



Via Email (Restorethebalance@outlook.com)

September 10, 2024

Mr. Tim Sarmo
Restore the Balance
PO Box 1403
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Re: U.S. Representative Candidate Questionnaire Responses

Dear Tim:

Below are my responses to Restore the Balance's 2024 General Election Candidate Questionnaire for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. I appreciate the opportunity to provide these answers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey S. Hurd".

Jeff Hurd
Republican Candidate for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District

**Candidate Questionnaire
for U.S. Representative**

1. What is your motivation for running for CD3 US Representative? What are your qualifications to serve?

I am running for U.S. Congress because I believe rural Colorado is being left behind. We now have "two Colorados." One includes much of the Front Range; it's wealthy, dynamic, and full of opportunity. In the other Colorado, which covers much of the state's rural west and south, our children have become our greatest export: many grow up, leave, and don't come back. In Congress my top priority will be creating economic opportunities so that individuals and families in this "other" part of Colorado—the 3rd Congressional District—can, if they want, stay and *thrive* in western and southern Colorado.

I have deep roots in western Colorado, having been raised on the Western Slope and graduated from Grand Junction High School. I grew up understanding the importance of public service from my father. He led the Marillac Clinic in Grand Junction, providing healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured. This helped shaped my commitment to serve the district where I was raised.

My career has been focused on rural issues, with over a decade of experience as a small business owner and attorney specializing in rural matters. I have represented entities vital to the 3rd Congressional District, such as rural school districts, local governments, telecommunications providers, and rural electric cooperatives. This work has given me a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing rural Colorado. I have built a reputation for being a serious, hardworking professional focused on practical solutions.

I am deeply invested in this community, both personally and professionally. With five young children in Grand Junction, I am committed to creating a future where our next generation can stay and succeed here. My leadership roles, including as Chairman of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce and trustee of the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado, reflect my dedication to giving back to our community and ensuring it thrives.

I have a vision for a better future for southern and western Colorado. If elected, I will be a hard-working, well-prepared, and thoughtful representative who believes rural Colorado's best days are ahead. I will always listen to those I serve and work tirelessly to make sure families can build good lives in the communities they call home.

For more information, please visit jeffhurdforcolorado.com.

2. What do you perceive as the top three issues facing CD3 that you propose to address, and how would you address those issues if elected?

I believe the top three issues facing Colorado's 3rd Congressional District are: (1) securing the southern border of the United States, (2) supporting our energy industry and broader economy, and (3) protecting Colorado's water and agriculture. These are comprehensive topics, so I will summarize my key proposals for addressing each issue:

Securing the Southern Border. Securing our borders and enforcing immigration laws are essential to maintaining our nation's safety and sovereignty. In Congress I will work to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security achieves full operational control of our southern border. This includes:

- Resuming Construction of the Border Wall: Prioritize high-traffic and high-risk areas to reduce illegal crossings.
- Leveraging Advanced Technology: Increase the use of surveillance systems, drones, and sensors to monitor and detect illegal crossings and drug trafficking, particularly fentanyl, which often enters through legal ports of entry.
- Strengthening Penalties and Collaboration: Support stronger penalties for human smuggling and trafficking and promote collaboration among federal, state, and local law enforcement.
- Ensure Law Enforcement Resources: Border Patrol and law enforcement must be given all resources necessary to enforce the law.

Supporting the Energy Industry and the Broader Economy. Energy production is a critical part of our rural economy in Colorado. It provides jobs that strengthen families as well as communities, and generates critical tax revenue. I will advocate for policies that balance economic growth with environmental stewardship by:

- **Advancing Pro-Energy Policies:** Push for permitting and regulatory reforms that facilitate responsible energy production, including both traditional and low-carbon resources.
- **Promoting Colorado’s Resources:** Colorado can lead in responsible energy development—whether it’s high-quality coal, natural gas, uranium, or minerals essential for renewable energy projects—to provide reliable, affordable energy that can offset more carbon-intensive fuels abroad.
- **Enhancing Energy Security:** I will support efforts to export Colorado energy to reduce reliance on nations like Russia or China and to lower costs across the U.S. economy, from food and transportation to manufacturing and housing.

Protecting Colorado’s Agriculture and Water. Agriculture is a cornerstone of Colorado’s economy, culture, and identity. I will stand up for our farmers and ranchers in Western Colorado, the San Luis Valley, and southeastern Colorado, ensuring they have the support needed to thrive. My approach includes:

- **Advocating for Strong Agricultural Policies:** Work with farmers and ranchers to promote laws and policies that secure the resources needed to grow food, raise livestock, and enhance food security.
- **Defending Water Rights:** Protect the Colorado River Compact of 1922. Push for high-altitude distributed water storage, the eradication of invasive plant species, and hold California, Arizona, and Nevada accountable for managing their water use within their legal allocations.
- **Oppose Water Exportation Schemes:** I will strongly oppose attempts to export water out of the 3rd Congressional District, including the Colorado, Rio Grande, and Arkansas River basins. I will collaborate with local leaders to ensure that water is used sustain agriculture, local communities, and the environment.

Each of these issues is vital to the future of Colorado’s 3rd Congressional District. I am committed to addressing them with practical, effective solutions that ensure prosperity and security for communities in western and southern Colorado.

3. Do you believe Colorado’s current election laws and procedures provide for secure elections? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Generally, yes, though I believe more can be done to advance efficient elections that are fair, transparent, and resistant to fraud.

County Clerks in the 3rd Congressional District have suggested ways to advance election security in Colorado. For example, we can improve the process for identifying and removing duplicate or outdated registrations on the voter rolls. The current system can be inefficient. For example, while members of the public often help identify outdated registrations, laws can restrict how Clerks act on this information. (For example, if a member of the public receives a ballot for a person that does not reside at that address and brings the ballot into the election office, the Clerk cannot make that voter inactive. Rather the Clerk must receive the ballot back through the U.S. Mail to make the voter inactive.) There are also ways we should enhance coordination among state election officials outside of Colorado to ensure the accuracy of voter rolls and prevent voters from casting ballots in multiple states in a single election.

Implementing reforms like these will enhance the integrity of our elections and, importantly, increase public trust. When voters feel confident that the system is secure and that every vote is counted accurately, it strengthens the foundation of our republic.

4. Do you believe that Joe Biden's election in 2020 was legitimate? Please explain the reasons for your answer either way.

I have consistently said that I have not seen fraud on a scale that would have changed the results of the 2020 presidential election.

5. Article 2 of the US Constitution sets out an electoral process for choosing our president. The results of this process will produce a winner in the 2024 election. Lacking any objective evidence that the 2024 Presidential election is illegitimate or illegal, will you vote to certify the results of the election in accordance with the Constitution?

Absolutely.

6. What is your perspective on the events of January 6, 2021 in Washington, DC?

The attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 was wrong, and I condemn it.

7. Is there a current policy, platform plank(s), or pieces of legislation that your party has endorsed or supported that you disagree with? Why?

While I am proud to be a Republican and align with its principles and policies, there are certainly areas where I hold differing views. One example is the support within some parts of the Republican Party for a federal ban on abortion. I believe that decisions on abortion policy are best left to the states, where elected representatives can better reflect the values and views of their constituents.

8. If elected, what actions would you take to help ensure more effective bipartisan communication and collaboration to facilitate better outcomes for CD3 constituents?

As an elected official, I will vigorously compete to advance the values, ideas, and interests of Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, always striving to uphold my conservative principles and fight for rural Colorado. However, political reality often requires pragmatism and

compromise to achieve meaningful results. I believe in finding common ground where possible and avoiding making the perfect the enemy of the good.

In Colorado's congressional delegation, effective collaboration will be crucial. I will work to build trust and maintain productive lines of communication with all my Colorado colleagues. While we may have sharp disagreements at times, I will always aim to disagree without being disagreeable. I want to be known as a principled, well-prepared, and persuasive representative who is also willing to listen. Beyond Colorado, I will seek to develop relationships across party lines with those representing rural districts like ours, particularly on shared issues such as agriculture, rural healthcare, and infrastructure.

Effective bipartisan communication is also essential at the state level, where many issues impacting the 3rd Congressional District require coordination between state and federal governments. Given the Democratic control of Colorado's state government, it will be important to work collaboratively with state leaders to address public policy challenges. I aim to be seen by them as someone who is principled, well-prepared, and open to listening.

In sum, my goal is to be a hardworking, results-oriented representative who doesn't grandstand but shows up prepared, asks smart questions, and builds effective coalitions to advance an agenda that benefits southern and western Colorado.

9. What are the elements of an immigration policy that would you support?

The United States has always been a nation of immigrants. My wife, who came here from communist Czechoslovakia, is a proud example of that—and there is no prouder American than her. Through her, I have come to appreciate more deeply what it means to be an American. Yet, we are also a nation of laws. A fair and effective immigration policy must balance national security with economic vitality, uphold the rule of law, and reflect our values as a nation. The elements of an immigration policy I would support include:

Securing the Border. The foundation of any immigration policy must be a secure border. We need to invest in infrastructure, technology, and personnel to prevent illegal crossings and safeguard our borders from drug trafficking and human smuggling. This includes completing physical barriers in high-risk areas and using advanced surveillance systems and other technologies to enhance border security.

Reforming the Asylum Process. Our asylum system is currently overwhelmed and prone to abuse. I support reforms that streamline the asylum process to reduce fraud and ensure legitimate asylum seekers are processed efficiently. This would involve secure processing centers, expanding capacity to handle claims swiftly, and increasing the number of immigration judges to address the backlog.

Promoting Effective Temporary Worker Programs. Colorado's agricultural sector and other industries depend on seasonal and temporary workers. I support reforming and expanding temporary worker programs to meet labor demands while ensuring these programs are fair, efficient, and enforceable. This approach helps our economy while maintaining control over who enters and exits the country.

Enforcing the Rule of Law. An effective immigration policy must also ensure that those who violate our immigration laws face appropriate consequences. We need to enforce immigration laws consistently and fairly.

Encouraging Legal Immigration and Citizenship. We should continue to encourage those who wish to come to the United States legally and contribute to our society. America has always been a land of opportunity, and legal immigration strengthens our communities and economy. The path to citizenship must be clear, fair, and encourage integration into American society.

10. Do you endorse *each* of the seven principles Restore the Balance proposes to guide political conduct in Western Colorado? If there are one or more principles you do not endorse, please identify them, and explain why.

While I share the intent behind many of these principles and the desire for constructive political conduct, I cannot fully endorse each one as written. Below, I have honestly (and hopefully thoughtfully) engaged with each principle, explaining where I agree and where I see potential issues. My hope is that my perspective will be received in the spirit of open dialogue and mutual respect. I believe that healthy democratic discourse thrives on genuine discussion of diverse viewpoints, and I value the opportunity to share mine here.

RTB Principle 1: Political parties, citizens and elected officials should vigorously compete over values, principles, and ideas, but must also find common ground to solve problems and pass needed legislation.

I wholeheartedly agree that political parties, citizens, and elected officials should vigorously compete over values, principles, and ideas. Such competition is vital for a healthy political system.

However, the second part of this principle—that we must also find common ground to solve problems and pass needed legislation—is more complex. While I applaud the sentiment, it assumes that there is a consensus on what the problems are, the extent of those problems, and what constitutes “needed legislation.” In reality, these are often the *very issues* that are hotly contested. For example, debates over healthcare, education, and economic policy are not just about solutions but often stem from fundamentally different perceptions of the problems themselves. What one person sees as essential legislation, another might see as unnecessary or even harmful.

The real political challenge lies not only in debating solutions but in persuading others about what the problems are in the first place and the extent to which they are problems. In this context, I fully agree that citizens should advocate their views vigorously, seek to persuade others, and, just as importantly, keep an open mind to being persuaded themselves.

RTB Principle 2: Facts, supported by objectively examined evidence, are the basis for what to believe and how to act.

I believe this principle is true in many situations, especially in scientific inquiries or straightforward factual matters. However, when it comes to complex public policy issues, it can fall short because it overlooks the crucial role of human judgment, values, and broader societal considerations.

For example, consider a proposal to lower the Interstate speed limit from 75 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. Objectively examined evidence might show that this would reduce

fatalities, lower gasoline consumption, and decrease road wear. The facts on these points could be strong and clear. Yet, these facts alone don't provide a basis for such a policy. (A 35 mile-per-hour Interstate speed limit would offend the sensibility of most Americans!) Public policy decisions require balancing these facts against others, such as efficiency, economic impact, and enforcement practicality. Facts guide us by highlighting trade-offs, but they don't provide a simple answer. Human judgment and values must come into play to determine what constitutes good public policy.

Similarly, in areas like energy, healthcare, education, and environmental regulation, facts and evidence are indispensable for informing choices but are not sufficient on their own. These policies often involve competing goods—public health vs. individual freedom, environmental protection vs. economic growth, and more. Navigating these trade-offs requires not just facts but a vision for the kind of society we want to build.

In short, while I agree that facts and evidence are foundational to making informed decision-making, they are *an* important basis—but not *the* basis—for what to believe and how to act. We must integrate these facts with human judgment, values, and a careful consideration of the broader implications to create policies that are both evidence-based and aligned with our collective goals.

RTB Principle 3: No one person or political party has a monopoly on the best public policy proposals; communication and good faith negotiations are essential to the legislative process.

I agree wholeheartedly with this principle.

RTB Principle 4: The public interest must come before party interests, for voters and elected officials alike.

As someone deeply committed to serving the people of Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, I agree that the public interest should come before party interests.

However, what constitutes the “public interest” is not always clear-cut, and this is where political parties play a vital role. Parties represent different sets of values, principles, and visions for what is best for the public. For instance, on issues like energy policy, healthcare, or education, what one party sees as serving the public interest, another might view as contrary to it. These differences reflect diverse interpretations of what will best serve society.

For voters and elected officials alike, the challenge lies in balancing party principles with the broader public good. This requires careful consideration, debate, and, at times, compromise. It's important to recognize that party interests are not inherently opposed to the public interest; they often reflect deeply held beliefs about what is best for society.

While the public interest should guide our actions, it is often interpreted through the lens of our values, which are reflected in party affiliations. The tension between party interests and the public interest is not necessarily a negative; it reflects the diversity of thought that is essential to a healthy republic.

Principle 5: Extremists of all kinds attract supporters and money by appealing to fears and resentments, amplifying divisions instead of truly addressing problems.

I agree and, unfortunately, this is a reality in today's political landscape. However, I see this more as an observation about the current state of politics rather than a guiding principle for political conduct.

Principle 6: Citizens should be free to run for or hold office without being threatened or harassed.

I agree completely.

Principle 7: Citizens may certainly exercise their personal freedoms, but they may not ignore their personal responsibilities to the community at large.

I understand and appreciate this sentiment. And while I agree that citizens should be mindful of their impact on the community, any call to prioritize “responsibilities to the community at large” over personal freedoms must be approached with great caution.

As a Member of Congress, my duty would be to uphold the Constitution and protect the constitutional rights of every citizen. The Constitution explicitly protects individual liberties—such as freedom of speech, religion, and the right to due process—and these rights should not be compromised based on vague or subjective interpretations of what constitutes a “responsibility to the community.”

History has shown that prioritizing broad notions of the “collective good” over clearly defined individual rights can lead to the erosion of personal freedoms, sometimes irreversibly. I am concerned that calls for “responsibilities to the community” could be used to justify infringements on freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or the right to assemble. I trust that Restore the Balance members would agree that citizens must remain vigilant against any attempts to undermine the fundamental rights that form the bedrock of our republic.

Fostering a sense of personal responsibility should come through civic engagement, education, and voluntary action, not mandates that infringe on constitutional rights. Protecting personal freedom while encouraging community responsibility is possible, but it requires a steadfast commitment to the principles of limited government and the rule of law.

I would like to thank Restore the Balance for the opportunity to complete this survey.

-Jeff Hurd