GJARA Government Affairs Meeting

10.14.2021 - GJARA Conference Room – 9:00 am

Ann Hayes Melissa Espinoza Gregg Cranston

Laureen Gutierrez Carol Gerber Linda Afman

Lois Dunn Betsy Bair (Community Hospital)

Welcome: 9:00 am

Melissa & I had attended the Economic Summit.

US Population for 2020 census – up 7.4% + 22.7 million = 331.5 million

CO “ 2010 – 5.7 million 14.8% + 744,518 (slower than last decade}

Mesa CO 2010 115,000 – 2020 155,703 + 6.1%

Mesa County – increase in younger age group – 22-37 CO is 6th youngest state (4th fastest for 65+)

AZ & CO huge in-migration states

Rural & W Colo are not back to pre-pandemic growth/jobs

#1 Job in Mesa County – health care services

#1 growth area – government

US expects energy recovery

Big issues:

Labor- Jobs

Water

Transportation

Per Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer

Health care is a big issue facing us now. Governor Polis has mandated all health care workers be vaccinated. Health care workers are being fired as of Friday, Oct 21, for not having VAX. There is already a shortage of workers.

BALLOT INITIATIVES

#78 – Legislative authority for spending money

Requires ALL “custodial” money be appropriated by the legislature.

Would effect Grants, Monies mandated to go for particular uses to health care, transportation, etc. from FED government. Universities receiving endowments, gifts, would be required to turn this over to the legislature for disbursement.

Committee: NO

#119 – Learning Enrichment & Academic Progress Program

Sounds good if you don’t read all the proposal – which is very lengthy. Starts out as a tax on marijuana (for the children). This will be a huge state bureaucracy. It will not only be funded by a tax on marijuana, but Section2. Amendment as 36-1-116 (page 33 in the Blue Book) Proceeds of all Severance Tax from oil, gas, minerals, mining will be allocated to the school Capital Construction Assistance Fund which is being created. This will also include sale of timber, lease payments of public lands.

This will create a whole new state bureaucracy.

Parents may apply for these funds. However, there will be limitations on which children shall receive the assistance.

Committee: NO Take a look at all that is included in this lengthy program

Proposition 120 – Property Tax Assessment Rate Reduction

The title sounds good. However, the legislature saw this wording coming down. In June, they passed a bill that would only allow a rate reduction stated as 6.5% to only apply to Multi Family housing properties & to Lodging properties (hotels, motels B & B’s) as 26.4% This does NOT reduced residential rates.

Committee: NO

Candidates:

Dist E

Angela Lema- Angela is owner of The Salon Professional Academy. She is running because she sees students applying to her academy who have graduated with no reading, writing & math skills

David Combs – Representative with Aspen National Collection

Dist D

Will Jones – director of Grand Valley Youth Football. Worked with children as a coach. Wants parents to be heard & able to express their views. Wants parents involved in a child’s education

Nick Allan – Colo Western Alliance, community organizer. His wife is a teacher, he is a former teacher.

Dist C

Andrea Haitz – REALTOR, business owner. Very concerned for children’s education

Trish Mahre – Attorney in DA’s office. Has been serving on the school board. Her interests are children and new GJHS

Austin DeWitt – recent HS graduate. Dedicated young man with concern for mental health of students.

We discussed each race. Our thoughts were: Let’s try more business minded candidates. Candidates who have worked with children & parents on different levels. We have had mostly teachers & educators on the school board for some time.

We like:

Angela Lema

Will Jones

Andrea Haitz

MOSTLY - make your decision & remember to VOTE!!

Ballots are out – take time to return yours.

Until November 11th.

Submitted by

Lois Dunn, Chair

GJARA Govt Affairs Committee

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