

CANDIDATE SURVEY VOTER GUIDE NOVEMBER 2019



This publication is a free, nonpartisan service provided by Citizens Project to encourage informed voting and voter turnout. Responses were not edited for grammar, punctuation, or spelling and were truncated if they exceeded the word count.

This is an ALL-MAIL election and ballots must be RECEIVED by November 5, 2019 by 7pm.



Candidates were asked seven questions. Visit www.citizensproject.org for all responses. Questions? Email info@citizensproject.org

	<p><i>What will you do to ensure equity among the schools in your district, accounting for varying needs of students and families? How do you ensure that your budget reflects these values?</i></p>	<p><i>What steps should be taken to acknowledge the rights and needs of LGBTQ students and create inclusive learning environments? Specifically, how will you implement HB19-1032, Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education, to ensure that LGBTQ students are included in sexual education?</i></p>	<p><i>Considering the frequency of youth suicides recently, how will you guide your district to better meet the emotional/social/safety needs of students?</i></p>
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Lewis-Palmer School District 38: District 4

 <p>RYAN GRAHAM</p>	<p>As a member of the board we will listen to the superintendent/administrators/teachers to identify what is working and what is not working for the varying needs of students and families. We will make sure that we have the materials, resources and systems in place (personalized learning) to ensure that every child has an opportunity for success. Regarding budgeting we will look at our monetary resources and decide how to direct resources where needed based on the varying needs of students and families.</p>	<p>Every student should be treated equally regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation. Lewis Palmer District 38 adopted and passed a resolution on 8/26/2019 regarding local control as it relates to HB 19-1032. Per the district resolution – “The Lewis Palmer School District Board of Education does not intend to approve a course of instruction that would be required to follow the contents of HB 19-1032 as that would constitute a violation of the Board’s control of instruction and, thus, be unconstitutional.” I am in full support of this resolution.</p>	<p>As a board we need to continually review the existing programs for efficacy and look at ways of improving. Currently D-38 has “Sources of Strength” with student leaders, Phil Donahue from Value Up and Safe to Tell which all provide avenues of support for our students emotional/social/safety needs. As a board member I would also encourage bringing the parents, student and teachers into the conversation for greater success overcoming some of the emotional/social/safety needs of our kids.</p>
 <p>RON SCHWARZ</p>	<p>In order to achieve equity, I would first study the current spending methodology and the results it has delivered. Then, I would map these results to what the law requires a school district (in Colorado) to do. Once this analysis is complete we can then determine how equitable the budget allocation’s results have been, what our options are, and move forward on delivering equity and lasting quality. Our Declaration of Independence says “all men (and women) are created equal” hence, each child deserves a “fair shot”.</p>	<p>In our School District the leadership has already declared its stance on this issue. They have resolved not to participate in this bill based on the premise of self-rule, which is a Colorado statute.</p>	<p>I am not a professional in the area of psychology. There are a few common areas that a school system, in partnership with families, can impact. Unfortunately, this is a national challenge involving dynamics such as screen time, family values and social pressures (at and away from school), to name a few. Each scenario is unique, hence the staff(s) must be armed with several tools to ensure they can move quickly and have a lasting impact. Student/faculty safety and physical security of our schools are non-negotiable, “must-haves” for each facility.</p>

Lewis-Palmer School District 38: District 5

 <p>MATTHEW CLAWSON</p>	<p>One challenge is to provide a top-notch education for every student with the scarce resources available to a growing LPSD 38. However, because our district is smaller, we frequently review school needs and judiciously appropriate the necessary funds for each school, all while striving to maintain complete transparency. We also consistently and conscientiously review our budget and monetary expenditures in the district, providing this information on a routine basis to our stakeholders.</p>	<p>I believe in the rule of law. The Colorado Constitution clearly states local school boards, “shall have control of instruction in the public schools of their respective districts;” a constitutional principle known as “local control.” The values of the community should determine what is taught to our children. HB19-1032 really has little effect on D38 as our current sexual education curriculum was developed by our parents, teachers and administrators and addresses the needs of our students.</p>	<p>Counselors and mental health professionals may not be a student’s initial confidant in that crucial first revelation of critical stress, thus we should equip educators on how to make a positive impact, foster an environment in which students have access to privately express their feelings, and nurture collaboration with parents. Our in-school counselors/administrators have received extensive training on identifying and helping at-risk teens. Our district is making great strides in promoting programs such as Sources of Strength, Safe-To-Tell, Kiwanis, RAD teen activities and community activities.</p>
 <p>ADAM CUPP</p>	<p>Partnering with parents and promoting open communication is the most effective way to ensure that schools meet the unique needs of students. Educating parents on available resources encourages families to express concerns or needs and to gain support. A school board relies on principals to communicate their school’s specific needs; it’s important to allow principals to continue to develop their school’s budget and allow the district to collaborate for an outcome that is optimal for that neighborhood school.</p>	<p>The district currently promotes a positive learning environment for all students. I concur that all students, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, special need, ability, or sexual orientation are owed the same right to a safe school where a culture of respect and dignity prevail. I support the board’s recent effort to retain their jurisdiction over curriculum content, regardless of topic.</p>	<p>Promoting a culture of kindness and treating each other with respect is central to creating a positive environment for students and staff alike. The district must maintain open communication with families to identify students at risk. Adults must set an example for their students by examining their own conduct and communicating through action the importance of civil relationship building both in person and online. I support strong measures to deter mistreatment of staff or students and take appropriate measures to maintain building security.</p>

State Ballot Issues

Proposition CC
Without raising taxes, Proposition CC would allow the state to retain excess revenue to invest in public education and transportation, instead of refunding a nominal amount to each taxpayer.
A YES vote supports allowing the state to retain excess revenue and invest in public education and transportation.
A NO vote supports no added investment in public education and transportation.
Citizens Project Position: Citizens Project supports Proposition CC, which facilitates equitable state funding for public education and other public services.

Proposition DD
Authorizes regulation of sports betting in Colorado and taxes licensed casinos to fund the State Water Plan and gambling addiction services.
A YES vote would authorize the regulation of sports betting and funding for the State Water Plan.
A NO vote supports no change.

Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Issue 4A
4A authorizes a \$28.985 million bond to fund a new elementary school to alleviate overcrowding in current schools and allow for growth in the district.
A YES vote supports funding the bond at an estimated cost of \$35 per month for the average business owner.
A NO vote supports no change in funding for D38 schools.



Empowering & challenging our community to embrace equity, diversity, and separation of church and state.