

August 15, 2022

Lauren Boebert for Congress
P.O. Box 752
Rifle, CO 81650

Candidate Boebert,

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 your opponent running for U.S. Representative for Colorado's Third Congressional District.

We will share your responses, question by question, along with those of your opponent with our 2,300 members and supporters. 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.

You will notice that we have also provided you with a set of 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.

Please have your answers completed and sent to Restorethebalance@outlook.com by Tuesday, September 13 at 6PM. Please meet the deadline. We want voters to learn about your views. It would be a disservice for the public to see only your opponent's answers and not yours.

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

Thank you,

Steven Mandell
Restore the Balance

Restore the Balance

Seven political principles to guide political conduct

We must do more than simply be against extremism. We must embrace an alternative set of political principles. We believe these seven principles should guide us.

- **We believe** that political parties should vigorously compete over values, principles, and ideas, but also find common ground to solve problems and pass needed legislation. Gridlock is not an option.
- **We believe** facts, supported by irrefutable evidence, are the basis for what to believe and how to act. No civilization can endure when its citizens believe there is no such thing as objective facts or truths.
- **We believe** that no one has a monopoly on the best public policy proposals. That means the ability to listen to and understand both sides of a debate are a prerequisite to finding practical solutions.
- **We believe** public interest must come before party interest. This means putting what is right ahead of loyalty to a party or an individual party leader.
- **We believe** that problem-solving is more important than fund-raising. Extremists line their pockets then use the funds to amplify division instead of producing solutions.
- **We believe** citizens should be free to run for office or volunteer to support the candidate of their choice without being threatened or harassed. Extremism uses intimidation because it cannot stand up to independent, open-minded thinking. Instead, it relies on the mentality of the mob.
- **We believe** it is time to expect citizens to embrace individual responsibility. Extremists always talk about “freedom,” but never mention the responsibility to the community that comes with it.

Candidate Questionnaire
U.S. Representative – Third Congressional District of Colorado
Lauren Boebert (R)

By now, you have read and considered the seven political principles we feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado.

1. Do you believe that political extremism poses a threat specifically in Western Colorado? If yes, please explain why. If no, please explain why not.

Addressing political extremism by *Restore the Balance* is an admirable goal.

Many, including me, had previously trusted elected officials on both sides of the aisle to secure their God-given rights — personal freedom being at the top of that list — only to see our rights discarded in favor of what has turned into a hyper-partisan, power-hungry leftist and globalist agenda.

Let me be clear: the left's extremism is what led me to run for Congress.

Like so many in our community and across our country, I was concerned we needed to restore the balance because our country had swung too far away from "we the people" and nobody was standing up for us!

I was fed up with the left's extreme policies pushing us towards becoming a socialist nation, so I vowed to do my part to help secure our Constitutional rights and freedom. Making sure my four boys never grew up in a socialist nation mandated that I do my civic duty and get more involved. That required not only offering a viable alternative to the extremist agenda being put forth by my Democrat opponent in the general election, but also calling out destructive policies often supported by both parties that were moving us too far away from our historically conservative principles.

I have yet to hear the left's leadership, locally or nationally, truly support clean nuclear energy or natural gas, stand up for a secure border, be willing to responsibly harvest the dead timber in our forests, promote school choice, push back against government mandates that shut down small businesses while keeping Wal-Mart open, keep our cities safer by supporting law enforcement and locking up violent criminals, help make health care more personal and portable, or require voter identification and proof of citizenship.

To me and many others, those are reasonable issues to support. I believe the left's position on those and many other issues is extreme.

To restore the sense of stability to our politics, we need to stand firmly on our foundational, conservative principles. Politely going-along-to-get-along and appeasing the far-left is not the solution. Our country tried that for many years and now the bill is coming due for our nation having found “common ground” with the left. We are paying the price with the unsustainable cost of our debt, geopolitical instability, skyrocketing inflation, higher crime, a flood of illegal immigration, partisan, left-leaning healthcare and education policies, and a distrust about the integrity of our election process, among other things.

Rather than making a conscious effort to fix this mess, Democrats have poured gasoline on it, bypassing the budget process, spending trillions of dollars on green new deal programs that have already proven to be dangerous to European economies, extending unnecessary shutdowns of our economy, and fanning inflation to the point where 20 million American families have close to a thousand dollars of unpaid utility bills and 40% of small businesses can't afford their rent.

So, if you are still wondering where the America First movement came from, this is it.

That is why I am so proud of ordinary Americans getting involved with our political process. There's a good reason why the Colorado Springs Gazette gave their endorsement to me and said I was a champion for the working class.

I am not a career politician, I am a mom of four boys willing to stand up for our rights, and a small business owner who had the heavy hand of the government shut my restaurant down while permitting big stores down the road to stay open for business.

I applaud the small business owners who said enough is enough, the medical workers who simply wanted to go to work to help care for all of us and the parents concerned enough to speak up to woke schoolboards and teachers' unions pushing an indoctrination of our children instead of focusing on reading, writing, math, science and critical thinking.

I happen to think the extreme left's obsession with sexualizing our children, allowing men to play women's sports and use women's bathrooms, and mutilating minor's genitals is extreme and disgusting.

Some may be concerned about the involvement by everyday Americans — the FBI certainly is — while others like me are fearlessly joining the fight to push back because we believe it is our duty as citizens to do so. That isn't extreme, but the government's extended shutdowns certainly were.

I submit to you that my experience in finding Democrats willing to stand up against extremism or set aside party politics to find common ground on policy in DC is nearly impossible. Recall the Democrat's explicit support for the anarchy in

Seattle and lawlessness across our major cities including Minneapolis? Or how Democrat Senator Manchin was treated by his own Democrat party when he dared to disagree with them? Manchin certainly fell into line after feeling that pressure and Senator Sinema probably didn't forget getting stalked in the women's bathroom. Remember when Republican Senator Tim Scott made a sincere offer to tackle police reform only to be rebuked by the left? I certainly recall my common-sense infrastructure bill that limited spending to actual infrastructure falling on Nancy Pelosi's deaf ears.

I encourage everyone to support the mission of Restore the Balance to find common ground to solve problems and pass needed legislation to help our community. To the extent the group is actually both bipartisan and able to coalesce around proposed federal legislation, I welcome the opportunity to get involved. I am happy to offer suggestions to consider as well, since there are a number of policy positions I support that most voters support, too. A balanced budget amendment, term-limits, a secure border, voter ID, and single-subject legislation certainly come to mind, along with my introduction of the most comprehensive forest management bill in decades.

- 2. Do you endorse each of the seven principles Restore the Balance feels should guide political conduct in Western Colorado? If you endorse them all, please explain how you will work to execute these principles. If there are one or more principles you do not endorse, please identify them and explain why.**

Restore the Balance's first principle of competing over values, principles, and ideas so that we can find common ground is something I strongly believe in.

I also believe the founders of our country intentionally set up our system of government to create a certain level of gridlock so that consensus would need to be achieved on a bipartisan basis to pass meaningful legislation. One of my key criticisms of the Democrat majority is their willingness to circumvent regular order and shove destructive, hyper-partisan legislation through the dead of night and under the heavy hand of Nancy Pelosi. I call it the Pelosi Con Game – slapping a great name on a horrible piece of legislation and then forcing a vote without even offering legislators time to even read the bill. I don't play that game, but there are plenty of those on the left and the media that do. Look at what the press said about the so-called Inflation Reduction Act while it was being enacted and then listen to how they admitted it wouldn't reduce inflation after it passed. Even today my opponent is claiming the bill as "an important step forward in reducing inflation" when the Congressional Budget Office said it won't reduce inflation. We need more elected officials like me to stand against this terrible practice and be a loud voice that can break through the projecting, deceitful, hypocritical politics of the left.

As much as I agree with your principle of believing facts supported by irrefutable evidence, much of the frustration about extremism in our politics stems from “facts” later being proven to be false. The problem often starts with the mainstream media and big tech declaring what the truth is and censoring those who dare to disagree.

I fought hard to help abolish the Democrats’ Disinformation Governance Board after it was proven the assigned “truth czar” had a record of pushing false narratives on Russiagate and helping suppress facts about Hunter Biden’s corrupt behavior. The CDC has now issued revised COVID guidance that aligns more with what fact-based science was telling us during government mandated masking and shutdowns, but for a long time the CDC was all-knowing and unwilling to budge on its positions despite evidence to the contrary and were continuously supported in that effort by the media and big tech.

It’s no different in my current race, where I have an opponent that claims without challenge from the press that he is a so-called “moderate” seeking bi-partisan solutions. The facts, supported by irrefutable evidence, show that he is a far-left liberal who has a history of deception and using his public office to push forward his personal agenda without regard for opposing voices.

Adam Frisch covertly used the full-force of local government to kill blue-collar construction jobs and slash affordable housing funding while declaring a nearly year-long “emergency” shutdown of development in Aspen. He justified using these covert tactics because he personally believed Aspen needed “thoughtful downsizing” despite the city having rejected such changes in the past.

It’s notable that years earlier Frisch had opposed declaring fake emergency shutdowns, but then he led the way in pushing a fake emergency through Aspen’s city council.

My opponent claimed his covert shutdown as one of his top accomplishments after serving eight years on the Aspen City Council. In the process, he deliberately kept the public in the dark for five months while he circumvented Colorado’s open meeting laws. 24 hours after introducing the emergency shutdown, the measure was passed and went into effect immediately.

We should all be concerned that what Frisch says on the campaign trail without challenge from the media becomes presented by the same media as factual. Among other things, the irrefutable evidence in Adam Frisch’s own words show he’s also against guns (“fewer guns make sense”), against cars (“it’s great that there are even fewer cars on the road than there could be”) and, according to The Aspen Times, he voted to strip millions of dollars away from Aspen’s affordable housing program, despite saying “affordable housing

was among his top priorities”. He now publicly supports the Inflation Reduction Act because he says, “it’s an important step forward in reducing inflation”. The fact is that the Congressional Budget Office has said the bill won’t reduce inflation.

Yet, if you read the press coverage, you’d falsely be told that he’s pro-gun, pro-jobs, a champion of affordable housing and an economic guru committed to fight inflation. None of that is true. Want to take a guess at how much Aspen’s real estate market has been inflated in part because of aggressively restrictive land development policies and who has played a role in all of that?

Adam Frisch does not have the record of a moderate, but he has clearly demonstrated he is willing to use the same tactics as Nancy Pelosi when he forces late night votes with no time for public input from those that disagree.

I encourage your membership to observe how following not-so-irrefutable facts presented as the truth can lead to dangerous outcomes. The last thing we need in Congress is more of this deceitful, behind-the-scenes extremist behavior masked in “moderation”.

Despite the challenges of getting to the truth by getting to irrefutable facts, the public generally gets it right. After all, the citizens of Aspen had eight years to evaluate my opponent’s record as a member of their city council before his second failed attempt at being their mayor.

When the results were tabulated, Adam Frisch took third place in the race for Aspen Mayor before he hopped in this race for Congress.

In the short term, we can help get the country back on track (and restore the legislative balance) by voting for Republicans to take back the House of Representatives this fall and firing Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House, rather than send her another liberal to vote for more uncontrolled spending which will lead to more inflation.

I went to Washington to help solve problems. Draining the swamp is at the top of the list. I support term limits for all elected officials, single subject legislation and a return to regular order where committees are actually allowed to do their work.

In the rare cases when regular order is followed, we tend to get better outcomes. I successfully helped pass 9 bipartisan legislative efforts into law that are outlined on my website and further described below. I encourage Restore the Balance members to check this legislative effort out, as they are likely to be pleasantly surprised at just how much productive work I’ve been able to accomplish on behalf our district, despite being a member of the minority party in D.C.

Finally, I believe strongly in supporting Restore the Balance's principle that citizens should embrace individual responsibility. It is that very responsibility that has led this country to great heights and even greater generosity. It has also proven to be quite costly when that individual responsibility is ceded to the government.

However, I respectfully disagree with Restore the Balance that, "extremists always talk about 'freedom,' but never mention the responsibility to community that comes with it." I'm not aware of far-left extremists embracing freedom or community, I see them destroying the fabric of our society with the heavy-hand of government doing the bidding of their extreme agenda.

The citizens I know who openly embrace freedom, including myself, also embrace self-reliance, more limited government, charity, volunteerism, and love of God, country, family, friends, members of our military, veterans and those most vulnerable among us, all of whom we feel a strong responsibility to support with love, time and when appropriate, giving. Embracing freedom while supporting others is something I readily engage in and is foundational to who we are as a people.

3. We believe that public interest must come before party loyalty. It is important our elected officials have the courage to stand up for what is right even when their party puts pressure on them to "go along."

a. Is there any current policy of your party you disagree with? If yes, what are you doing to bring about change?

Yes, I've fearlessly voted no against a number of bills that career politicians, including plenty of Republicans, have supported because they fear political retribution. I've proven time and again that I can successfully fight for rural Colorado, get amendments passed that help support critical needs for our district, without playing the Pelosi Con Game. I believe I am leading by example and the more of my colleagues who see how effective that strategy works the better off we all will be. I do not think we should vote to support horrible, hyper-partisan legislation that Nancy Pelosi forces Congress to vote on in the dead of night, even if she slaps a great name on it. Forcing us to find out what's in the bill after it has passed is a terrible way to legislate and I don't want anything to do with that.

b. In the past, have you disagreed with a policy or piece of legislation your party has endorsed or supported? How did you stand up to get your point of view across? What actions did you take?

I ran for Congress in 2020 against a 5-term incumbent of my own party because I did not think he was doing enough to be a strong voice for everyday Americans and that the country was ceding too much ground to the socialist agenda being pushed by the Democrats. We need more fearless leadership willing to fight for everyone in our district. I pointed out plenty of votes our Republican representative had taken over the years that I disagreed with. Rather than following our core conservative principles, he pushed a going-along-to-get-along record which was driving the country into reckless levels of debt and not helping to get our country back on track.

I ran as a conservative, I won as a conservative, and have proudly voted as a conservative in Congress, because these principles work best to elevate every American's opportunity to live the American dream.

On the campaign trail I was clear with everyone that I was not going to go-along-to-get-along with Washington DC insiders or to join their party, I was going to Congress to get the government off our back and stand up for all of us who believe in limited government, personal freedom and personal responsibility.

Fearlessly standing up for our God-given rights against the tide of far-left socialism flooding our political landscape is something I am extremely proud of doing.

It may not always be pretty, but it's worth the fight to get our country back on track and help put a stop to the destructive extremism we are facing on so many fronts. Freedom is a great motivator!

4. Can you provide some examples of how you worked with members of the opposing party to craft legislation as an office holder or in developing your policies as a candidate? Please be specific.

Before I was even sworn in as a Member of Congress, I had my team reach out to all the Members of the Colorado Delegation in both Chambers to set up introductory meetings with them so we could get to know each other and develop a good-working relationship. In some of those meetings, and soon after, I made clear to all of Colorado's Members on both sides of the aisle that keeping the Bureau of Land Management jobs that had been reassigned to Grand Junction and a headquarters in Grand Junction were two of my top bipartisan priorities.

- In my first month in office, I led a letter to President Biden requesting that the Bureau of Land Management headquarters remain in Grand Junction.

- In February of 2021, I participated in a bipartisan and bicameral roundtable with Governor Polis and Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper calling on the Biden

administration to keep the Bureau of Land Management headquarters in Grand Junction.

- In March of 2021, I joined local stakeholders in inviting Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to visit the Bureau of Land Management headquarters in Grand Junction to hear how the agency's move West has benefited rural Americans.
- Later in March that year, I introduced the Local Opportunities, Conservation, and American Lands (LOCAL) Act to ensure that the Bureau of Land Management headquarters and corresponding jobs remain in Grand Junction.
- In April of 2021, I hosted Chairman of the Western Caucus, Congressman Dan Newhouse, at a roundtable with rural stakeholders discussing how the Bureau's move West has given them a voice in land management decisions.
- In July of 2021, I joined a bipartisan and bicameral roundtable and press conference with Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, Congressman Neguse, Governor Polis, and Secretary Haaland about the Bureau of Land Management headquarters in Grand Junction. Secretary Haaland heard from the farmers, ranchers, and rural community members about this important issue.
- In September of 2021, my amendment prohibiting the use of funds made available in the FY2022 budget from being used to close the Bureau of Land Management headquarters in Grand Junction passed the House Committee on Natural Resources with unanimous, bipartisan support.
- Thanks to my public pressure campaign and efforts working with the bipartisan delegation and the Governor, we were able to keep the western headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management and 36 good-paying jobs in Grand Junction and give rural Coloradans a voice in land-use decisions while saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

In another example, when I-70 was shut down for 16.5 days following a catastrophic mudslide, I was one of the first officials to visit the scene and led Colorado's bipartisan congressional delegation in securing more than \$11.6 million dollars to reopen and repair I-70 as soon as possible. To build on this effort and help alleviate the harms of I-70's frequent closures, I introduced the I-70 Detour Act to direct the Department of Transportation to identify an alternative to I-70 and to invest federal resources into improving the route. When crafting this legislation, I worked closely with the Mayor of Glenwood Springs, CDOT, as well as local impacted counties that are represented by both Democrat and Republican Commissioners. I also held a bipartisan roundtable on this issue so we could get local stakeholders in the room and on the same page.

In another example, recently I introduced the House companion to the bipartisan Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act to

protect private water rights. I met with the San Miguel, Dolores and Montezuma County Commissioners and other local stakeholders on both sides of the aisle to understand why this bill was necessary as well as understand any concerns and priorities they had. My staff had multiple meetings and calls with local stakeholders and senator Bennet's staff as we debated and discussed different provisions in the bill. While I would have likely made a few other minor changes if I was the sole person with the pen on this bill, ultimately I introduced the identical House companion to the bill introduced by Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper out of respect for the process and as requested by local stakeholders.

I helped lead the charge to defeat the misguided proposal put forth by Renewable Water Resources to steal seven billion gallons of water per year and dry up 22,667 irrigated acres in perpetuity in the San Luis Valley and pipe the water to the Denver suburbs. In February, I met with farmers, ranchers, local officials, water district managers, and other stakeholders on both sides of the aisle throughout the San Luis Valley to build a coalition opposing this effort. Soon after, I authored and published multiple editorials in newspapers across Colorado advocating to protect the San Luis Valley's water and prevent this transfer. Ultimately, Governor Polis, Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet, Attorney General Weiser, Douglas County Commissioner Lora Thomas, State Senator Cleave Simpson and countless others joined me in strong opposition, and we defeated this water grab.

Finally, I worked closely with Members of the Appropriations Committee and staff on both sides of the aisle to get nine important legislative provisions I requested signed into law. I met with staff and Members early in the process. Then, my team and I drafted dozens of appropriations requests, gathered support for them and submitted them. We pushed hard on these priorities throughout the process with letters, phone calls and emails to ensure they were included in the final bill. These nine bipartisan legislative victories signed into law include:

1. Securing \$1.74 billion for Community Health Centers that provide medical care to rural communities.

2. Securing \$48 million for the U.S. Forest Service to actively manage our forests and address high-priority invasive species and pests like the bark beetle infestations ravaging Colorado and creating deadly wildfire hazards. This victory will help put the Forest Service on the right path to preventing wildfires and responsibly managing our forests, but there is certainly far more to do that I covered in a separate forest management bill I introduced.

3. Securing \$10 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Indian Irrigation Fund to address the deferred maintenance backlog and increase water storage at projects like the Pine River Indian Irrigation Project that provides irrigation to the Southern Ute Indians.

4. Securing a legislative rider to prohibit funding for any efforts to list the greater sage-grouse as an endangered species. If the non-endangered greater sage-grouse is listed, 173 million acres of land could be locked up to shut down energy production, critical mineral production, grazing rights, and other multiple-use activities.

5. Securing \$1 million for the Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program to compensate farmers and ranchers whose livestock are killed by wolves reintroduced by federal programs.

6. Securing a win for farmers and ranchers by securing a legislative rider that delays the implementation of Electronic Logging Devices for livestock haulers for one year.

7. Securing \$515 million for the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. This victory will help rural counties fund law enforcement, firefighters, schools, infrastructure, wildfire prevention efforts, and other important local priorities.

8. Securing important pro-life protections including the Hyde and Weldon amendments.

9. Securing important federal resources for NASA and Colorado's space program including \$2.6 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Launch System (SLS), \$1.4 for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew vehicle, and \$590 million for Exploration Ground Systems.

- 5. There is much concern about mass shootings taking place across the country. Congress has passed bi-partisan legislation on the subject.**
- a. Do you support the legislation that was passed this year? Why or why not?**

Absolutely not. Cornyn-Murphy, the so-called "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act", bribes states with federal money to impose unconstitutional red-flag laws on law-abiding American citizens, seeks to implement "backdoor" universal background checks by reclassifying private sellers as gun dealers, extends background checks for adults under 21-years-old, creates criminal prohibitions on straw purchases, disarms teachers, increases the likelihood that someone selling a gun from their personal collection will catch a federal gun charge, and contains numerous other infringements on our Second Amendment rights.

Equally concerning, this bill was negotiated behind closed doors by a small group of Senators, did not receive a Congressional hearing or markup, and was brought up to the floor for a vote just a few days after its introduction, despite the

legal implications for millions of American gun owners and questions of constitutionality.

Under no circumstances should law-abiding Americans be denied their due process rights and be forced to surrender their right to self-defense.

What folks need to realize is that guns are much more often a tool of safety, not violence. I'm a 100-pound woman who is a mother of four. I need an equalizer in case someone tries to attack my family and me. According to a 2021 National Firearms Survey from Georgetown University, guns are used in self-defense approximately 1.67 million times annually. We are safer because of our ability to defend ourselves with firearms. It is not the government's job or right to take that away from us.

b. What other changes you would like to see in gun legislation?

I'm generally concerned that lawmakers overreact with legislation that makes gun violence worse for law-abiding citizens. Gun-free zones have proven to be deadly. Major cities with the most restrictive gun laws also have the highest level of gun violence. Law abiding citizens become more vulnerable to such violence when laws work against their ability to defend themselves.

There was a missed opportunity to re-allocate unused COVID relief funds initially targeted towards our schools to be redirected towards helping secure our schools. Colorado law permits school boards and charter school boards to authorize staff to carry a concealed handgun as a school security officer. This staffer could be a teacher, administrator, food services worker, bus driver, janitor, etc. Dozens of school districts in Colorado already support allowing trained teachers to defend themselves and their students – an idea supported by 81% of police officers. The state of Ohio just passed a law that makes it easier for teachers and staff to conceal carry guns on school premises in order to protect students and teachers against gun violence in the wake of mass school shootings. I think encouraging those who voluntarily want to participate in such programs is a step in the right direction to providing a safer school environment for our children. There is certainly much more we could be doing with school infrastructure to make schools more secure and less vulnerable to any type of violence.

I've introduced legislation to repeal Cornyn-Murphy and ensure that the federal government moves away from subsidizing unconstitutional red flag laws - the "Shall Not Be Infringed" Act.

We need to protect Americans from overregulation and impediments on their ability to own firearms. Every ATF rule going forward should automatically be subject to Congressional review as a matter of law.

We also need to ensure the recent House-passed bill that banned semi-automatic and large-capacity magazines does not pass the Senate and become law. This bill bans firearms in “common use,” in violation of Supreme Court precedent and also marginalizes our ability to obtain suppressors.

6. The legitimacy of 2020 election has become a point of contention between 2022 election candidates. Do you agree that the 2020 election results were legitimate? If you do not feel that President Joe Biden was fairly elected, why do you feel that way and what factual evidence supports your belief?

As a sitting member of Congress, I would hope we could all agree that election integrity is paramount for the success of our constitutional republic. That’s why I was so proud to join 146 other members of Congress to object to the 2020 Electoral College results. My stated goal when I objected was for Congress to make an informed decision about the integrity of the election as a separate but co-equal branch of government and to make sure that every vote cast was legal, regardless of which candidate American citizens voted for.

My job as your Representative is not to rubber stamp such results when so many of my constituents had, and continue to have, serious questions about the integrity of the vote. That’s why Representatives of over one hundred million Americans voted alongside me in objecting to the results.

Notably, objections to the Electoral College results had taken place in previous years by Democrats, so this by no means was something novel. Rather, my objection was a serious attempt to learn more about what had happened during the 2020 election.

The speech I gave at the House of Representatives explaining my objection outlined the factual evidence that concerned me, and continues to concern me, because Congress did not use its authority as a separate but co-equal branch of government to make an informed decision. Notably, my focus was on the circumvention of the state legislatures’ constitutional election authority.

While my speech expressed specific concerns about the Arizona election, there were other reasonable reasons to be concerned about election integrity. For example, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered a three-day extension past election day for ballots to be received and be counted even if those mail-in ballots didn’t have a postmark validating the ballot had been mailed by election day. In fact, they even ruled ballot envelopes didn’t need a postmark. This was in direct violation of the election laws set forth by the Pennsylvania state legislature, which requires all mail-in ballots to be received by 8:00pm on election night. If

Pennsylvania wanted to change the law, they could have called a special session of the state legislature. Instead, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided. The content of my floor speech regarding Arizona's election follows below.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And to ease everyone's nerve I want you to all know that I am not here to challenge anyone to a duel like Alexander Hamilton or Aaron Burr.

Madam Speaker, my primary objection to the counting of the electoral votes of the state of Arizona is based on the Constitution and the direction of state legislatures through state law as spelled out in the following two clauses: Article 2, Section 1, Clause 2 states in part, and I quote, "Each state shall appoint in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors." And, the election clause of the Constitution provides state legislatures with explicit authority to prescribe, and I quote, "the Times, Places and Manners of holding Elections," end quote.

For more than three decades, Arizona law set by the state Legislature has required that voter registration end no later than 29 days before an election. This is clear. It is law. Unless amended by the state Legislature. This is the way it needs to be carried out.

In Arizona, the deadline for voter registration for the 2020 presidential election was October 5, 2020. Using COVID as a reasoning, Democrats filed a lawsuit to extend this deadline by 18 days. And an injunction was made by an Obama-appointed judge preventing the Arizona Secretary of State from enforcing the constitutional deadline set by the state Legislature. As a result of this frivolous, partisan lawsuit, 10 extra days were added via judicial fiat to allow voter registration. These 10 days were added after voting had already begun. This is completely indefensible. You cannot change the rules of an election while it is underway and expect the American people to trust it.

Now, in this 10-day period, at least 30,000 new voters registered to vote in Arizona. All of these votes are unconstitutional. It does not matter if they voted for President Trump or if they voted for Vice President Biden. They did not register in time for the election. The law states October 5th. Either we have laws or we do not.

If we allow state election laws as set forth by state legislatures to be ignored and manipulated on the whims of partisan lawsuits, unelected bureaucrats unlawful procedures and arbitrary rules, then our constitutional republic will cease to exist.

The oath that I took this past Sunday to defend and support the Constitution makes it necessary for me to object to this travesty. Otherwise the laws passed by the legislative branch merely become suggestions to be accepted, rejected or manipulated by those who did not pass them.

Madam Speaker, I have constituents outside this building right now. I promised my voters to be their voice.

In this branch of government, in which I now serve, it is my separate but equal obligation to weigh in on this election and object.

Are we not a government of, by, and for the people? They know that this election is not right and as their representative I am sent here to represent them. I will not allow the people to be ignored.

Madam Speaker, it is my duty under the U.S. Constitution to object to the counting of the electoral votes of the state of Arizona. The members who stand here today and accept the results of this concentrated, coordinated, partisan effort by Democrats, where every fraudulent vote cancels out the vote of an honest American, has sided with the extremist left.

The United States Congress needs to make an informed decision and that starts with this objection.

7. What are the three biggest issues facing citizens in Western Colorado? Briefly describe your proposed solutions to two of these three issues.

1. Water
2. Gas Prices and Energy
3. Economy and Jobs

WATER

For years, Colorado and the West have suffered from drought. I am a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife and have made water policy a top priority. In Congress, I have worked on innovative solutions like strengthening legal protections for water rights, fighting noxious water wasting weeds, securing funds for building more water storage and delivery projects like the Wolf Creek Reservoir expansion, and prohibiting federal takings of local water sources.

I am a strong advocate for protecting local communities' water rights and keeping our water in the Third District. I helped lead the charge to defeat RWR's proposal to steal seven billion gallons of water per year, and dry up 22,667 irrigated acres in perpetuity, in the San Luis Valley in order to transfer water to the Denver suburbs.

I am aggressively working to remove invasive salt cedar and Russian olive trees that are guzzling water and recently secured an important appropriations victory that will allow for a pilot program to combat salt cedars. Salt cedars consume about 200 gallons of water per day per plant.

In a legislative provision signed into law, I secured \$10 million for the Indian Irrigation Fund to address the deferred maintenance backlog and increase water storage projects like the Southern Utes' Pine River Indian Irrigation Project.

I introduced the Western Water Security Act to protect private property rights, prevent federal water grabs, and help ensure an abundant supply of clean water for future generations.

I cosponsored the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act, bipartisan legislation passed the House and provides Endangered Species Act compliance for approximately 2,200 water projects while helping recover endangered fish.

I introduced H.R. 4302, comprehensive forestry legislation that will improve forest health and protect our watersheds. According to the Colorado State Forest Service more than 24.4 million acres of Colorado forestland impact Colorado's water supply, where 80% of the state's population relies on those forested watersheds for municipal water supplies. Healthy forests act as a natural water filter and storage system and are critical to maintaining healthy watersheds. In the United States, forests are a source of drinking water for over 180 million people. The U.S. consistently allows over 10 million acres per year to burn up in catastrophic wildfires. My legislation adopts a forward-thinking, active management strategy that combats catastrophic wildfires before they get started. We can reduce the size and severity of wildfires through active forest management, which will also help protect our watersheds and municipal water supplies.

GAS PRICES AND ENERGY

Currently, 20 million Americans can't pay their electric bill. That is unacceptable. American strength starts with American energy dominance. I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy that utilizes all domestic energy sources including hydropower, nuclear, coal, solar, oil, wind, natural gas, geothermal, and other renewables.

America makes the cleanest energy in the world. In fact, our natural gas is 42% cleaner than Russian gas. American innovation, in particular fracking, has allowed America to be the global leader in reducing emissions. We need to stop buying oil and gas from Russia, stop begging OPEC, Venezuela and even Iran to produce energy for us, and start relying on the American roughneck.

Sadly, the Biden regime and far-left environmentalists have continued their all-out war on American energy production. Biden shut down the Keystone XL pipeline on day one, imposed new rules to block pipeline projects, cancelled oil and gas leases on millions of acres in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico, suspended oil-drilling leases in a small sliver of ANWR even though Congress passed a law for this very purpose, imposed a moratorium on new federal oil and gas leases on federal lands, failed to meet the statutory deadlines for quarterly lease sales, and took countless other anti-energy measures that have contributed to gas prices and inflation reaching record levels.

The left also actively worked to make sure the Jordan Cove pipeline never saw the light of day, which would have helped export Western Colorado's natural gas to the world, creating more high-paying jobs for our local economy.

I introduced H.R. 7012 to get America back on a path towards energy independence. My legislation would restart construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, ban importing Russian oil and natural gas, end the Biden regime's new policy that prevents pipeline construction, and resume oil and natural gas leasing. My bill will increase American energy exports to boost our economy and project American strength while exporting freedom throughout the world.

I also introduced the Fueling American Prosperity Act, legislation that will reduce gas prices and responsibly develop American energy by resuming energy leases Biden canceled and expediting the permit process.

I also introduced the Protecting American Energy Jobs Act, legislation that repeals Biden's job-killing executive mandates, ensures reliable and affordable energy supplies, and fosters economic growth and job creation in rural communities.

My amendment to use scientific active forest management to protect critical energy infrastructure passed through the House Committee on Natural Resources unanimously with bipartisan support.

America has the highest standards and regulations in the world. We can responsibly develop the energy America needs to be independent while also protecting the environment.

These aren't mutually exclusive choices, but they do require overcoming the destructive behavior of far-left extremists.

The experience of work European countries is a cautionary tale, where the cost of "clean" electricity is now hovering at almost ten times the cost of ours. Our trajectory towards Europe in both policy and cost is alarming. We need to be smarter about it and not repeat the same mistakes.

Note: Your question requested answers for two of the three, but I am happy to also provide an answer for Economy and Jobs solutions if you would like to share that with your members.