



**2024 ELECTION INFORMATION AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Federal and State Candidates:



**Donald Trump / JD
Vance**

**UNITED STATES PRESIDENT /
VICE PRESIDENT**

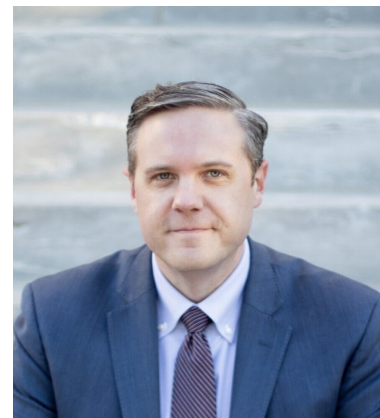
[Website](#)



Jeff Hurd

**US HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT 3**

[Website](#)





Sherri M Wright
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEMBER - CD3

[Website](#)

Eric Rinard
REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF COLORADO - AT LARGE

[Website](#)



Ray Scott
REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF COLORADO - CD3

[Website](#)

Marc Catlin
COLORADO SENATE
DISTRICT 5

[Website](#)



Caleb Waller
COLORADO HOUSE
DISTRICT 57

[Website](#)



Ben Sollars
DISTRICT ATTORNEY -
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 9

[Website](#)



County and Municipal Offices:

Pitkin County Commissioner - District 3: Greg Poschman (uncontested, supports airport modernization)

Pitkin County Commissioner - District 4: Jeffrey H. Woodruff (uncontested, supports airport modernization)

Pitkin County Commissioner - District 5: Francie Jacober (supports airport modernization)

Town of Snowmass Village - Mayor: NO RECOMMENDATION

Town of Snowmass Village - Town Council (vote for two): Cecily DeAngelo, Thomas

Judicial Retention Questions:

We recommend retaining all judges with the exception of Colorado Supreme Court Justice Monica M. Marquez, for whom we recommend a **NO/DO NOT RETAIN** vote. Our recommendations are based on the State Commission on Judicial Performance's evaluations.

State Ballot Measures:

For this section of the ballot, we have incorporated the recommendations of the Colorado Republican Party and those of Pitkin County Republicans' Executive Committee.

Amendment G: YES/FOR – Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities

Expands the property tax exemption for veterans with a disability to veterans with individual unemployment status.

Amendment H: YES/FOR – Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality

An amendment to create an independent adjudicative board to preside over ethical misconduct hearings involving judges; and allow for increased public access to judicial discipline proceedings and records. This Amendment increases transparency in government.

Amendment I: YES/FOR – Constitutional Bail Exception for First Degree Murder

A “yes” vote on Amendment I allows judges to deny bail to a person charged with first degree murder when the judge determines that the proof is evident or presumption is great that the person committed the crime. Judges should reserve this right to remove violent offenders from the street pending trial.

Amendment J: NO RECOMMENDATION/VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE – Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment

We make no recommendation and urge you to vote your conscience.

A “yes” vote supports removing the provision of the state constitution that says that “only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state.”

A “no” vote opposes removing the provision of the state constitution that says that “only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state.”

Amendment K: NO/AGAINST – Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

Amendment K makes certain election filing deadlines one week earlier. Specifically, the measure moves up the deadline for citizens to submit signatures for initiatives and referendum petitions and for judges to file a declaration of intent to seek another term.

Citizens already have an almost insurmountable battle when applying for ballot titling and signature gathering. Removing another week from this process places another burden on an already daunting task, as the legislature wants ballot initiatives to be difficult.

Amendment 79: NO/AGAINST – Constitutional Right to Abortion

This initiative would create a constitutional amendment establishing the right to abortion in Colorado’s Constitution. It would also ensure that state and local public employees, as well as Medicaid recipients, have abortion coverage included in their health insurance plans.

Given vastly differing views on the balancing of rights on this issue, healthcare payers should not be obligated to cover abortion and related procedures.

Amendment 80: YES/FOR – Statutory Right to School Choice

This initiative adds the right to school choice into the state Constitution; the right for parents to direct the education of their child to enroll them in a public school, charter school, private school; homeschool them; or send them to another district through open enrollment. Given the repeated attacks on charter schools by the legislature, parents must continue to have options.

Proposition JJ: NO/AGAINST – Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue

“Allow the state to retain tax revenue collected above \$29 million annually from the tax on sports betting proceeds”

This measure would allow the state to retain tax revenue collected above \$29 million annually from the tax on sports betting proceeds. A no vote requires the state to give back anything above the \$29M, which is the correct mechanism when the entities are over-taxed. Allowing businesses to retain more of their revenue is good economic policy.

Proposition KK: NO/AGAINST – Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax

Prop. KK will impose a 6.5% tax on firearms and ammunition for Coloradans in addition to the Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax (10%-11% federal tax on firearms and ammo). This is nothing more than an attempt by Colorado Democrats to price people out of their 2nd Amendment rights. This is another attempt to hurt law-abiding gun-owners.

Proposition 127: NO/AGAINST – Prohibit Trophy Hunting

This initiative creates a ban on recreational trophy hunting and commercial fur trapping in Colorado. According to Colorado Parks & Wildlife, hunting is one way in which the big cat population is effectively managed, and the populations at present are ideal. Out-of-state extremists are using ballot box biology to scare voters about hunting and firearms, using misleading terms like “cruel death,” to accomplish other means, mostly anti-gun rhetoric. With the myriad of issues created from the reintroduction of wolves through a ballot measure, other attempts at ballot box biology must be opposed.

Proposition 128: YES/FOR – Truth in Sentencing (Eligibility for Parole)

This initiative would require offenders convicted of crimes that occur after January 1, 2025 to serve 85% of their sentence before being eligible for parole, versus the current requirement to serve 75% of their terms. Parole eligibility would remain the same for offenders convicted of crimes that occur before Jan. 1, 2025 and for offenders with two or more prior violent crime convictions, who must serve their full sentence before being eligible for parole. This initiative gives victims and the public more transparent expectations about offender sentencing.

Proposition 129: YES/FOR – Establish Qualifications and Registration for Veterinary Professional Associate

This initiative creates the profession called veterinary professional associate, which requires a master’s degree and registration with the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. These changes are a potential solution to the state’s shortage of veterinary care, while also expanding access in rural communities. Several models show that VPAs will decrease the cost of veterinary care. In addition, VPAs could also help fill the need for workers in animal welfare organizations. In a pet-centric state like Colorado, access to veterinary care, especially in rural areas, is critical.

Proposition 130: YES/FOR – Funding for Law Enforcement

This initiative creates the Peace Officer Training and Support Fund, which would provide \$350M funding for law enforcement officer training, retention, and hiring, as well as up to \$1M in benefits for spouses and children of officers or first responders killed in the line of duty. The ‘Back the Blue’ initiative ensures that Colorado makes a much-needed investment to fight back against the rising tide of crime and illegal drug trafficking without raising taxes. Since the initiative specifies that money can never come from raising taxes, funds will come from the general budget, taking money away from less valuable government programs.

Proposition 131: NO/AGAINST – Concerning the Conduct of Elections (Jungle Primaries & Ranked Choice Voting)

This initiative changes the primary election to a single ballot including all candidates – major parties, minor parties and unaffiliated – and used by all voters. Candidates’ party affiliation will be listed. It also establishes a top-four ranked choice voting system in Colorado for congressional, gubernatorial, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, University of Colorado Board of Regents, state Board of Education and legislative elections.

The problems with Ranked Choice Voting are numerous. It’s confusing, time consuming, and has not been shown to produce more effective leadership. Most worryingly, through its complexity, it locks in an opaque electoral tabulation system that generates significant distrust in our elections.

County and Municipal Ballot Measures:

It’s imperative that you vote **YES on Pitkin County Ballot Question 1C** and **NO on Pitkin County Ballot Question 200**.

The Aspen/Pitkin County Airport is in desperate need of major runway repairs and an upgrade to the outdated and uncomfortable passenger terminal. Next May, the airport is going to be **closed for nearly four weeks** just to make temporary repairs to the runway. Ultimately, the runway needs to be completely replaced and the terminal needs to be significantly upgraded, at a cost upwards of \$200 Million. The good news is that there is an excellent plan in place to do this, with support from nearly every elected leader and elected municipal body in Pitkin County and funding available through the FAA. After a decade of planning and the work of over a hundred Pitkin County citizens in advisory roles, the County Commissioners have approved a plan 5-0.

To finance this plan, Pitkin County needs to get funding from the FAA, *in addition to* the funds that the county will receive from a new contract with Atlantic Aviation to operate the FBO for private aviation. To access the funding, the FAA is requiring that the runway be widened and the separation between the runway and taxiway be extended. The FAA is asking for this only *because it will enhance the safety of the airport by making it compliant with current design standards*. This will allow slightly larger planes to land, including the fuel-efficient, modern Airbus A220. Most importantly, **the upgraded technology on these new planes is expected to significantly reduce delays and cancellations for commercial (non-private) flights.**

Unfortunately, an opposition group formed to forestall the needed repairs to the airport. This opposition group prominently features current Aspen Mayor Torre and former Aspen Mayor Mick Ireland. While offering little in the way of facts or reasoning, if this group is successful, we will lose out on the FAA funding, which is expiring in 2025. Most worryingly, it has been reported that this group will attempt to tie the county up in lawsuits and we’ll lose the funding if they are successful, or at minimum have years of delays and

extended closures for temporary repairs in the meantime.

We cannot be more clear. If you want to have a functional, modern airport in Aspen, with significantly fewer flight delays, **vote YES on 1C and No on Question 200**.

Pitkin County Ballot Issue 1A: NO/AGAINST - Affordable and Workforce Housing Mill Levy

Until APCA can show itself to be a responsible steward of funding, we will oppose granting additional funding.

Pitkin County Ballot Issue 1B: YES/FOR - County Solid Waste Center Bonds
Needed infrastructure funding.

Pitkin County Ballot Question 1C: YES/FOR - BOCC Referred Home Rule Charter Amendment

Critical vote for the airport modernization. See note above.

Pitkin County Ballot Question 200: NO/AGAINST - Citizen Initiated Home Rule Charter Amendment

Critical vote for the airport modernization. See note above.

City of Aspen Ballot Issue 2A: NO/AGAINST - Extension of Real Estate Transfer Tax
The Aspen RETT is a large fund that the city has not put to fully productive use.

City of Aspen Ballot Issue 2B: NO/AGAINST - Extension of Existing 0.45% Sales Tax Affordable Housing and Day Care

Aspen Town Council is moving forward with the shockingly expensive Lumberyard development without sufficient means to pay for it. Meanwhile, the APCA program has been marked by an inability or unwillingness to efficiently allocate bedrooms to those in the local workforce who need them. Until APCA and Aspen can show themselves to be responsible stewards of funding, we will oppose granting additional funding.

City of Aspen Ballot Issue 2C: YES/FOR - Imposition of a Use Tax on Motor Vehicles
This Ballot Issue actually slightly lowers the vehicle tax.

Town of Snowmass Village Ballot Question 2D: NO/AGAINST - Approve Workforce Housing Project Spending Limit

This measure would allow the Town of Snowmass to build out the expensive and unpopular Draw site project near Town Hall, while the better option is to build a less expensive and more sensible project next to the Snowmass Center.