

August 25, 2025

Mr. J.J. Fletcher
631 Aldrea Vista Ct.
Palisade, CO 81526

Dear J.J.,

Restore the Balance is a 501(c)4 organization that educates the public about the danger political extremism poses to a healthy democracy. We urge citizens to learn about candidates running for public office and to support those who best put public interest first and work to bring citizens together.

To help citizens learn about candidates, we have created a questionnaire for you and others running for Mesa County Commissioner.

We will share your responses, question by question, along others running for Mesa County Commissioner with our 2,900 members and supporters on our website. We will also share them with various media outlets which we believe will help Mesa County citizens make the best decision about whom to support.

We have included the seven political principles we believe should guide political conduct in Western Colorado. Please review them carefully. Some of our questions will be about these seven principles.

As previously stated, our endeavor is to provide information to the voters of Mesa County about candidates seeking office. As a candidate seeking to serve the public, we encourage you to submit answers to our questionnaire by September 10, 2024. Your answers should be sent to RestoreTheBalance@Outlook.com by this deadline to ensure they will appear, along with the other candidates running for County Commissioner, on our website and other media outlets.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please send them to me at m.restorethebalance@outlook.co

Thank you,

Tim Sarmo
Restore the Balance

Restore the Balance

Seven political principles to guide political conduct

We must do more than simply be against extremism. We must act against it whenever we can. We embrace the following set of principles to govern political conduct by candidates and citizens alike. **WE BELIEVE:**

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.
2. Facts, supported by objectively examined evidence, are the basis for what to believe and how to act.
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.
4. The public interest must come before party interests, for voters and elected officials alike.
5. Extremists of all kinds attract supporters and money by appealing to fears and resentments, amplifying divisions instead of truly addressing problems.
6. Citizens should be free to run for or hold office without being threatened or harassed.
7. Citizens may certainly exercise their personal freedoms, but they may not ignore their personal responsibilities to the community at large.

Candidate Questionnaire
Mesa County Commissioner

1. What is your motivation for running for Mesa County Commissioner? What are your qualifications to serve? Mesa County is a unique special place that I call home along with about 160,000 residents. We all enjoy the great outdoors and extensive public lands. Seventy two percent of Mesa County is comprised by Federal and state jurisdiction. For example, B.L.M., National Forest and National monuments, it's vital for Mesa county to retain local control and maintain a voice for the private property owners, stakeholders and infrastructure of our county. Mesa county has a rural heritage and is made up of several municipalities with home rule towns and cities. I believe as do many others, this is Mesa County and not Denver County and we must plan strategically for the future. I bring forty years of business experience and leadership skills to the office. I have served on many Boards in our area, including Past Chairman of The Palisade Chamber of Commerce.

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

Economic development- by using my communication and business experience, I will work collaboratively with our Chambers, G.J.E.P., The Business Incubator and stakeholders to attract and retain business in Mesa County.

Behavioral Health, I will continue to move forward with the current entities, Government, hospitals, local law enforcement and churches to find solutions to the epidemic of addictions and mental health issues.

Agriculture- I will support the industries in our county and work with producers and ag interests to champion our local products. I will also work to maintain vital infrastructure to the Agriculture community.

3. Do you believe Colorado's current election laws and procedures administered by Mesa County provide for secure elections? Please explain the reasons for your answer? Yes, I believe we have secure elections in Colorado and very much so in Mesa County. Our current Clerk and Recorder and the elections department have years of experience and training and they have the Dominion server, which is only one of two systems approved for the state of Colorado.

4. If elected, what actions would you take to help ensure more effective intergovernmental communication and collaboration to facilitate better outcomes for Mesa County constituents? As a Mesa Commissioner I will hold town hall meetings and I will do my best to have an open door policy

- 5. In your view, which County programs or services are neglected or underfunded in the current budget? If so, how do you intend to address those areas, if elected?** It's my understanding on the November ballot a question will be asked in regards to a Tabor refund. The question will ask voters if they would support a measure to allow the county to keep and allocate the refund to County road and bridge projects. I certainly believe we should fund the deficiency and support the measure.
- 6. What, if anything, can the county do to address affordable housing for families making less than \$80,000 per year?** I am currently working on this issue. I am meeting with a group of leaders and stakeholders to address the issue. I will update the community when we have some ideas and answers.
- 7. What, if anything, should the county do to help address homelessness?** The county currently provides resources and support for the homeless population. I believe that we are doing our part at the county level and we need the support of nonprofits and churches to provide temporary shelter, food and clothing etc.
- 8. What, if anything, should the county do to advance community solar projects?** Mesa county and the state of Colorado recently passed new legislation to address solar projects, as a County I will follow the new guidelines.
- 9. Mesa County's population has grown by over 100,000 since 1970, yet we still have a three-person board of commissioners. Would you support expansion of the board to five members, electing either 3 or 5 commissioners by district? If yes, what would you do to make that happen?** If the voters of Mesa County are in favor of this measure, we could discuss this at a public meeting and if there is enough support, we could allow it to become a ballot item.
- 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.**
I reread your seven principles, I am sure it's something I would endorse and support. I will always put the people of Mesa County and our interests first. I am a Republican by party and live by conservative principles and I personally strive to be an example to all. I am here to represent all of the people of Mesa County.