

## **Moni Grushkin**

### **Restore the Balance La Plata Candidate Questionnaires**

**Why are you running for La Plata County Treasurer? What qualifications do you bring and how are you preparing to serve if elected?**

I am running because I want to finish the job that I was appointed to do. When my predecessor resigned, the BOCC interviewed 5 candidates and based on my qualifications, I was selected to fill the position. I had agreed to run in the next election, which is required, to complete the full term. I bring over 40 years of experience working in various jobs and industries focused on strategic planning, financial analysis, project management, product development, software conversions and people management. All skills/qualifications required for this position. I am preparing to serve by actually doing the work every day for the past 10 months.

**Do you agree with the seven principles Restore the Balance feels should guide political conduct in Colorado. If you do not agree with one or more of these principles, please identify and explain why.**

I agree 100% with the seven principles Restore the Balance feels should guide political conduct in Colorado, and across the United States.

**Do you believe Colorado's current election laws and procedures provide for secure elections and encourage voter participation? Please explain the reasons for your answer.**

I can only speak for La Plata County. I have lived here for 19 years and have never had any issues and have always felt the process was secure, fair and well managed.

**If elected, what actions will you take to help find common ground with your fellow elected officials on both sides of the aisle?**

I am running as an independent because of my own personal values and beliefs. I have been an independent for many years. I believe we need a balance of opinions, not all thinking the same way, in order to represent and serve all people. I will make every effort to work with my fellow elected officials to do the job we were elected to do, independent of party affiliation. My background is working in the private sector and I have worked with many, many people who had differing opinions from myself. Never once did we start a conversation by asking what their political affiliation was because it wasn't top of mind when it came to sitting down, having constructive conversations and doing the work. I am also a Rotarian and try to apply the Four Way Test when making decisions, both in my professional life and my personal life. The Four Way Test is the following: "Of the things we think, say or do....

- a) Is it the Truth

- b) Is it Fair to All Concerned
- c) Will it Build Good Will and Better Friendships
- d) Will it Be Beneficial to All Concerned”

**If elected, how will you listen to and represent the concerns of constituents who don't agree with you?**

I will make the time to ask clarifying questions so that I fully understand their concerns. I will listen intently and relay back what I hear in order to ensure I understand what they were saying. I have already started to do this in my current role as Treasurer and Public Trustee because I enjoy answering the calls from constituents that come into our office and meeting with people in person.

**What are the top three issues facing La Plata County and briefly how do you plan to address these issues if elected?**

Increasing property taxes – There are already changes in the works to address this issue, however, I am concerned that we are trying to apply a broad solution to an issue that truly affects different segments of the population for different reasons. I would like to see us take more time to put in place solutions to address the pain points felt by those who need it without undermining a major funding source to provide necessary services to that same set of constituents. For example, we know that property taxes go up because the valuations on the property that is taxed go up. Increased valuations can be positive if the owners are looking to sell the home and realize the increase in equity provided by the increase in valuation. That being said, if the owner is someone who is older, lives on fixed income and has no intention of selling their home, they have no immediate benefit but feel the pain of higher taxes. This is a serious issue we need to address. What are the options for helping this specific group of individuals? I would like to be a part of finding the solution.

Affordable housing. This is very important because the cost of living is high in our community. This is linked to the first issue above. The market value of homes is increasing, which is positive for some yet creates a larger issue when it comes to finding housing for individuals whose wages cannot cover this increase. I know this issue is also top of mind for our Board of County Commissioners who are in a better position to help find a solution. I am happy to support these efforts in any way that I can.

Child Care – I was a single mother, raising my daughter while working full time. I understand firsthand the importance of quality and affordable childcare. I don't have the answer, yet I'm happy to be part of a team looking to find a solution.