



# Ouray County Voter Guide

GENERAL ELECTION • NOVEMBER 3, 2020

*"Our daily lives are impacted by the people we elect. It's important that we vote for accessible officials who understand the importance of diverse and resilient local economies that provide adequate living wages and make our communities healthy and affordable places to live and work"*

— Rozanne Evans, Colorado Rural Voters Chair

# WHO WE ARE



**Colorado Rural Voters strives to invigorate our democracy by engaging people on the Western Slope in the election process.** We work to elect accessible officials who are representative of and accountable to the diverse values, aspirations, and economic needs of their constituents.

**We have a long term vision to create change focused on the local level.** We know that local politics contribute to the lifeblood of the success of the West Slope. Each community has unique needs but we are all knitted together. And collectively, our towns determine the success of many rural Coloradoans.

CORV has built our vision through our Steering Committee, a group of individuals who are representative of many of our West Slope communities. Now in 2020, with a looming presidential election, **down-ballot races are often overlooked and undervalued. We strive to bring local elections to the “top of the ballot”** and provide voters with information that spotlights how the people we elect locally impacts their daily lives.

We know that it can be difficult to connect with candidates and elected officials and feel confident about the decisions they are making that impact you. We are here to help to make sure that voting is made more easily accessible to everyone! We've prepared this helpful guide to ensure you have the information you need to make an informed decision on who you vote for this year! There are more than 20 important races and issues on your ballot this year. Though this guide does not encompass all races, **our success will be determined by those who vote their entire ballot. We hope we can count on you!**

**For more information visit [coruralvoters.org](https://coruralvoters.org)**

# IMPORTANT DATES

## VOTE BY MAIL DATES

- It is critical that we vote early this year! Ballots are mailed on October 9th, look for them in your mailbox as soon as October 12th.
- Don't wait! Return your ballot as soon as possible by mail or at a drop box
- Because of potential delays with our postal service we strongly encourage voters to use a drop box to turn in your ballot. However, if you need to return it by mail, October 26th is the last day to mail your ballot to ensure that it is received in time to be counted.
- Ballots must be received by 7pm on November 3rd to be counted
- We would suggest signing up to receive ballot tracking information via email, text, or phone. You can do that here - [colorado.ballottrax.net](https://colorado.ballottrax.net)
- Check the status of your ballot using the QR code below!

## VOTER REGISTRATION DATES

- The last day to register to vote in order to receive a ballot in the mail is October 26th. You can register at [www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com)
- If you miss the deadline, any eligible citizen can register and vote in person all the way up to Election Day
- For more information on where and how to vote visit the Colorado Secretary of States website at [www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com)

## EARLY VOTING DROP BOX

### 4-H Event Center

(Open 24 hrs 10/19 - 11/3 until 7 pm)

22739 Highway 550

Ridgway, CO 81432

### Ouray City Hall

(Open 24 hrs 10/19 - 11/3 until 7 pm)

320 Sixth Ave

Ouray, CO 81427



Check the status  
of your ballot!

## EARLY VOTING/ELECTION DAY VOTING

### Ouray County Courthouse

541 Fourth Street

Ouray, CO 81427

Early voting: 10/19 - 11/02 (M-F 9 am - 5 pm / Sat. 9 am - 1 pm)

Election Day: 11/03 (7 am - 7 pm) Be in line by 7 pm

# CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

Colorado's 3rd congressional district makes up roughly half of the state and takes in most of the rural West Slope, southeast, and southern portions of the Eastern Plains. It includes the cities of Grand Junction, Durango, Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Montrose, Ouray, Pueblo, and much more. This large geography represents diverse communities including mountain towns that rely on tourism, agricultural communities, and smaller urban epicenters, each that fill out our economy with a unique niche to ensure the West Slope thrives. With a growing population of college students, an immigrant population that supports our ag sector, and a climate that attracts seniors, the West Slope is diverse and has a variety of needs to support our communities.

This seat was previously held by Representative Scott Tipton, a five-term Congressman. This is the first time in ten years that voters in the 3rd congressional district will have a choice between two new candidates without a choice to reelect an incumbent. This is the first year in history that the choice is between two female candidates.



**DIANE MITSCH BUSH**

Diane Mitsch Bush has lived and worked on the Western Slope for 43 years. Diane was raised by a single mother and earned her way to a Ph.D., serving as a professor in several Colorado universities and colleges. Diane was elected county commissioner in Routt County and for three terms in the State Legislature.

For more information visit [dianeforcolorado.com](http://dianeforcolorado.com)



**LAUREN BOEBERT**

Lauren Boebert has lived and worked on the Western Slope for 18 years. Lauren and her husband Jayson have four boys. She is owner of Shooter's Grill in Rifle, Colorado. Lauren earned a GED in 2020 and this is her first attempt at running for public office.

For more information visit [laurenforcolorado.com](http://laurenforcolorado.com)

# COLORADO LEGISLATURE HOUSE DISTRICT 59

 = CANDIDATE ENDORSED BY CORV



**BARBARA  
MCLAUCLAN**



**MARILYN  
HARRIS**

N/R = No Response

**BARBARA  
MCLAUCLAN**

**MARILYN  
HARRIS**

Would you support, in principle, future state legislation for commercial building energy efficiency benchmarking?

**Yes**

N/R

Do you support having statewide-mandated health and environmental protections for oil and gas production across Colorado?

**Yes**

N/R

Do you support additional wilderness designations and other types of protection on public lands?

**Yes**

N/R

Should the state encourage incentives for construction projects in order to address the need for affordable housing?

**Yes**

N/R

Should the state mandate paid family and medical leave?

**Yes**

N/R

Should Colorado legislate that the minimum wage be increased to \$15, and also mandate automatic index increases to the cost of living?

**Yes**

N/R

# OURAY COUNTY COMMISSION

 = CANDIDATE ENDORSED BY CORV



**LYNN PADGETT**



**JOHN PETERS**



**JAKE NIECE**



**NED BOSWORTH**

N/R = No Response

	<b>LYNN PADGETT</b>	<b>JOHN PETERS</b>	<b>JAKE NIECE</b>	<b>NED BOSWORTH</b>
Do you support the development of a county-level plan for climate change adaptation, and a plan to grow new clean energy and clean technology jobs in your local economy?	Yes	N/R	Yes	N/R
Colorado Senate Bill 181 changes the priorities of the Colorado Oil & Gas Commission from fostering oil & gas production to protecting human and environmental health. Do you think this is an appropriate change?	Yes	N/R	Yes	N/R
Do you support county-level action for greater local energy efficiency programming, standards, and incentives?	Yes	N/R	Yes	N/R
Do you support additional wilderness designations and other types of protection on public lands?	Yes	N/R	Yes	N/R
Should the county and its municipalities encourage incentives for construction projects in order to address the need for affordable housing?	Yes	N/R	Yes	N/R
If the state doesn't mandate the minimum wage of \$15, should our county do so?	Other	N/R	Other	N/R

The West Slope and many of its rural communities have largely remained dependent on the extractive energies industry. But with natural gas and renewable energy overtaking the energy industry, western Colorado is being left behind and scrambling to keep up. Though each town is different, the desire to create diverse and resilient local economies across the region is a common need we all share.

**We asked the candidates what their plan or vision was for building more diverse and resilient local economies in Western Colorado.**

### **LYNN PADGETT**

In 2010 I convened and facilitated Ouray County's collaborative meetings to identify 5 county-wide economic goals, with an emphasis on diversifying our economy in harmony with our inherent strengths and values. We realized we had a high percentage of creatives in our County, but that wasn't their primary income generator. My plan is to convene our collaborative discussion to update our top 5 county-wide economic development goals. We need to celebrate our success in enhancing broadband, renewable energy, outdoor recreation, and our creative industries. We need to focus on continuing to diversify so that when there is a mining, construction, or real estate, bust that the negative impacts are buffered by strong economic activity in other sectors.

### **JOHN PETERS**

*No response*

### **JAKE NIECE**

Tourism is, and will likely remain, Ouray County's primary industry. But I am encouraged by the planned expansion of Ouray Silver Mine operations, and I would like to work on opportunities to attract responsible mining operations and ensure we have reasonable protections in place for preservation of our valuable high country (tourism is still #1), but that still allow profitable mining. Of particular interest is a probable future demand for rare earth metals contained in the San Juans that are necessary to manufacture electronics. And also finishing installation of fiber internet (this includes last mile and ISP service) so that we reach parity of bandwidth with the rest of the state and country. This will allow working remotely for professions that require high bandwidth, and for future opportunities we cannot yet anticipate.

### **NED BOSWORTH**

*No response*

### **BARBARA MCLACHLAN**

On the ground level, we need to shop locally, keeping local dollars in the hands and businesses of local people. The REDI bill I sponsored this session has state money flowing to local governmental agencies to address specific economic needs in their own jurisdictions. I believe we need to keep focusing that money directly to local residents. I am a strong supporter of the Outdoor Recreation Industry because it is fairly consistent and provides year-round employment.

### **MARILYN HARRIS**

*No response*

Colorado Rural Voters  
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