

and balanced the service. Yes, a tax increase is still needed, but the burden was shared and not a threat to our safety.

Become an educated voter, challenge the doom and gloom they threaten if the increase is not approved. Aren't you tired of bailing out the governing we entrust with our tax dollars to?

Gary Rusnak

Hawkins has what D-38 needs

Successful organizations know that part of being good means a commitment to getting better. To continually improve, the pursuit of excellence needs to be at the forefront of any great organization's mission. That has been the goal of Lewis-Palmer School District for many years.

I believe Mrs. Sherri Hawkins, school board candidate for Lewis-Palmer School District 38, will provide the focus, drive, and commitment to continue making improvements in the future of our schools. I have known Mrs. Hawkins for 10 years, and as former superintendent of schools in D-38, I had the opportunity to work with her as she served on the school board in 2014. Mrs. Hawkins will strive to keep D-38 on the upward path so that the education for our children will be outstanding, our property values and quality of life in the Tri-Lakes Area will prosper, and our graduates will be successful members of society. Please visit Mrs. Hawkins' website at sherri4lpsd38.com and view the qualifications that make her a great candidate for D-38 school board. Please vote in November, and when you go to the polls, be an informed voter.

I am proud of our school district's heritage, our teachers, and administrators, who strive daily in the classrooms and schools to ensure excellence, and my opportunity as a former superintendent to be part of a community that supports our schools and students.

Ted Bauman

Vote for Hawkins and DeAngelis for school board

We have two D-38 School Board seats up for election. District 1, which is the Palmer Lake area, and District 3, the north Woodmoor/Sherwood Glen area. All registered voters within the D-38 boundaries vote for all board member candidates regardless of the director districts in which they live.

Sherri Hawkins is running for reelection in District 1. Sherri's performance as board president this past year clearly merits her reelection. She is a rational leader who creates a respectful environment that allows all voices to be heard. She is fully committed to sustaining D-38's academic excellence. Sherri deserves to retain her seat on the board.

We are fortunate Tom DeAngelis has stepped forward to replace John Magerko in District 3. Tom is a VP with Global Technology Resources, Inc.—a market leader in information technology solutions for business and government. Today's D-38 educational environment is steeped in applied information technology—both as a useful, but costly educational resource, as well as an essential administrative tool. So D-38 and its taxpayers can profit in many ways from having Tom's IT expertise.

Tom, incidentally, is truly joined to our area at the hip. He is a 2000 USAFA graduate; his wife, Karin, has a Ph.D. and a faculty position at the Academy; and their two kids are budding members of the D-38 student body. So we are indeed fortunate to be able to replace John Magerko's quality with a candidate of equally high educational and professional credentials, and a family equally committed to education.

Carefully weigh the alternative candidates by their credentials. I expect you will reach the same conclusion I have and vote for Sherri and Tom.

Russ Broshous

D-38 establishment candidates predictably progressive

District 38 voters will elect two school board members this November. The teachers' union and their supporters are gushing over their preferred candidates on social media: Board President Sherri Hawkins and Democrat Tom DeAngelis. Insisting school board elections are nonpartisan doesn't hide the fact that these two candidates stand in grand opposition to grass-roots conservatives Chris Taylor and Tiffney Upchurch on the issues.

DeAngelis' website reveals a concerning assumption that children attend school to be raised, not educated. He plans to staff schools with mental health experts for "programs and access to properly trained professionals when our kids need a place to go for help" to create what he considers "a necessary supporting structure." This means taking money from teachers to hire a staff of de facto social workers. It's the community center model approach to education, where government officials override parents' authority over their own children.

Ignoring the well-known cognitive damage that digital overuse has on children, DeAngelis wants to "introduce additional use of technology, to "get [laptops, tablets] into our kids' hands." This means less privacy and more data-mining. It will eventually relegate teachers to the role of "facilitators" as districts replace them

with digitized instruction.

Moreover, hold on to your wallets. DeAngelis praises district officials for paying consultants \$100,000 to predict population growth a full eight years out—to justify asking taxpayers for two new schools. His pledge to "maximize our taxpayer provided funding" means "tax hikes."

DeAngelis also pledges to "keep public education public," a common slogan for school choice opponents who falsely claim that charter schools are private schools. He joins Hawkins in her prejudice against Monument Academy.

Taylor and Upchurch will support real fiscal conservatism, the primacy of parents, school choice, and redirecting our budget to living, breathing teachers. For our kids and community.

Cheryl Darnell

Upchurch is a proven leader

I have known Tiffney Upchurch since I took on my Board of Education role for the State of Colorado in 2014. She has actively demonstrated her dedication in Lewis-Palmer D-38 for almost nine years, holding several leadership roles, including the chairmanship of Lewis-Palmer Elementary School Advisory Committee and membership in the D-38 School Accountability and Advisory Committee. I highly recommend Tiffney Upchurch for the position of school board for District 38.

Mrs. Upchurch has a record as a proven leader in overseeing budgets and large projects. She has always demonstrated a willingness to discuss differing ideas and strategies to meet goals. She understands her role as a representative of a larger body and will bring that to the board as a leader and advocate. This willingness to foster inclusive collaboration is essential for success within any organization and is especially important for a school district board. Tiffney Upchurch is fiscally responsible, being quick to question undefined expenditures. Her focus on the rights of children as individual learners, rights of parents, respect for educators, and the desire to build trust with taxpayers will be an asset to D-38 in the coming years.

I am joining a number of distinguished members in our area that endorse Tiffney Upchurch for the Lewis-Palmer District 38 School Board. These include: Kent Lambert, state senator, vice-chair Joint Budget Committee; Owen Hill, state senator, chair Senate Education Committee; Dan Nordberg, state representative; Peggy Littleton, El Paso County Commissioner, former State Board of Education Director; Stan VanderWerf, El Paso County Commissioner; Longinos Gonzalez, El Paso County Commissioner; Joe Woyte, El Paso County GOP Executive Committee, United States Air Force Academy Class of 1996.

Please consider voting for Tiffney Upchurch in the upcoming D-38 election.

Steve Durham

State Board of Education, Congressional District 5

Our picks: Chris and Tiff

If there is anything learned it's friends, neighbors, and good people in your community can get caught up in the schemes and agendas of outsiders doing more harm than good. In recent years our friends and neighbors who run D-38 have become willing participants in the federal takeover of our schools. In the name of achieving a national system that has a "Common Core."

So it is with local leaders, many of whom consider themselves to be conservative, seem to have quietly watched as new textbooks, tests, surveys, and mental health professionals have poured into our schools. This is why we endorse both Tiffney Upchurch and Chris Taylor to restore local control within our district.

Upchurch has the ability to unite others with differing views. She not only believes in collaboration but exemplifies it.

Tiffney has 25 years' experience involving various educational leadership roles including serving on several committees; PTO, DAAC, etc. The mother of a gifted/autistic child, she understands and can empathize with diverse individuals.

Taylor, as chief executive officer of P3 Data systems, he instilled guiding principles based on strong core values including unwavering integrity. The same attributes and character Chris will bring to the board allowing for equitable discussion among members and community to positively ignite innovative ideas. He brings expertise in technology deploying Lean Six Sigma initiatives.

Both candidates recognize the powerful role of parenting and being able to partner with educational experts to achieve the highest level of a quality education.

Not long ago many good people thought a methadone clinic centralized in Monument would be both dutiful and necessary to resolve some problems that state officials claimed we had while ignoring the problems a methadone clinic would bring. Restore local control!

Jamie Fenley, Barb and Tom Allen

Hawkins brings focus on children

I would encourage members of our community to support Sherrie Hawkins, who is running for a second term for our local LPSD school board. My professional experience as a former principal of Palmer Lake Element-

tary School, educator for over 30 years, and community member since 1978 leads me to believe that Sherrie Hawkins has what it takes to keep the tradition of excellence in our district alive and well. I have seen her attend many district-wide events and stand up for doing what is best for our students, parents, teachers, and community. Her main focus is on the success and support of our children. In these trying times, she is the person that we need because she just cares about kids, doesn't have hidden agendas, and loves our community. In my opinion Sherri is the candidate that we need to cut through the politics and get on with doing what is right for our great district. Let's support someone who keeps children first.

Julie Jadomski

Keep D-38 on the right path when voting for school board

This fall there will be an election for the D-38 School Board. D-38 is an outstanding district, both academically and financially. It is incredibly important to elect members to the D-38 board who will keep D-38 on this path.

Conversely, while Monument Academy is academically successful, its finances are in bad shape. Refer to their most recent audit report: http://www.monumentacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MA-Audit-Report-06_30_17.pdf

See note 5 on page 25. In December 2014, they refinanced their building debt, increasing their total debt to more than \$14 million on a building valued at \$10 million. This debt runs until 2040, totaling more than 30 years of debt payments.

See page 6. Net position over time is an indicator of an institution's financial position. The MA Net Position is currently \$12.6 million in the red. Per note 6 (page 28), this indicator continues to worsen by \$9 million over the next four years.

This is \$21 million in debt in 2021.

It's no wonder the MA leadership has come after money from D-38. Executive Director Don Griffin threatened to sue D-38 in 2016. Sonya Camarco, an MA Board treasurer and president for the past three years, announced her candidacy for the D-38 board, until the SEC alleged she stole \$2.8 million from her investors.

Camarco has been replaced by Chris Taylor, a candidate with the same supporters and agenda.

Before you vote, ask each candidate what his/her position is on bailing Monument Academy out of their financial situation. Ask each candidate which D-38 schools they have supported the last few years. Remember that the MA Board is not publicly elected or accountable.

Elect board members who are not tied to a financially troubled charter school. Vote for Hawkins and DeAngelis for D-38 Board of Education. (See www.kktv.com/content/news/Colorado-Springs-woman-accused-of-misappropriating-more-than-850000-in-client-funds-448002293.html)

Name withheld by request

Taylor brings vision, expertise

We live in School District 38. Both of our daughters now have families and careers. They attended several K-12 schools for their first 18 years because we served in the U.S. Air Force for over 30 years with 18 moves. We saw good and not so good programs. If there was one common denominator, it was the quality of the school board. We have lived in D-38 for 14 years and have followed the successes and challenges of the school board. Our current understanding is that the challenges facing the district are resource-centric. Thus, it is our belief that the board needs directors that understand how to efficiently manage resources (budgets, overhead costs, capital improvement, etc.).

Members of our district recruited Chris Taylor for this role, and he did not hesitate in agreeing to run. Chris is our neighbor, his wife is a former teacher, and they have two children attending school in this district. As with many subdivisions, we have a homeowners association. We had serious issues, and Chris, as a seasoned certified public accountant, offered to become the association's corporate treasurer. Chris conducted the research necessary to bring clarity to numerous property issues haunting our association. His research resolved lingering problems and led to tremendous efficiency in terms of financial obligations. Now, all current and future corporate funding obligations have been met while enabling annual dues to be reduced by 50 percent. Chris also guided us through capital improvements.

Chris will bring (a) a vision for an excellent education for our children, and (b) seasoned expertise for the efficient management of resources and capital improvements for the future. A vote for Chris Taylor is a vote for our children, quality teachers, and respect for the taxpayer.

Ron and Mary Scott

Build upon the previous success of the school district

Conservative Leadership – The conservatism principle of accounting influences my perspective. Accountants should be fair and objective. I'll bring that perspective