the state's Enabling Act to fund only public schools).
4. Recreational marijuana is already so highly taxed that it risks creating a new "grey market."

Want to Celebrate on Election Night?



# It's not enough to have the candidates!



## Volunteer!

Staff

Voter Contact

“Donuts”

Post Cards



## Candidate

Support

Name Recognition

Support

Name Recognition



## Donate!

GOTV Calls

Flyers

VAN Data

Yard Signs



Chair, Dr. Tim Kubik



Secretary, Evie Hudak

**90+ Dues Paying Members**  
**400+ Email/Social Media List**

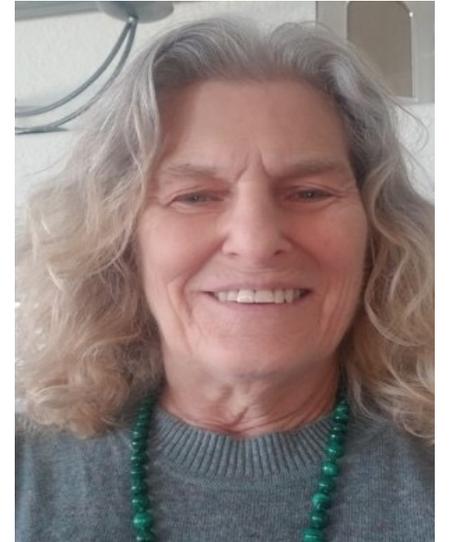


<https://coloradodems.org/educationinitiative>

Join us! Make a \$10 donation via  
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ei>



Vice Chair, Eliza Hamrick



Treasurer, Sue Marinelli

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS

A quick intro for each Candidate

Then we'll separate into small groups for  
Candidate Forum Questions & Answers

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS



## D20 Tiana Clark

As a Colorado Springs native, current parent of school-age kids, and longtime resident of Academy District 20, I bring a unique perspective and new voice to strengthen our school board operations. I want to represent my community on the Academy School District 20 School Board because ALL stakeholders should have a voice. Every student deserves to thrive.

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS



## D20 Brian Coram

Brian decided to run for the D20 school board because he believes a collaborative leadership approach, combined with his depth of experience working with various families, position him as the right team member to bring the best possible education to the families in our community. He is passionate about ensuring that every D20 student gets an exceptional education that will help prepare them for their next steps in life. He will represent all students and families to D20 leadership with a fair and equitable voice while supporting our teachers in their efforts to educate and inspire our students.

[www.coramford20kids.com/](http://www.coramford20kids.com/)

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS



## D11 Julie Ott

Julie Ott is a long-time D11 parent – her children graduated from Coronado High School. A consistent community volunteer, Julie served on Coronado High School's PTA and School Accountability Committee and currently volunteers her time with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site and League of Women Voters. From park cleanups to registering high school students to vote, Julie is committed to a better, brighter future for kids. That future begins with a great education for every child. Julie has been serving on the school board for as years as treasurer from 2017-2019, and as vice president since 2019.

[www.ElectJulieOtt.com/](http://www.ElectJulieOtt.com/)

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS

## D11 Chris Wallis



ELECT CHRIS WALLIS  
BY NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>  
D11 SCHOOL BOARD

“  
I want to ensure that, not only my child, but all students and teachers, can learn and work in an environment that's supportive, safe, and ambitious.

Chris Wallis is a Colorado native and father to a D11 student. He serves on the board of education and is passionate about ensuring excellence in education by meeting the unique needs of every student. He has over 15 years of experience in leadership and currently works as the Logistics Director for Care and Share food bank of southern Colorado.

[www.ChrisWallisforD11.com](http://www.ChrisWallisforD11.com)

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS



## D11 Jen Williamson

Jen Williamson is the parent of two D11 children, and has served as PTA President and SAC Chair at Audubon Elementary. She is the youth pastor at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church downtown and has a passion for public education. Jen is a rational, open-minded advocate who believes in holistic education, fostering mutual trust throughout D11, and forging a hopeful future in Colorado Springs.

[www.electjenwilliamson.com](http://www.electjenwilliamson.com)

[www.facebook.com/Jen-Williamson-for-D11-722116218581609](https://www.facebook.com/Jen-Williamson-for-D11-722116218581609)

[www.instagram.com/electjenwilliamson/](https://www.instagram.com/electjenwilliamson/)  
[twitter.com/ElectWilliamson](https://twitter.com/ElectWilliamson)

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS



## DB Shirley Martinez

*As a retired Army Veteran, Mom, Grandma and Community Diversity Organizer I am excited to advocate for all children in School District 8 and our Educators. Our children need the best public education, and I know what it is like to be a military family and moving to new places every few years. Our school district has generational families and military families, all the people who make living and learning here feel like home. Advocate for Our Children, Our Community and Our Future Leaders by Electing Shirley Martinez, School District 8*

[www.Shirley-Martinez.com](http://www.Shirley-Martinez.com)

# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS

## D3 Dolly Handel

Brave \* Bold \* Consistent

Advocate for Students and All Public School Employees

As a 33-year resident in our Widefield School District, Dolly has raised her children, grandchildren, and cared for our students as a school secretary. Let's get Dolly elected to our school board to ensure our taxes and budgets reflect the love we have for our working families by giving them the best education in the state. We can rely on Dolly to oversee proper funding for our students' 21st century educational requirements.

Email: [HandelDolly@gmail.com](mailto:HandelDolly@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/DollyHandelD3SchoolBoardDirector](https://www.facebook.com/DollyHandelD3SchoolBoardDirector)



# CANDIDATE BREAKOUTS

## D2 Janice "JJ" Frazier

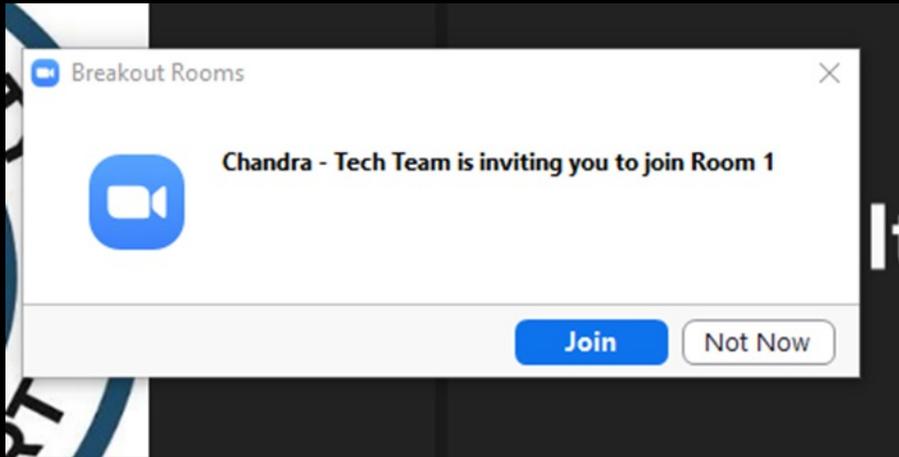


Janice "JJ" Frazier has been active in the Colorado Springs community for many, many years. A graduate of Widefield High School, a former business owner, a former vocalist at Fannie Mae Duncan's Cotton Club, and an active volunteer for several civic organizations.

Ms. Frazier holds an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Operations. She has had a distinguished 40-year career in public education. As Chair of the Board of Directors, she has led the Urbanites Leading the Pikes Peak Region, since 2012. In July 2018, she retired from District 11, but returned as the Equity Specialist in the Office of Human Resources until she officially retired in July 2020. Currently, Ms. Frazier serves as Chair of the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC) in Colorado Springs.

Ms. Frazier is a recipient of many awards: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s *Hats Off Award*; *Woman of Distinction* by the Girl Scouts of Colorado; and *Woman of Influence* by the Colorado Springs Business Journal.

Ms. Frazier is the proud mother of 2, and grandmother to several grandchildren.



You will see a Room Invite pop-up, Click JOIN

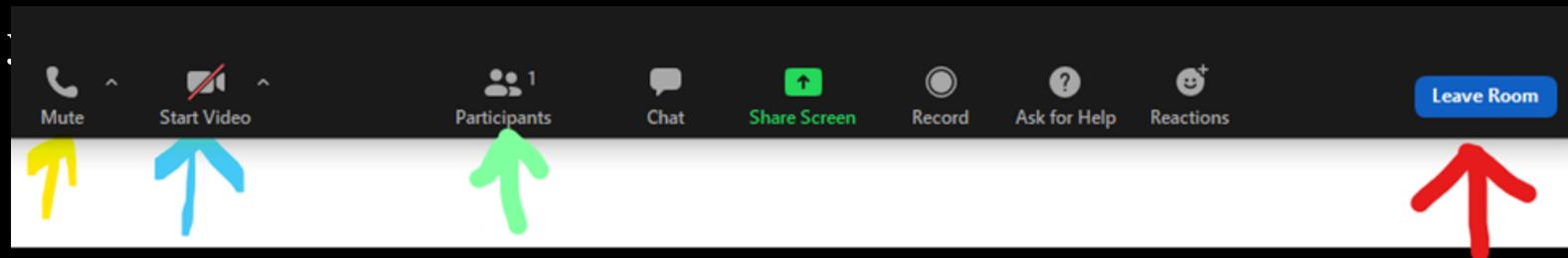
Once you've "entered" the room, Feel free to UNMUTE & Share VI

Say HELLO! To your fellow participants

We will be MOVING PRESENTERS – please DO NOT LEAVE ROOM until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> discussion

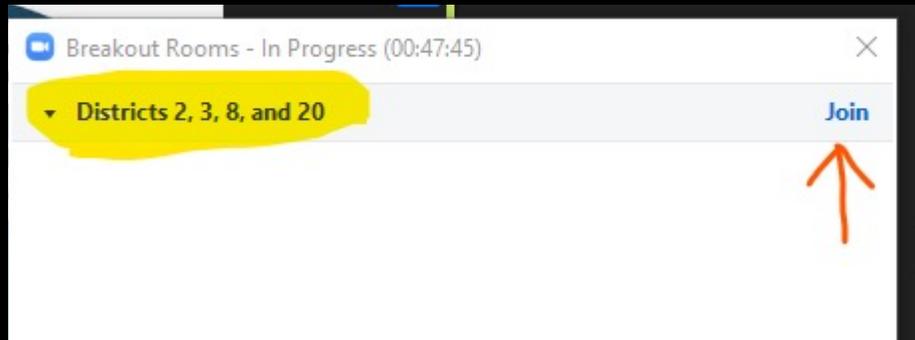
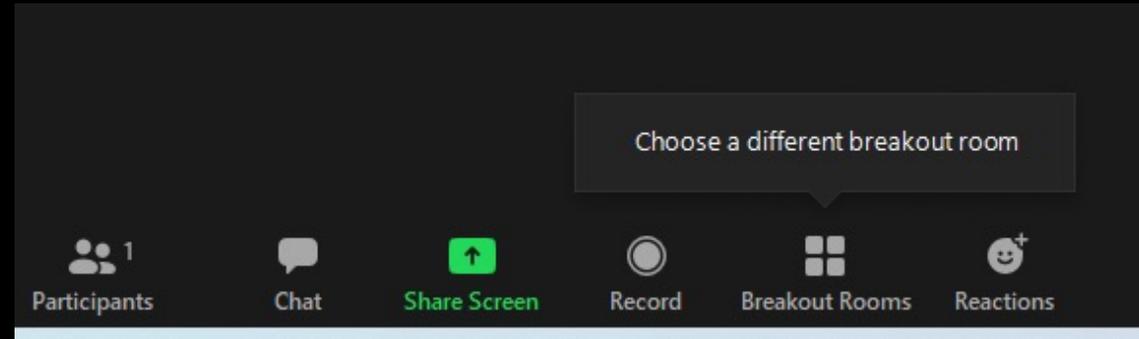
Our intention is to give everyone a chance to learn more, have open, friendly discussions and engage with others

Participate at



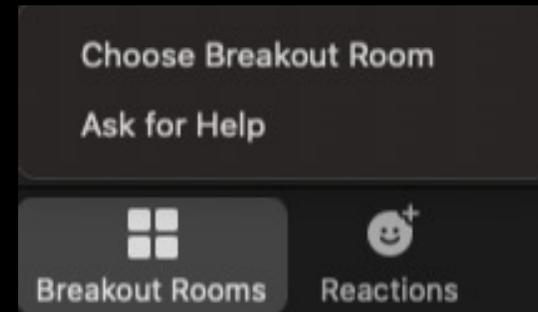
# DISTRICT 11 Participants Will STAY IN THE MAIN ROOM

At the BOTTOM of your screen – click on “BREAKOUT ROOMS”



Once the Rooms are Available, You will click JOIN to the Room that best matches your interest/ School Board

At the BOTTOM of your screen – click on “BREAKOUT ROOMS” or “Ask For Help”



# 2nd Tuesday Showcase



# Tonight's Presenters

Chris Idzik

Tim Kubik

School Board Candidates

# Party Activism Opportunities

## Candidate Development Programs

School Districts - County Commissioners

City Council

CO House of Rep

CO Senate

Boards & Commissions

Election/ Poll Judges

Voter Registration Training

## El Paso County Initiatives

If you are interested in leading, joining or learning more about our LOCAL initiatives, please email [EPCDems@Gmail.com](mailto:EPCDems@Gmail.com) so we can get you involved!

# EPC Dems Updates



Local Party Updates & Information <https://www.epcodemparty.org/>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Showcases

October 12<sup>th</sup> – LGBTQ+ History Month: Looking Back As We March Forward

November 9<sup>th</sup> – Warming Up Our Community: Providing Basic Needs, One Table At A Time

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Here Comes Santa Caucus, Here Comes Santa Caucus

## SAVE THE DATE

BALLOTS Drop October 8<sup>th</sup>!!

## Donations & Contributions

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/epcdonorclub> Monthly Donations & 1-time Gifts

<https://www.epcodemparty.org/volunteer-questionnaire> VOLUNTEER – time & talent always needed

Precinct Organizers – We have over 100 unfilled positions, please help us recruit or “Adopt a Precinct”

Post-Event Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/x8JCC5DUpp>

# Open House Conversations

Thank you for coming!

Feel free to stick around and continue the conversation!

# 2nd Tuesday Showcase

