



Libertarian Party of El Paso County
PO Box 7952
Colorado Springs, CO 80933

Please complete questionnaires by 3/4/2019 and return to chair@lpepc.org.

1. What is the legitimate fundamental purpose or function of government?

I support our US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. As set forth in the Declaration of Independence, governments are instituted to secure our inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

2. What should your role be in carrying out the purpose of government?

All citizens should be involved in their government, which derives its just powers from the consent of the governed.

3. What are your thoughts on term limits for city council members?

Every election provides a term limit—and Colorado law's recall provisions provide another check.

4. Do you support the use of eminent domain? When is its use appropriate?

Only in very limited circumstances (primarily things that must be continuous, such as roads and utility lines) after attempting all reasonable alternatives. Not for coerced economic development like *Kelo v. City of New London*.

5. Should elected officials be required to recuse themselves from making decisions/legislating on issues where they have potential conflicts of interest?

Yes. When I was a County Commissioner and my wife Holly was the state-appointed Public Trustee, I recused myself from all matters in her office even though I was not required legally to do this.

6. Should businesses, individuals, or entities that donate money to government agencies, campaigns, or candidates be excluded from consideration for bid opportunities or committee appointments?

Every citizen should have the right to participate in government.

7. Should elected officials recuse themselves from decisions and/or appointments for those they have a direct or indirect business or personal relationship with to include relative, business partner (current or past), and campaign donors.

When I was a County Commissioner and my wife Holly was the state-appointed Public Trustee, I recused myself from all matters in her office even though I was not required legally to do this. The question asked, however, goes too far—excluding everyone with whom someone has even an “indirect personal relationship” should not be the standard.

8. What are your plans for facilitating economic growth in the region?

Keep taxes low and government efficient. As a County Commissioner I made the motion to permanently lower property taxes and was successful in doing this on a 3-2 vote. As Secretary of State I lowered fees. Provide appropriate transportation infrastructure.

9. Do you support the concept that central planning is necessary for the long term viability of our city?

I believe in individual property rights, but we do need to plan for long-term needs to ensure that roads are adequate.

10. Do you support TABOR? Why?

Yes. I was one of 3 Commissioners who permanently lowered property taxes as required by TABOR. I believe the people should have the right to vote on any tax increase.

11. How will you reduce the city budget and/or the tax burden on its residents?

While I served as a County Commissioner, El Paso County had the state’s lowest cost per citizen. Arapahoe County—the 2nd best county—was more than 40% higher. I will continue to work to ensure efficient delivery of services. One way I achieved this as Secretary of State was to make more offerings available on line, which is more efficient.

12. What are your thoughts on tax incremental financing?

In limited circumstances, such as to construct a major roadway like Powers Boulevard.

13. Do you support the City for Champions initiative?

I do not support increasing taxes to pay for it. I’m ok with the annexation.

14. What can be done to address rapidly rising housing costs (for both renters and buyers)?

One of the most important things we can do is to eliminate unnecessary government regulations that drive up the cost of housing.

15. What are your thoughts on gun control, to include gun free zones? Under what circumstances should the right to bear arms be restricted?

Our fundamental rights like the 2nd Amendment should be protected. As noted in the Gazette, as a County Commissioner I reversed the county's ban on concealed carry in county parks so that concealed carry was permitted. We also intervened to protect statewide concealed carry rights.

16. Do you support the re-implementation of red light cameras? Why?

Only in limited circumstances in intersections with significant safety risks. They should be used for safety and not for revenue generation.

17. What is your plan for reducing and preventing violent and property crimes?

I support the City's plan to add 120 police officers and will work to prioritize sufficient funding without a tax increase.

18. What is your position on allowing the sale and use of marijuana for recreational use within city limits?

I support the citizens' right to petition on this issue. As Secretary of State I certified a number of issues to the ballot regardless of whether I personally agreed. Absent a citizen petition, I would not support referral to change the present mix of medicinal marijuana in the city limits and recreational nearby.

19. What is your plan for improving traffic flow in areas that often become congested?

Adequate roadways need to be constructed and improved so that traffic isn't diverted to neighborhoods. As a County Commissioner and Vice-Chair of the State Transportation Advisory Committee, I helped secure funding for widening I-25 and making other needed improvements, such as constructing Woodmen Road to Falcon and building interchanges at Woodmen/Academy, Union/Austin Bluffs, and along Powers Boulevard. I will work to prioritize funding for widening I-25 to four lanes in each direction.

20. What are your thoughts on reducing lanes for autos to create/widen bike lanes, "lane dieting"?

Where practicable I would rather connect and improve our off-road trail system. There are circumstances where a bicycle lane might be appropriate if it can be done without adversely affecting mobility or safety. Research Parkway was not an appropriate road for a bicycle lane, particularly given the already existing extra wide trail on the south side of the road.