

Restore the Balance

- Yes, I do endorse each of the seven principles. I will show this by continuing to provide information to the public that is supported by documented irrefutable evidence provided by numerous trusted related agencies such as law enforcement, medical providers, and pathological services. I feel the role of coroner is one of service to the community and so hold the public's interest paramount.
- I believe the coroner should be an appointed position. I have this opinion because I believe a person or panel with in depth knowledge of the position would be better suited to selecting a proper candidate. I feel the campaign aspect of the elected option creates not only a popularity contest, but also makes room for motivation to support private causes to secure votes/funding for the campaign.

I also think the public's perception of what a coroner does and the actual reality of the position itself are so different it is difficult for the public to make an informed decision. Even if the coroner candidates put the information into the public eye via social media, ads, and forums that education is often drowned out by genuine campaigns and politicians speaking on hot topics to get votes for themselves. It is not a negative thing for them to pursue their own votes at all. I only think that this environment makes it difficult for a voter to become educated on this specific topic when so many other important items are already on the table to discuss.

- The role of coroner is not necessarily a medical one. Some of the tasks involved in the role include supporting the pathologist during examinations of the decedent, but that is the not the primary focus. A coroner is primarily an administrative function that works hand in hand with the pathologist and other agents. I believe a number of educational and/or work fields would be appropriate backgrounds for a coroner including Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Mortuary Science, or Death Investigator.

That being said I do firmly believe there should be more requirements for the position. The fact that a popular furniture store owner could run a winning campaign on a whim and become county coroner doesn't seem appropriate for a modern system. The requirements should be enough to instill a basic sense of trust in the community by ensuring the person filling this position has the minimal competency and education.

- I believe I am better qualified mainly because I do not have the conflicts of interests that my opponent has regarding being coroner of Mesa County. Their previous terms as coroner had some concerns raised regarding finances and overlapping of responsibilities. As coroner I will not have a private business or employment with a private business while serving my term. Since I have the full support of the current staff at the Mesa County Coroner's Office the transition will be much smoother for the public, and ideally should be completely unnoticed other than a different name helping our community.

While I am not a forensic pathologist I do have a Bachelor's degree in Funeral Service and Mortuary Science which included focus on Pathology, Anatomy, Ethics, and required the dissection of donated cadavers for further education. I have worked with medical examiners and

law enforcement for many years both directly contracted for supportive services and as a natural benefit of working in the funeral industry. Currently I volunteer my time with the Mesa County Coroner's office so I can further my direct knowledge and build rapport with local agencies. I am very grateful for the education I have gained from the many professionals there.

- The only example that comes to mind is that the current coroner, Victor Yahn, is registered as Republican. I have his endorsement and he has been an essential consultant throughout this journey.
- My primary focus as Mesa County Coroner will be working with the budget that Coroner Yahn has created to hire a Forensic Pathologist fulltime for Mesa County. The community currently is served by two pathologists; one who travels from over the mountains on an almost bi-weekly basis. While that may raise the question of if there is a financial bonus of combining the role of Coroner and Pathologist I would suggest that the overlap would create an environment that supports cutting corners and missing details from the sheer workload. While some things can be done it does not warrant that it should be done. Having a dedicated forensic pathologist on staff will improve the quality of service this office is able to provide the community and make the office itself more efficient.

Other than that my goal is to maintain the same level of professionalism and compassion that Coroner Yahn has brought to the office. I aim to step into the position with the necessary experience gained from my active training by him, and work seamlessly with law enforcement and our medical providers to serve our community to the highest standard.