

Candidate Survey in Aging

In September, Next50 along with several aging advocates requested Colorado's candidates running for office in the 2024 state election to complete a candidate survey on aging.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing demographic segments of Colorado. An engaged and active part of our state, older Coloradans deserve to know more about the policies their candidates' support. In addition to completing the survey, we invited candidates to participate in one of five candidate virtual forums so they could speak to their community about their vision related to older adults in their respective districts.

Next50 has compiled the responses of the completed surveys and linked them below.

How to Navigate this Document:

Step 1:

- Find your District: <https://leg.colorado.gov/FindMyLegislator>
- Find out who the candidates are in your district here: <https://www.vote411.org/>

Step 2:

- Click on your District using the Table of Contents
 - Please note that we asked both house of representative candidates and state senate candidates questions.

Step 3:

- Review candidates responses.
 - Please note that not all candidates submitted a response, there may be some districts with 0 or 1 responses.
 - If you do not see a response from a candidate, we encourage you to reach out to their campaign and ask them about their perspectives on issues impacting older adults.

Note: *Next50 does not endorse candidates for any election. The information provided below are direct responses from the candidates listed and does not necessarily reflect Next50's view on the issues.*

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Colorado House District 2

Candidate Name: Steven Woodrow

District Number: Colorado House District 2

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Denver

Campaign Website: <https://www.woodrowforco.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

All groups from those 50 and older to those 80- 85 and everyone in between can benefit and is facing the housing crisis with different impacts on their lives. From being priced out of the market, to interest rates locking homeowners into their current mortgages or assessing refinancing options, to home improvement loan assistance and fund availability, to property tax deferral programs, and the Senior homestead exemption not keeping up with the cost of housing and the further disincentives from downsizing for Seniors needing to age in place, or the shortage of options for those seeking universal design and ADA compliant homes.

I believe we need to focus on policy that produces housing types of all needs and building communities that community groups of all ages, abilities, and incomes can call home in Colorado.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

With our housing bill last year, we brought together Affordable housing advocates, transportation experts, local governments and state agencies, and everyday community members to discuss housing in transit-oriented communities. These communities provide housing for all community members, family sizes, diversity, connectivity, and ages. From incentivizing universal design and visit-ability, to working with transit frequency and reliability, paratransit options, at risk community groups, and providing affordable and plentiful options for folks in our most abundant job centers keeps everyone's cost of living lower, opportunity access high, and quality of life for all who call Colorado home.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Enhancing financial support for professional certifications and continuing education, regulating algorithm usage in job applications and further streamlining, improving UI reliability for when Coloradans need it.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I would be supportive of a tax credit for familial caregivers or other types of financial support.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Providing options for new, accessible, and affordable homes in mixed use communities. Providing options locally to create options to get around outside of a car. As community members lose the ability to drive, have less or changing housing needs, or want to help their own family, the addition of ADUs throughout Colorado is a great option to stay in place, independently. I want to continue to bolster housing options across Colorado so community members can have the tools to help themselves, their families, or neighbors.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I would like to help AAAs find or create a permanent funding mechanism, fee, or enterprise to improve services and decrease waitlists. I don't believe a general fund reliance is sustainable, and it takes away from other investments like Medicaid.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I would be supportive of making Elder financial fraud it's own type of deceptive conduct under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act.

Colorado House District 4

Candidate Name: Jack Daus

District Number: Colorado House District 4

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Denver

Campaign Website: jackforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Staying educated and having a skill set that is valuable to an employer is challenging for the younger group. For the older group maintaining access for community resources poses a challenge.

For both groups promote and support continuing in-person and online educations programs for at home and at locations in the community. I would also promote programs that help keep our elders active in community organizations. Help keep people self-sufficient for as long as possible so they can stay independent. Lower financial burden by reducing taxes for Colorado citizens.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Promote lower taxes and greater fiscal responsibility by the State Government, and promote affordable housing, homeownership, and rental assistance programs that require for quality property care and management.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace

age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskillling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Free community college classes and certifications.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Senior Centers and respite care.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Property tax reductions, and rental assistance.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Promote programs to keep people more engaged and active in the community.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Collaborate with Denver DA to provide support and education this age group and encourage the prosecution of offenders.

Candidate Name: Cecelia Espenosa

District Number: Colorado House District 4

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Denver

Campaign Website: www.Cecelia4Colorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Those on the younger side of the spectrum often face age discrimination. I believe we must continue to expand on policies that remove required information on employment applications that can be used as a proxy for determining age which can be used against job applicants. We should also strive to write laws in ways that do not systemize ability based on age. I believe in and support older Coloradans as they move to Encore type jobs. It is important to recognize the impact of *Gross v. FBL Financial Services, Inc.*, 557 U.S. 167 (2009) a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that held that age discrimination claimants must now prove that discrimination on the basis of age was not just one motivating factor in an adverse employment decision, but that it was the sole or overriding factor behind the decision. This additional requirement means that workers alleging age discrimination now face a higher burden of proof in court than do workers alleging discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, or religion.

For those on the upper end of the spectrum, we must make it easier to access existing supports. There are so many available resources that are currently not used to capacity because those who are eligible may not know how to access them. I am a strong advocate of privacy protections and do not want to see erosion of privacy but too often family and friends are unable to access resources because the privacy protections become barriers rather than shields. We must become more creative in providing pathways to access assistance for the most senior as their needs escalate.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an

intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As a senior I can assist many junior members in the legislature with my experience. I also have a lifetime of working inter-generationally. As a young lawyer I mentored those who were newer than me and worked with Senior attorneys to learn about my profession. When I was a law professor, I became the mentor to my students and I have always attempted to expand representation in any group that was a member.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I will work to take age out of policies that promote and/or fund opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. We are facing a workforce shortage in so many industries and older Coloradans can be trained to fill jobs.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I found the discussion of proposed solutions in the Bell Policy report at: <https://www.bellpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Aging-Agenda-2020.pdf> to be helpful in thinking about the steps that the State can take to recognize and improve the ways in which we acknowledge and address unpaid care. Personally, my husband and I housed my brother and nephew who both had disabilities for about six years. We continue to provide support to my brother who needs dialysis several times a week. Through that experience we were unpaid care givers. Having personally experienced the stress, I would have benefited greatly from respite care and access to resources that would have helped our family. I am committed to evaluating the ways that the State can increase state funding for unpaid caregiver services, outreach, and training and expand access to portable benefits like paid family and medical leave, health care, and retirement savings accounts.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Many older homeowners told me about the difficulties they had in paying property taxes. Because many seniors have paid off their homes, they no longer have property taxes taken through escrow. To provide parity to property owners who are on fixed incomes and do not have property taxes taken in escrow I will introduce a bill to expand the number of payment options beyond the one or two payments that currently exist.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

The reality is that we must do our best to prioritize funding for these services because we have an obligation to support these needs. I look forward to working with you to design ways we can advance these issues and obtain needed resources.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

As a representative I hope to engage members of the community through targeted informational town halls. This will include presentations in Senior facilities to warn about scams and to offer access to resources within the Attorney General's Fraud Unit.

Colorado House District 6

Candidate Name: Sean Camacho

District Number: Colorado House District 6

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Denver

Campaign Website: www.camachoforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I think the two biggest issues for older adults on the younger side are more attainable housing options and the costs of living. State government can make an impact on these issues through tax credits for housing and tax reform for cost-of-living issues. As for the oldest older adults, I am most concerned about cost of care and the labor shortages in in-home services and assistance. I believe as a state we need to make a focused effort to encourage young people to take of careers in health care and in-home services.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I believe that it is important to seek the advice and perspective from members of the community at all stages and stations of life. I do not believe that you can create impactful policy without being well informed and talking to the people that will be most affected by any proposed legislation. I intend to work as a collaborative leader that listens to integrate an intergenerational lens into my work.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps

would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Discrimination in any form is unacceptable. We need thoughtful policies that prevent intended and unintended age discrimination that hold bad actors accountable and ensure a fair and safe workplace for all. Additionally, one of the most impactful things the state can do to take care of older workers is continuing to fund and support participation in defined benefit plans like PERA.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I think we made significant progress in 2020 with FAMI. However, FAMI only provides coverage for adults to take care of a family member that experiences a qualifying event. I would like the state to look into additional programs and credits that make caring for an older loved one more accessible and acceptable. I do not know how to specifically address this problem, but I am open to suggestions for how to make things better.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

As Coloradans get older it will be inevitable that modifications to homes need to be made to make homes more accessible and safer. Modifications like grab bars, ramps, chairlifts, etc. can make a difference in allowing older adults to stay in their homes. The state should look into tax credits to help make these modifications more affordable.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I think legislators can make a difference by prioritizing funding for these services and promoting policies that provide these services at lower costs and higher quality.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I think there are two approaches to help. First, we can seek policies that provide ongoing education and alerts for scams targeting older adults. Second, we can seek policies that hold bad actors accountable for fraudulent actions targeting older adults.

Colorado House District 7

Candidate Name: Tom Swift

District Number: Colorado House District 7

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Denver

Campaign Website: None

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

A more comprehensive educational program to help the younger old adults truly understand what's ahead for them in a few short years.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I do not know yet. I would need to have the current budget, the wording of the current policy, and the will of my fellow legislators.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Please see previous answer

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Please see previous answer

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Please see previous answer

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado’s Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Please see previous answer

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Personalized education utilizing non-profit vetted volunteers. Besides that idea; Please see previous answer

Colorado House District 8

Candidate Name: Lindsay Gilchrist

District Number: Colorado House District 8

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Denver

Campaign Website: <https://www.gilchristforcolorado.com>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The increasing aging population requires a thoughtful policy approach, especially given the population's diversity in age and demographics. For the younger aging population, the transition to retirement and ensuring adequate access to health care and housing are the focus. For the older aging population, in home services, mental health support and end of life care are the focus. There are unique needs across this population.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

The best way to ensure senior voices are heard is by giving them the platform to speak for themselves. This should be done through in-person town halls or events in our communities to engage with senior citizens face-to-face. Through this process, I will be more informed on the needs of these voters and can better represent their interests. I am committed to doing the groundwork of community engagement to integrate an intergenerational lens in all aspects of my work as a legislator.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps

would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

The fastest-growing segment of our workforce deserves an investment by the state legislature to continue to grow this market and protect the livelihoods of our older Coloradans. As a legislator, I would work closely with local businesses to achieve these goals and to promote continuous learning and development for older workers, including the possibility of second careers or part-time work arrangements. I also believe it is extremely important to provide access to certified retirement advisors who can help individuals assess their current financial situation and create a plan to meet their retirement goals. Investing in training and workshops on these issues would be a great first step in addressing the issue.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

This type of work should be recognized and valued in our State, but we need to address that our health care system could do so much more to help. My vision for health care centers on quality care as a fundamental right, independent of socioeconomic or age status. I am dedicated to ensuring affordability, accessibility, and fairness for all Coloradans, especially our senior citizens. This means sponsoring programs like telehealth for nursing homes for ease of access, or if they choose to go in person providing free shuttle services to doctors' offices. By investing in our health care system, we can lift some of the burdens that come with unpaid care and would be very interested to learn how to best support the needs of this community.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

For seniors who want to continue to stay in their original homes, I support implementing property tax exemptions or reductions for low-income seniors.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

The fact that the community AAAs are experiencing a waitlist is a testament to the necessity of the services they provide. I know many of the AAAs receiving funding from the Colorado Department of Human Services and this a group I have worked very closely with in the past and have a Town Hall scheduled this month to discuss these types of pressing issues.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Online financial scams target our vulnerable older adult community and it is our duty to protect their hard-earned savings from fraud. I would support legislation that establishes concrete legal mechanisms to recover stolen assets or funds whenever possible. We also need to create clear, accessible reporting systems that allow older adults or their family members to quickly and easily report suspected fraud so others do not also fall victim. Working with organizations like Next 50 to report and spread the word on typical scams is critically important.

Colorado House District 10

Candidate Name: Junie Joseph

District Number: Colorado House District 10

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Boulder/Boulder

Campaign Website: junie4coloradolcom

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Older adults between the ages of 50 and 70 often face challenges related to employment, income security, and balancing work with other responsibilities. They may encounter age discrimination in the job market and struggle with transitioning careers due to evolving technological demands. Policies to address these issues should include stronger anti-age discrimination protections, access to career transition programs, and enhanced retirement savings incentives. Supporting older adults in adapting to a changing job market and ensuring financial stability are crucial for this age group.

In contrast, older adults aged 80 and above commonly experience difficulties with in-home care, health issues, and social isolation. They often require extensive assistance with daily activities, face challenges in accessing quality health care, and may suffer from increased social isolation. Policy solutions for this group should focus on expanding home health care services, improving access to geriatric care, and combating social isolation through community engagement programs. Ensuring adequate support and resources for in-home care and fostering social connections can significantly improve their quality of life.

Addressing the distinct needs of these two age groups with targeted policies can greatly enhance their well-being and overall quality of life. By implementing solutions that cater to their specific challenges, we can better support older adults across the aging spectrum.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an

intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Integrating an intergenerational lens into policy and program development involves engaging diverse stakeholders from various age groups, including older adults, to ensure their needs are addressed comprehensively. By conducting impact assessments, we can evaluate how policies, such as those related to transportation and housing, affect different generations and ensure that solutions are accessible and affordable for everyone. Applying universal design principles to infrastructure and creating flexible solutions helps make public spaces and services accommodating for all ages, including features like ramps and clear signage.

Additionally, fostering intergenerational programs and partnerships can bridge gaps between different age groups. Developing shared community spaces and programs that encourage interaction, such as community centers with activities for all ages or mentorship opportunities, promotes mutual support and understanding. Supporting lifelong learning through accessible educational and skill-building opportunities further ensures that both younger and older individuals benefit from continuous personal development. This approach ensures that policies and initiatives not only serve older Coloradans but also contribute to the well-being of all residents.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

To support older Coloradans in the workforce, I would introduce targeted policies such as enhanced age discrimination protections and establish dedicated job placement services that focus on connecting older workers with suitable opportunities. For upskilling, I'd fund and promote programs like digital literacy workshops and industry-specific training, in partnership with local community colleges and online platforms. Additionally, providing tax incentives for businesses that hire and mentor older employees could encourage more inclusive hiring practices. To boost financial security, expanding access to retirement planning resources and offering personalized financial counseling would help older workers prepare for retirement while staying engaged in the workforce. These initiatives

would not only address the immediate challenges older workers face but also leverage their experience and skills for broader economic benefit.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

To support family caregivers in Colorado, I would implement a multi-faceted approach addressing their physical, financial, and emotional challenges. First, I would enhance access to respite care services, offering temporary relief for caregivers and reducing burnout. Expanding caregiver training programs can equip them with the skills needed for effective care while alleviating stress. Financially, I’d advocate for tax credits or direct financial support for caregivers to help offset the costs of caregiving and lost wages. Additionally, increasing funding for counseling and support groups would provide emotional support and connect caregivers with resources. By addressing these key areas, we can improve the well-being of caregivers and ensure they receive the support they need.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

To help older Coloradans stay in their homes and communities as they age, I would focus on enhancing home and community-based support services and addressing financial barriers. This includes expanding access to affordable in-home care services, such as personal care aides and home modifications like ramps and grab bars to improve safety. Additionally, I would support community initiatives that provide transportation services, meal delivery, and social engagement opportunities to combat isolation. Implementing property tax relief programs specifically for older homeowners can also help reduce financial stress and prevent forced relocations due to rising costs. Strengthening local networks of support through senior centers and volunteer programs can offer practical assistance and companionship. By improving access to these services and addressing financial concerns, we can help older Coloradans maintain their independence and quality of life at home.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado’s Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and

in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

To support Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and address waitlists for vital services, legislators should focus on increasing funding and streamlining administrative processes. Additional state and federal funding can help AAAs expand their capacity by hiring more staff and enhancing service delivery. Simplifying bureaucratic procedures can improve efficiency, allowing AAAs to allocate resources more effectively and reduce wait times for services like meal delivery, medical transportation, and in-home caregiving.

In addition to financial support, legislators should invest in workforce development to address staffing shortages in critical areas and provide incentives to attract and retain skilled professionals. Encouraging partnerships between AAAs and local organizations, businesses, and volunteers can also enhance service delivery by leveraging community resources. These combined efforts will improve the capacity of AAAs to meet the needs of older Coloradans and ensure that essential services are accessible and timely.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

To address financial fraud targeting older Coloradans, I would implement a comprehensive strategy focusing on prevention, education, and enforcement. First, I would increase funding for and expand public awareness campaigns that educate older adults about common scams and fraud prevention tactics. Collaborating with local organizations and senior centers to offer workshops and distribute educational materials can help build awareness and provide practical guidance.

Additionally, I would support the establishment of dedicated fraud prevention and support hotlines where older adults can report suspicious activity and receive immediate assistance. Strengthening partnerships with financial institutions to enhance their fraud detection systems and ensure they offer tailored advice and protection for older clients is also crucial. Finally, advocating for robust enforcement of fraud laws and increased penalties for perpetrators can deter fraudulent activities and hold scammers accountable. This multi-faceted approach aims to protect older constituents from financial scams and ensure they have the resources and support needed to safeguard their financial well-being.

Colorado House District 11

Candidate Name: Karen McCormick

District Number: Colorado House District 11

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Longmont/Boulder County

Campaign Website: <https://karenforco.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I see the challenge for the younger side (of which I am) to be assured that they will have enough savings to age in place and the fear of medical debt bankruptcy. I continue to work for a single payment channel health care system where all are covered and the costs are reasonable. For those on the older side, I see the need for more trained, competent, caring home health care workers so that our older citizens can have the care they need and remain in their homes if possible. I will support our health care workers' rights to organize and fight for better pay and benefits.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Being an older Coloradan and having kids that are millennials, I will continue to have the lens of people of all ages and will support policies that make transportation accessible to all and to facilitate more housing options for all.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps

would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I support job transition training, apprenticeships, and work hours flexibility so that people of all ages can find an opportunity to plug in to work where it fits their needs.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I believe family caregivers should be compensated fairly for their work. They are often the home health care givers that are working overtime to support their own families and to support the family member that needs the care. I will support policies that recognize this fact.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

As mentioned above...we must grow the home health care worker profession and recognize the increasing need for these essential workers by increased training, credentialing, pay, benefits and overall job satisfaction in order to keep the workers we have and attract more into this profession.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

We can make sure that funding for AAA is kept steady and look for ways to expand the help that these agencies need.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

We must continue to educate our older adults through means that connect with them and their caregivers. Making sure fraud is investigated and those stealing are held accountable by law. If necessary to change the law to help with this issue, I would support.

Colorado House District 13

Candidate Name: Julie McCluskie

District Number: Colorado House District 13

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Counties = Chaffee, Grand, Jackson, Lake, Park, Summit and cities/towns include = Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco, Keystone, Montezuma, Silverthorne, Kremmling, Hot Sulphur Springs, Granby, Fraser, Winter Park, Leadville, Twin Lakes, Buena Vista, Nathrop, Sa

Campaign Website: McCluskieforCO@gmail.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

When I was first elected, I was fortunate to represent Pitkin County. County Commissioner Steve Childs served on the SAPGA planning group. He was a willing and helpful mentor with the release of their first report in 2020.

Work to sustain aging populations must begin with a state vision and system built with strong local community connections in mind. As an example, Senior Housing options need to be as diverse as the needs change for the 50+ adult to the 85+ adult. From home and community-based services, assisted living, skilled nursing or home care, a variety of options needs to be available in local communities. Likewise, transportation, meals, health care services all need to be available to our aging population to meet them where they are at as they transition. The state can work more closely with the regional Area Agencies on Aging to help conduct local needs assessments in beginning the work to craft long-term strategic plans for age-friendly services.

With the release of the recent third quarter forecast, it is clear the state needs to focus and prioritize the “older and grayer” population of Colorado. With a sharp increase in Medicaid long term care services and health care utilization, we must prioritize this work and ensure that state resources can meet the needs of our aging population.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

This past legislative session, I hosted a virtual town hall with a focus on senior needs and services in partnership with the AAAs located in House District 13. It was a productive conversation about the unique challenges facing older Coloradans in rural parts of our state. It was certainly a reminder of the value we gain at the legislature when we extend outreach to include under-represented voices in our work. Just as SAPGA did for the state, I believe we need to incorporate a wide array of voices at the community-level to coordinate and better fund local services.

Certainly in my time on the Joint Budget Committee, it was of great value to work with the AAAs, AARP and other groups who represented the interests of our seniors. Their input helped inform budget decisions and will be valuable as we face significant budget challenges for the coming year.

I welcome the opportunity to learn more about how we can better lead, coordinate and serve our aging populations through state-led collaboration with county/local governments, non-profits and other community based groups.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

First, it is a tremendous gift to have the resource of well-educated, trained older adults willing and able to participate in Colorado's workforce.

Helping aging adults up-skill and next-skill can be accomplished with opportunities like "CARE Forward." This program at our community colleges was designed to provide at no-cost to a student, the chance to earn a credential in a health-care field. The program was aligned to support the high-demand for health care professionals in the state. Similar programs have been put forward in recent years, and while I do not have the data on the

number of older adults participating, community colleges are exceptional access institutions for learners from all backgrounds.

Senior job fairs, recruiting firms and partnerships with business/industry can all be incentivized or supported through local community coordination. Yet another way for older adults to continue or return to the workforce in a different position.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

The General Assembly has worked on passing legislation these past few years to better support our home care providers. Most notably, in partnership with the Dept. Of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF), we invested in pay raises for our home care service workers and with innovative approaches to create more efficiencies, better working conditions, etc. There are ways for family caregivers to receive additional support locally through county/local government and non-profit supports.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Continuing to provide scholarships, paid-for higher education programming or tax credits can help incentivize greater participation from our younger workforce in home-based care services. Much like early childhood care & education, salaries and pay for this segment of our workforce often falls short across the state in meeting the needs of providing a living wage.

Additionally, the work we’ve undertaken in SB23-261, The Direct Care Workforce Stabilization Board establishes a process by which those most impacted by Colorado’s care crisis direct care workers, people who receive care, employers and government officials can come together to make recommendations to address chronically low wages, limited benefits and other issues that are driving care workers to leave the industry in record numbers. This was just one example of how the state can better understand the challenges faced by these workers, including situations with seniors, and how the state can play a better role in supporting their work.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Without question, our AAAs provide critical services to our local aging population. While it was challenging to maintain funding through the pandemic, it needs to be a renewed priority for the General Assembly to consider greater investments in the AAAs. Drawing down Federal funding, maximizing resources with other local agencies, and striving for greater efficiencies will be critical to ensure we can stretch these dollars.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Education for seniors can be a significant way to prevent scams and financial fraud in the first place by helping seniors understand the threat and ways to protect themselves. I would welcome additional input on how the legislature might support and help seniors when they are victims of these criminal activities

Colorado House District 16

Candidate Name: Steph Vigil

District Number: Colorado House District 16

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Colorado Springs

Campaign Website: stephanievigil.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

On the younger end of the spectrum, I think ageist discrimination continues to be an issue. I supported the job application fairness act in 2023, and I think continuing to use the Office of the Future of Work to ensure fair access to job training and transition will be really important for this group.

For the oldest group, the care economy needs a lot more support. I'm interested to see the recommendations of the Direct Care Workforce Stabilization Board, but I imagine the biggest part of the solution is going to be addressing Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

One of my bills from this year was partly to address this exact dilemma. We have a shortage of housing and extremely limited options for transportation, which my bill to roll back minimum parking mandates helps address. Infill development, more diverse housing stock, and multimodal transportation will go a long way in ensuring Coloradans can age in place and live full lives.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I honestly answered that first question without scrolling down to this one. So, that -- more specifically, digital equity investment is really important. My own area has struggled to implement the digital equity funds that are available through the OFW, which is something I've tried to get to the bottom of but haven't had any success just yet.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Federal action would be ideal for this situation, as well as for childcare. Independent of that -- again, medicaid reimbursement rates, and also it does seem like CBMS needs some updating. That's got to be compounding the issues with the public health emergency unwind as well.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Housing diversity and infill is a really important part of this. I'm also a big fan of universal design, because if we can start building more structures with adaptability for all bodies and abilities, we can avoid a lot of displacement. Additionally, we continue to have issues with accommodations in rentals, where some landlords and property managers are resistant to making reasonable modifications. We passed a bill last year that requires mediation before an eviction in select cases, like when the tenant collects TANF or Social Security. In the 4th JD, our eviction court magistrate has been running a pilot program on pre-trial mediation in a lot more cases and it's been incredibly successful, so I think we should explore expanding it.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

It's fairly simple, I think: sustainable funding. We let the funding stream fall flat while costs rose, and the demand spiked throughout the COVID pandemic. This year's boost helped, but we need JBC to find sustaining funding that we don't have to fight for every year.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

It seems like isolation is a big factor with these scams and addressing that would go a long way with this and other hazards. I'll again mention land use, housing, and transportation, but also the direct care workforce can be part of getting ahead of these scams.

Candidate Name: Rebecca Keltie

District Number: Colorado House District 16

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Colorado Springs/ El Paso

Campaign Website: www.RebeccaKeltie.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

First I see job opportunity challenges. There is a lack of fairness when it comes to hiring elderly workers. Modern job training needs are definitely understandable as well. Speaking to many of my constituents in HD16 the topic of home maintenance has been voiced. Many elderly are not able to do DIY and rely on others help or hiring someone, which can be very expensive, sometimes too expensive to be able to properly maintain their homes. Programs for our elderly, who are the forgotten generation in my opinion, must be discussed and planned. We can do better.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Senior citizens, in my opinion, deserve a break. They have paid into the system their entire lives. It's time we cut most of what they pay way back and allow them to keep their money in their own pockets as much as possible. This allows them better financial freedom in their golden years. Taxation after a point in life shouldn't be a burden that limits or even ruins their lives. I definitely would like to see Colorado become one of the states in America that does not tax Social Security in any way.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace

age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I believe offering modern training in fields that are profitable to Colorado businesses and the Senior workforce must be offered in a free capacity through our local various schools and universities. If a senior citizen decides to enter the workforce they should not be seen any differently than anyone else and updating their skills will ensure this. We also must look at allowing them to make a higher wage and still collect Social Security. The goal is for our Senior population to enjoy their golden years. I would like to see services helping our senior citizens manage their finances and offer investment services to help them grow what they have and what they may earn if they decide to.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I am not familiar with these programs but am definitely willing to discuss what can be done to help the families of our aging seniors. For me, personally, whatever we can do to help our seniors and Veterans I am onboard.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I believe the answer is making it more adorable for them to stay in their homes is key. Many of my senior constituents have expressed how property taxes have made it almost impossible to stay in their homes. Removing this burden for our senior citizens as they age would definitely be a good first step.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Legislators have the ability to control the purse. Cutting funding in areas that are not absolutely needed, tightening the purse strings in areas that are not in the best interest of our people and redirecting some of that to help expand programs for our advanced seniors in need are considerations and actions that must be prioritized.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

We must crack down on scammers in a whole. Greatly increasing the penalties on the scammers is a must. We should also provide full media awareness and training to our senior population. Eventually the word about these scams will be everywhere. We must work with our Federal legislators to end this for our nation as well.

Colorado House District 17

Candidate Name: Dr. Regina English

District Number: Colorado House District 17

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: El Paso

Campaign Website: www.reginaenglish.org

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For older adults in the 50-64 age range, key challenges include job security and retirement planning. Policies that support income stability, such as enhanced job training programs and flexible work options, can address these issues. For those aged 80 and older, challenges often involve accessing quality in-home care and managing health conditions. Policies should focus on expanding access to affordable in-home services, improving caregiver support, and increasing funding for senior health programs. Tailoring solutions to the specific needs of each age group can help ensure a more secure and comfortable aging experience for all Coloradans.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

To integrate an intergenerational lens, I would advocate for policies that address shared issues like affordable transportation and housing while ensuring they meet the diverse needs of all age groups. This includes promoting universal design in housing and transportation that accommodates everyone, regardless of age or mobility. I would engage with stakeholders from various age groups to ensure their perspectives and needs are

considered. For older Coloradans, I'd ensure policies include features like accessible transportation options and age-friendly housing solutions. Regular assessments and feedback loops would help tailor solutions to effectively benefit all generations.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

To support older workers, I would implement policies addressing age discrimination and promote inclusive hiring practices. Expanding access to upskilling and reskilling programs tailored for older adults is crucial. Providing incentives for employers to hire and retain older workers can also enhance job opportunities. Additionally, I'd advocate for financial education and retirement planning resources specifically designed for this demographic. By creating a supportive environment that values their experience and provides continuous learning opportunities, we can help older workers enhance their financial security and remain valuable contributors to Colorado's economy.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

To support family caregivers, I would advocate for policies that provide financial relief, such as tax credits or direct support for caregiving expenses. Expanding access to respite care services can help alleviate physical and emotional stress. Additionally, I would promote comprehensive caregiver support programs that offer counseling and training resources. Increasing public awareness and recognition of caregivers' contributions is also crucial. By implementing these measures, we can reduce the burden on caregivers, enhance their well-being, and ensure they receive the support they need while continuing to provide invaluable care to their loved ones.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

To help older Coloradans remain in their homes and communities, I would support policies that enhance home modifications for accessibility and safety, and increase funding for affordable, in-home care services. Expanding access to community-based support programs, such as transportation and meal delivery, is also crucial. Additionally, I would advocate for affordable housing options and ensure that local zoning laws accommodate aging-friendly developments. By fostering a network of services and resources that support aging in place, we can help older Coloradans live independently and comfortably in their communities.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Legislators can better support Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) by increasing funding for essential services like meal delivery, transportation, and in-home caregiving. Streamlining funding processes and providing grants specifically for reducing waitlists can ensure timely access to these services. Additionally, supporting workforce development initiatives to recruit and retain caregivers will address service gaps. Collaborating with community organizations to enhance resource efficiency and expand service capacity can also improve support. By prioritizing these measures, legislators can help AAAs meet the growing demand and better serve Colorado's aging population.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

To address financial fraud targeting older constituents, I would advocate for enhanced financial literacy programs focusing on fraud prevention and digital safety. Partnering with financial institutions to offer specialized workshops and resources can help older adults recognize and avoid scams. Supporting legislation that increases penalties for fraudsters and enhances protections for vulnerable populations is also crucial. Additionally, I would work to improve reporting systems and ensure accessible resources for victims seeking assistance. By combining education, legislative action, and robust support services, we can better protect older Coloradans from financial fraud and ensure their financial security.

Colorado House District 18

Candidate Name: Amy Paschal

District Number: Colorado House District 18

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Cascade and Green Mountain Falls

Campaign Website: <https://www.amyfor18.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I'm a Coloradan on the younger side of this spectrum who cares for parents on the oldest side. I see that many challenges that affect the oldest adults have impacts on all Coloradans. Limited options and high costs for housing, in-home services, healthcare, and transportation affect all of us, whether directly for our own needs, for those in our care, those who care for us, and those in our community at large. I believe we need state investment into training and recruitment for our care economy, a wider range of housing options to allow both downsizing and aging in place, similar investment into a range of transportation options to improve accessibility, and healthcare reform to ensure everyone gets the care they need.

Coloradans on the younger side of this spectrum tend to suffer from agism in the workplace and in hiring practices. EOE policies protect against this behavior but it's hard to prove. One area for policy improvement is ensuring algorithms used for screening job applicants are not discriminatory.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Intergenerational work is central to why I chose to run for office. I see the challenges that my children's generation are facing today finding housing and work at the same time as I see my parents struggling to find affordable in-home care and assisted living options. I believe that the oldest and youngest Coloradans need many of the same things, especially a wider variety of options to live and travel. We need more "starter homes" and condos build with universal design concepts to let anyone choose to live in and stay in the community they love. We also need more neighborhoods safe for pedestrians, and improved and accessible options for transit. Keeping the needs of older Coloradans in mind ensures that all Coloradans can thrive, whether that means ensuring transit is accessible and reliable, that Medicare is well-funded, or that the "missing middle" of the housing market is well-invested.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I would like to see stricter enforcement of EOE hiring practices with respect to age discrimination. One potential area for improvement is ensuring algorithms and artificial intelligence used for screening job applicants are not discriminatory.

Upskilling and reskilling programs are important, but they are often targeted towards younger generations. Many programs assume access to a computer and comfort navigating government websites- accessibility issues that disproportionately affect older workers. Government websites should be designed with the best practices of user experience design to increase accessibility and non-digital options should also be made available.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

As someone who contributes unpaid care to my parents, I understand the stress of this work. I plan to support these caregivers by increasing the supply of affordable housing for all and promoting the concepts of universal design, making it more possible for older more

Coloradans to stay close to family and age in place. I also plan to promote the training and recruitment of more paid caregivers to provide more options to families for care giving.

Lastly, I'd like to see more long term care insurance plans allow payment of family members to care for relatives where medically appropriate.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Housing and caregiving are two enormous costs that make remaining in homes and communities difficult. As representative, I would expand housing options to help older adults who want to stay in the community in a more affordable and accessible home, fund training and outreach for in-home caregivers, and fund a wider variety of transportation options to prevent fight isolation in car-dependent areas.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I would help support our community-based AAAs by expanding our caregiving workforce, allowing more housing construction, improving transportation options, and funding our AAAs through Local Affairs grants. Communities need a stronger foundation of housing, transportation, and caregiving options in order for AAAs to expand access to these services, and they need more funding as more Coloradans require their services.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I would work with the attorney general's office to continue his consumer protection programs, and pursue more strict regulation of scams that abuse technology to trick people, especially elderly people, out of their savings. Though our state department of justice gets thousands of complaints about scams, they lack the resources to respond to every call. To protect older Coloradans from scams and get them justice, our state

websites need to be more accessible, our departments need to be well funded, and our consumer protection laws must be stronger.

Colorado House District 19

Candidate Name: Jillaire McMillan

District Number: Colorado House District 19

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Weld & Boulder Counties, including Firestone, Frederick, Dacono, Erie, and parts of Longmont

Campaign Website: www.jillaireforco.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For the younger seniors, employment services may be of most benefit. Job centers may often be geared towards younger people entering the workforce for the first time, but older ones who already know how to fit into a work environment may only need help with new skills. Centers could narrow the focus for such people to help them become productive again.

Transportation is key for older seniors. Those unable to drive any longer need reliable transportation to appointments, especially for health care. Increasing access to public transportation is one of my top issues. Micro-transit options may be more suitable for seniors, and I see a role for the state in helping to coordinate these options across counties and cities.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I intend to be an accessible legislator who provides many opportunities to engage with constituents through in-person, online, or written means. Including people from many backgrounds and ages will be key to keeping me informed about the needs of my district,

and I can do that through regular meetings and surveys and incorporating people from many generations among my advisors.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

The experience and knowledge of older workers cannot simply be replaced by younger generations. Those workers with institutional knowledge are vital to passing knowledge along to the younger workers so they can have a fuller understanding of the business model. As stated above, training programs and centers should merely be geared towards younger workers. The ability for older workers to access short, well-taught classes, in person or online, on new software and hardware would help to keep them updated for quickly changing technology.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Caregiving for a family member is one of the hardest jobs for all of the reasons you've outlined, but also for many more. We need a better system for respite care and in-home nursing help for those with no medical experience so that older adults receiving care are competently looked after, and the caregiver isn't solely responsible for issues beyond their knowledge. Medical devices can be made more financially accessible, and carers need to be able to have self-care time, which is often overlooked. Education assistance for the carer to learn general medical knowledge could help many seniors from suffering a minor medical issue that suddenly becomes an emergency. Pay for caregivers through Medicare needs to be enough to assist everyone willing to dedicate themselves to this difficult and challenging time.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

In-home healthcare is the future of elder care. It is cost-saving but only if we can allow the seniors to be safe while still living independently. One potential idea is to create a program that matches vetted young people, students mostly, with seniors who can offer free lodging in exchange for a set number of hours of in-home assistance daily or weekly. Both would benefit.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Expanding public transportation, especially micro-transit, can help with some of these issues. Considering the employment needs of some older Coloradans, programs could be developed that recruit seniors able to drive to fill more of these needs. Pay them modest amount or encourage businesses to offer these helpers merchandise or benefits.

Clearly, increased funding to expand programs would be an ideal solution. If not already available, compiling data that shows how Area Agencies on Aging decrease costs in other areas could be a good pathway to gaining support for reallocating funds from those less cost-effective programs. By preventing the need for more intensive and expensive care outside of the home, we would be using funds more wisely and in a way that could serve more people.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Laws need to clearly define these scams for law enforcement officials and victims in order to streamline investigations and prosecutions. Regulations for tech companies could also require them to create stronger security measures. Data sharing among tech companies and individual and corporate victims would also help to inform future legislation and other actions.

At a more individual level, the state could establish and promote a service that seniors can call on for advice before they accept any unsolicited offer. Additionally, educating other generations--specifically the adult children of older adults--to the dangers of phishing and other scams will help assist all generations to spot problems before they impact financial

security. Cybersecurity training by employers and through community programs, such as public libraries, would help accomplish this.

Colorado House District 21

Candidate Name: Mary Bradfield

District Number: Colorado House District 21

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: El Paso County, Fountain, CO

Campaign Website: marybradfield.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The younger group may need some convincing that they need advice on estate and retirement planning. The older group have great need for safe housing, transportation help, medical care, and food delivery - all which come at a high cost.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Communities, when planning neighborhood renovations should consider the housing of older citizens. This will require modifications for many people that would allow these people to live independently. I don't think each community should invent/re-invent a system of elder housing - there are experts that can guide a community in what works best for older citizens.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

The first challenge is to change employers perception of the older worker. Expecting all employees to keep up with training for their industry would help resolve the age discrimination factor. Classes offered by employers or community colleges can help the older citizen start. planning and preparing for retirement.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

This group of caregivers has too long been neglected. Community services should include the ability to reach out to these caregivers with offered help. This help could be training to care for older family member, assistance to give the caregiver a much needed break, or pairing the caregiver with community services that is an aid to both family members. If one-fifth of the population is providing unpaid help, this is certainly deserving of legislation.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

The in-home help industry needs to be increased. Right now, there are not enough people available to do in-home assistance. The cost needs to be reasonable for all to be able to benefit from having the in-home care.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I believe that the legislature needs to focus more resources on this population.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I would encourage Senior Centers to have many classes and discussions on the possible scams that are prevalent. Banks can be more vigilant when unusual expenditures are occurring in older citizens accounts and help the people recoup the losses. Finally, I would like to see the court system enact very stiff penalties on the criminals.

Colorado House District 22

Candidate Name: Michael Pierson

District Number: Colorado House District 22

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Colorado Springs

Campaign Website: <https://pierson4co.com>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Those at the younger end of the spectrum are often raising families, running businesses, or at the top of their careers. It is the busiest time of life for many people, and they are struggling to hold it all together. These people are often starting to feel age discrimination in their jobs as employers seek to cut costs by cutting higher-paid employees who they see as less productive and creative (not true!). They may be realizing they are not well-positioned for retirement and need help in planning. They also may be dealing with health issues that seem to become chronic in this period of life.

Access to quality healthcare for all Coloradans is vital to a strong economy and healthy workforce, so my policy solutions would start there. I also believe in regulations and public education to hold financial advisors accountable and working in the best interest of their clients. For those facing age discrimination, it's vital that workers know their rights and have easy access to council and complaint processes. I also support job training for all workers to develop new skills or to update their current skill sets.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the oldest Coloradans are also facing challenges in housing affordability, cost of living and access to quality healthcare. They are very vulnerable to social isolation as well. I support programs that lower the cost of living for the most senior Coloradans, including tax credits and discounts on fees for those most in need. I also support the work of non-profits to involve seniors in volunteer programs where they can participate in community life.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

It's important to include seniors in decision making through interest groups and advisory councils. I'll hold monthly virtual and in-person meetings with my constituents to ensure they all have a voice on policy I'm considering in the legislature. I'm a big supporter of public transit but making it accessible to a wide range of people means we need to build more walkable communities that do not require cars to get to public transit. I support ride-share programs to fill this gap in the short term, but we need to build more dense communities in our growing cities to better integrate people from all generations into a community rather than our historic preference for far-flung single-family houses. These tighter communities make it easier for everyone to participate and take pride in where they live.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I've been a victim of age discrimination. We need tougher laws that make it easier for workers to participate in the economy as long as they are willing to keep their skills up to date. For that, unions, community colleges and many other training and educational opportunities are available and deserve public support. I would also support tax credits for companies that invest in up-skilling their older employees and develop career tracks that make the best use of their experience by eliminating "up-or-out" HR practices. I will also support business tax credits to help older workers become entrepreneurs if they open businesses in underserved communities.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I will advocate for legislation that supports family caregivers, such as funding for caregiver programs and protections against employment discrimination. I will also support direction for state government agencies to set up informational programs educating the public on how their agencies and any non-profits they work with, have programs to help lighten our care-givers burdens. I would also support tax relief for costs expended (mileage, supplies, etc.) in the act of caregiving.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I would support tax breaks for families that upgrade their home for senior or handicapped residents (ramps, handrails, etc.) and grants to organization like Habitat for Humanity who do that kind of work. I support public transit and ride-share businesses as well.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I support better state funding for these agencies as well as grants for innovative programs that help to expand and target services.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I will advocate for stronger penalties for those convicted of financial fraud targeting older adults and implement mandatory reporting laws for financial institutions to report suspected elder financial abuse. I also support grants to non-profit programs that help educate the public on avoiding financial scams.

Colorado House District 25

Candidate Name: George B Mumma Jr.

District Number: Colorado House District 25

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Jefferson County, Evergreen, Conifer, Deckers, Littleton, Morrison

Campaign Website: helpgeorgewin.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

As a state legislator, I must look at the needs of all of my constituents and work with others to come to the best solutions as possible. One of the issues that is of concern to me is the cost of living for both of these groups. We must look at property taxes, taxing pensions and medical and in home care. I would investigate strategies to lower property taxes of seniors, reduce taxes on pensions and investments and secure quality care for all seniors.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I would reach out to groups that represent older Coloradans to understand what the pressing issues are and then seek out those that can address those issues and effect positive change. Once the issues are identified we must work together to problem solve and create a win-win for all involved.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps

would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I think that we should work together to business to provide opportunities for older Coloradans to learn the necessary skills near and in their community and highlight the work ethic, experience and maturity that older adults bring to the workplace.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I would support legislation that ensures that family caregivers would have access to compensation, emotional support, etc from state funds for caring for an older loved one. Many people are willing to provide these services which takes the load off of the state and ensure better care when there is a connection to the older loved one.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I would support legislation that encourages non-profit groups to provide services that help to support older Coloradans with home maintenance, transportation, food services emotional support and care services.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

As the Baby Boomer generation continues to age and are in need of assistance, legislators must investigate incentives for expansion of AAA's to meet this need.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I support the concept of better education to older adults in the area of financial security, such as introducing safer ways to use the internet, more aggressive prosecution for criminal violators of fraud on older adults, support and education for care givers and agencies that support older adults.

Colorado House District 26

Candidate Name: Meghan Lukens

District Number: Colorado House District 26

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Cities/Towns: Rangely, Meeker, Craig, Maybell, Dinosaur, Hayden, Steamboat Springs, Oak Creek, Yampa, Clark, Toponas, Phippsburg, Eagle, Vail, Gypsum, Avon, Edwards, Minturn, Eagle-Vail, Wolcott, and Red Cliff. Counties: Routt, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and

Campaign Website: <https://meghanlukens.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I recognize the diverse needs of Colorado's older adult population and am committed to addressing the distinct challenges faced by younger and older segments of this group. For older adults in their 50s and 60s, who are often still active in the workforce, challenges include job insecurity and insufficient retirement savings. To address these issues, I would support implementing stronger age-discrimination protections in employment, offering incentives for businesses to hire and retain older workers, and enhancing financial literacy programs to better prepare individuals for retirement. On the other hand, for our oldest residents, particularly those aged 80 and above, the focus shifts to ensuring access to quality in-home care and support services. I advocate for expanding funding for home-based care programs, increasing support for family caregivers, and improving access to affordable medical services and assistive technologies. I have been a strong advocate for our retirement homes. When Casey's Pond, a retirement home and care center in my district was threatened by closure, I worked with local officials and stakeholders to keep it open. By tailoring our policies and efforts to these varying needs, we can support all stages of the aging journey and ensure a dignified and secure future for every Coloradan.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an

intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I believe in fostering a truly inclusive approach to policy that benefits Coloradans of all ages. To integrate an intergenerational lens, I propose developing comprehensive transportation and housing strategies that address the needs of both younger and older populations. For transportation, I would advocate for expanding access to affordable and accessible transit options, such as increasing funding for senior and disability transportation programs while also investing in multi-generational transit infrastructure that accommodates all age groups. In terms of housing, I support increasing the availability of affordable housing options and promoting universal design principles that ensure homes are adaptable for residents of any age or ability. Additionally, I propose creating advisory councils with representatives from various age groups to ensure that our policies reflect diverse perspectives and effectively address the unique challenges faced by older Coloradans. By integrating these strategies, we can create more equitable solutions that enhance the quality of life for every Coloradan, regardless of age.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I am dedicated to ensuring that older Coloradans can fully participate in and benefit from our workforce. To tackle the challenges older workers face, I propose an approach that creates more opportunities for professional growth and helps older generations to adapt in today's rapidly changing workforce. First, I would support legislation that enforces stricter penalties for age discrimination and incentivizes companies to adopt inclusive hiring practices. Additionally, I would champion initiatives to enhance access to upskilling and reskilling programs tailored specifically for older workers, such as funding for career retraining programs and partnerships with community colleges and workforce development organizations. To further support financial security, I advocate for expanding retirement savings programs with options for older workers to make catch-up contributions and providing financial planning resources to help them navigate their retirement goals. By

addressing these key areas, we can help older Coloradans remain competitive in the job market and secure a stable financial future.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I recognize the invaluable contribution of family caregivers and the substantial burden they carry. To better support these dedicated individuals, I support a comprehensive set of policy solutions. First, I advocate for expanding access to public care services, which could provide temporary relief for caregivers and ensure their well-being. Additionally, I support implementing tax credits and financial assistance programs specifically for family caregivers to help alleviate the financial strain associated with caregiving. To address the emotional and physical toll, I propose increasing funding for caregiver support networks that offer counseling, training, and resources. Lastly, I would push for policies that allow caregivers to access flexible work arrangements or paid family leave, helping them balance their caregiving responsibilities with their professional lives. By adopting these measures, we can better support family caregivers, recognizing their critical role and ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I am committed to helping older Coloradans remain in their homes and communities as they age. To continue working towards this, I support expanding funding for home modification programs that assist seniors in adapting their homes to meet their changing needs, such as installing ramps, grab bars, and accessible fixtures. Additionally, I support increasing investment in community-based services like in-home health care and meal delivery programs, which are essential for maintaining independence. To address affordability, I would advocate for enhanced support for property tax relief and affordable housing options for older adults. Furthermore, I would push for the development of age-

friendly community initiatives that improve local infrastructure, ensuring access to essential services and social activities. By implementing these policies, we can create supportive environments that enable older Coloradans to live comfortably and securely in their own homes and communities.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I understand the critical role that Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) play in providing essential services to older Coloradans, and I am committed to addressing the waitlists and service gaps they face. To better support our community-based AAAs, I would support increasing state funding specifically targeted at expanding their capacity and reducing wait times. This includes investing in resources for hiring additional staff and increasing the availability of services like meal delivery, transportation, and in-home care. I also support enhancing grant programs that enable AAAs to innovate and improve their service delivery models, such as integrating technology to streamline operations and better coordinate care. Additionally, I advocate for creating partnerships between AAAs and local businesses or non-profits to leverage community resources and support. By providing these targeted investments and supports, we can ensure that AAAs have the necessary tools and resources to meet the growing demand for their vital services.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

To combat this growing issue, we need to focus on both preventative education and stringent protective measures. First, I would advocate for the expansion of financial literacy programs specifically designed for older adults, focusing on recognizing and avoiding common scams. Partnering with local banks and community organizations, we can provide workshops and resources tailored to their needs. Additionally, I support increasing funding for state and local consumer protection agencies to enhance their ability to investigate and respond to financial fraud cases. Implementing stronger regulations and penalties for

fraudulent activities, as well as creating a dedicated task force to focus on crimes against older adults, would also be crucial steps. By combining education, enforcement, and support, we can better protect our older constituents from financial exploitation and ensure they can safely navigate an increasingly complex financial landscape.

Colorado House District 27

Candidate Name: Brianna Titone

District Number: Colorado House District 27

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Arvada & Golden

Campaign Website: <https://www.briannaforco.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For the younger group, Employment and Income Stability, Health Insurance and Retirement Planning, and Skills Gaps are issues. Many in this age group face age discrimination in the job market, making it difficult to find new employment or maintain job security. This group is often still navigating health insurance options and retirement savings, especially if they are displaced from long-term jobs. Sometimes benefits are what keeps someone at a job that could be unfulfilling or inadequate in pay. Also, rapid technological changes can leave some older adults unprepared, requiring up-skilling or re-skilling if they need to find other employment. Policy solutions could involve enhancing or creating programs specific to each of these areas. For older adults, Health and Mobility Issues, Social Isolation, and Access to In-Home Services are often obstacles. Many in this age group face declining health, mobility challenges, and increased need for medical care and assistance. Loneliness has also been prevalent, especially for those living alone or in institutional settings, impacting mental and emotional well-being. There can be significant barriers to accessing needed in-home health services or assistance with daily living activities. The services that seniors need such as transportation and in-home healthcare must be funded properly. There should be rate increases for state paid providers so that there are enough available and accessible. Finally, the recently discovered fraud in non-medical transportation needs to be addressed, we need to ensure that abuses of these services don't result in stoppages or delays.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible

transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I have been made aware of many of the issues facing a large spectrum of Coloradans because I keep an open door and open mind, listening to all Coloradans. There are solutions that can work for multiple groups if we take the time to understand the similarities and pay attention to what other places are doing. I can't be an expert in all areas, but I want to hear from older Coloradans about their concerns, their struggles, and their ideas. Oftentimes those experiencing a situation have insights on possible solutions. We should be sure the voices of those impacted are heard.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

It's important that Coloradans are prepared for an uncertain future. This is even more true today than it was a few years ago because of technology. Ensuring folks have the information on financial planning and retirement is an easy step. Many people are not equipped with the information to properly save for the future. Ensuring that age discrimination isn't an issue is important as well. SB24-205, a bill on AI regulation that I sponsored, could be particularly important to combat age discrimination in hiring practices.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

In a perfect world, this kind of unpaid home care would be compensated. Can Colorado do something like this? It's difficult to say with the budget constraints we have. But we need to find ways of compensation for this work- because it is work- and often comes at the

expense of a paid job. I would be open to suggestions based on an analysis of the issue to determine possible ways this could be done.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Revamping the senior tax exemption to be more fair to those with greater economic need could be one approach. Anything we can do to reduce costs could help, like utility costs, or medication costs which all help the ability to stay in their home. Assisting homeowners and non-profits with refitting homes to be safer and more accessible are also ways of keeping folks in their homes.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Supporting RTD to deliver better services would be one important step. Cracking down on fraud with non-emergency medical transportation would be another. Working with food banks and other charitable organizations to find ways of better addressing food insecurity through partnerships and state support would work.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

The number one defense is education. We can try to keep up with the ways people take advantage of others, but avoiding the scams is the number one strategy. We have periodically done town halls on topics like this to help bring in experts to help folks be prepared.

Colorado House District 28

Candidate Name: Peter Boddie

District Number: Colorado House District 28

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: south Jefferson County, south edge of Lakewood

Campaign Website: <https://www.boddieforcolorado.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I am a senior. All are affected by inflation and many are struggling. We need to cut regulations, cut property taxes and increase energy production to bring prices down. That will help everyone, including seniors.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

sane as for my answer above. I would add, stop subsidizing illegal immigration and diverting funds from programs that benefit seniors.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Improving the economy as discussed in other questions helps everyone and creates job opportunities for seniors. Some of those jobs go to illegal immigrants. My wife has

experienced age discrimination and dropped out of looking for jobs. A better economy will improve jobs for seniors, and lowering inflation will give them more financial security.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Kudos to those providing that care out of love. Our legislature passes way to many laws, many of which dampen our economy. A better economy allows for better solutions for seniors and their families.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Stop taxing social security benefits. Lower property taxes. Those two things will help seniors stay in their homes.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado’s Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Encourage people to volunteer to help. Stop diverting taxpayer money to social engineering and illegal immigrants, and better fund programs for seniors.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Provide better education for seniors and start putting the scam artists in jail.

Candidate Name: Sheila Lieder

District Number: Colorado House District 28

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Littleton, Lakewood, Morrison

Campaign Website: <https://www.liederforcolorado.com/about>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Those on the younger side of the spectrum need 401K, mortgage, and healthcare assistance in order to navigate the high cost of living in Colorado and have enough savings to retire with dignity. Many people are working beyond age 65 because they simply cannot afford to have a reduction in income. We have work to do to ensure their income can sustain them in retirement. Wages need to increase, and the state should provide assistance to small businesses to offer more security for those retiring at a normal age. In the legislature, I co-sponsored State Treasurer Dave Young's Colorado Secure Savings Program. Additionally, I have always supported Home Health Care Workers for in-home assistance for those on the older side of the spectrum. Assisted living facility workers also need higher salaries to diminish the worker shortage. For older Coloradans looking to downsize, I passed legislation that allows them to defer their property taxes until the point of sale. I also passed the Homestead Exemption Act for seniors, making it portable for the next two years, to ensure they are able to take those tax savings with them.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As stated earlier, I passed the Senior Homestead Act to make it portability with a 2-year sunset and I plan to make it permanent if re-elected and continue to reevaluate tax structures that impact seniors. Additionally, part of my mission is to stand up to big insurance companies and corporate greed that drain the savings of young and older Coloradans alike. I have a track record of involving myself with organizations that serve the interests of older Coloradans, such as being an Executive board member for the (CARA) Colorado Alliance for Retired Americans, also a member of their National Executive board representing CO, NM & UT to build there committees Their feedback allows me to make informed decisions when reviewing and adjusting policies, supporting initiatives, and fostering a supportive environment for all generations.

One of my main priorities is to create an environment that continues to allow older adults to retire and live with dignity.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I tried to pass HB24-1317 Workforce Data Collection, which would've required the director of the division of employment and training (director) in the Department of Labor and Employment to annually collect, analyze, and make recommendations to the general assembly based on data from workforce centers; the state, in relation to data it has collected concerning workers in specific age categories, beginning at age 50; and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, I was a member of the Tri-County Workforce Board for 13 years, and some of their centers offer upskilling and reskilling for older Coloradoans. We need to make sure they are funded to keep those services available. I am willing to bring back the Workforce Data Collection Bill; it was Pi'd due to lack of funding for it.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

In-home healthcare providers need to be more accessible to all families. In-home healthcare worker shortages and historically high costs have made in-home healthcare inaccessible. I would like to see these workers receive higher pay and improve accessibility of in-home healthcare for the average person. Additionally, I think it would be beneficial for this sector of healthcare to work with other services to make it easier to get the information to this group of people.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I have passed legislation to do just that. I passed HB23-1284, which stipulates that a person who is at least 65 years of age or who is a person called into military service may elect to defer the payment of real property taxes. Other residential real property owners may also defer the payment of a portion of real property taxes under certain circumstances. For all three categories of taxpayers who are eligible to defer the payment of real property taxes, the property for which the deferral is claimed cannot be income-producing. Beginning in the 2023 property tax year, the act specifies that the prohibition against the property being income-producing does not apply if the taxpayer claiming the deferral is at least 65 years of age, is a person called into military service, or is the surviving spouse of such a taxpayer.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

As mentioned above, I support paying in-home caregiving providers more money in order to reverse labor shortages, making sure RTD Access a Ride is funded, as well as ensuring medical vouchers for taxi and ride share options for medical appointments are funded.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I would love to help pass laws to hold these scammers accountable! While I am interested in learning about specific ways to go about holding scammers accountable, I see providing

frequently targeted groups, such as older adults, more information about common scam tactics as one effective strategy. Equipping individuals with the tools to recognize and avoid scams themselves is an important part of the greater solution to the prevalence of scamming.

Colorado House District 30

Candidate Name: Ramey Johnson

District Number: Colorado House District 30

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Edgewater and NE Lakewood - Jefferson County

Campaign Website: Ramey@rameyjohnson.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I am running to bring down taxes which helps everyone particularly seniors who are being taxed out of their homes.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Unfortunately, some of the problems we all face are actually an outcome of legislation. Many rules and regulations are making new builds more expensive- EV hook ups in garages and sprinkler systems in homes. I am unapologetic regarding my support for the gas and oil industry. High gas prices are a terrible outcome for diminishing gas and oil production in Colorado. Low energy prices help all ages regarding transportation and food. Petroleum is needed for fertilizer. Because I cared for my Dad during the end of his life's journey, I have a clear understanding of senior issues. Additionally, during my career as a professional nurse I was a surveyor for CDPHE for long term care facilities and a discharge planner. Both of these professional roles exposed me to senior issues.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps

would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

We all must be prepared to be cut from the workforce. So, we must always prepare, which includes life long learning of skills, interviewing (whether or not you are seeking employment) to keep that skill sharp. Senior Fairs often have financial planners.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I actually understand caregiving on a personal level. Perhaps we will need a paradigm shift that embraces family unity again. In times past, it was normal for loving families to be happy to care for their parents who are the reservoirs of wisdom. Elders were respected and cherished. Emotional support and praise of caregivers goes a long way.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

My own Dad wanted to age in place. This was a challenge for my husband and myself. We supported him. Having a "lifeline" was crucial. Financially preparing for our own older years is paramount to having the ability to make your own decisions. Throughout our lives cultivating family cohesion is a life death matter. It is best for parents and children to have conversations early on regarding the future. We have an obligation to begin early to be thinking of our older aging needs. This is not a government issue, but rather a family conversation.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Give loving support and listen. Work together for solutions.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Education, education, education. I believe the DA's office has classes on senior scams? Educate seniors through senior events and at Senior fairs.

Candidate Name: Rebekah Stewart

District Number: Colorado House District 30

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Lakewood and Edgewater

Campaign Website: www.rebekahforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For younger older adults, I see a huge need for housing supply that meets the demand to downsize and age in place in our community. This type of housing, like condos and townhomes, is currently in short supply and has forced many older adults into staying in homes that are much too large and require more maintenance than many folks can handle as they get older. There are state policies in place that have made it more difficult and costly to build this type of housing stock, and I see a big opportunity to tackle that when elected. I spent a lot of my professional life working with folks on the older end of the aging spectrum, and one of my biggest concerns moving forward is our workforce. As one of our largest generations ages and continues to live longer, I already see a shortage in caregivers and helpers who are essential to supporting the additional needs that some folks have as they get older. One reason for this shortage is the gap between wages and cost of living, and some of that lies in Medicaid reimbursement. Rates are simply not high enough for people to live on and it has the domino effect of losing this critical workforce and then decreasing support and quality of life for older adults.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As a music therapist, my work was intergenerational and I saw the intersections of the same issues impacting folks throughout the lifespan. Given this background, this is how I

have approached my work and policy making, and I'll continue to do so moving forward. I seek out stakeholding and understanding from many lenses and perspectives, and want to continue to ensure that we pass good policy that moves the needle for ALL Coloradans.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

This is exactly the situation my dad found himself in when looking for work in his early 60's. He ended up getting a job after a move that he was overqualified for because no one would hire him for positions that his tenure and experience actually warranted. I think education and helping people know their rights when it comes to age discrimination is critical. Unfortunately in Colorado, our cost of living is forcing people to work longer or take on part time work in retirement simply to make ends meet. We need to better educate employers on what an incredible opportunity the experience of older workers can be, and the stability and tenure they can provide as well that makes this workforce well worth investing in.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I would be incredibly interested in acknowledging this unpaid labor and support through similar tax credits to the child tax credit. Here in Colorado, parents and family members can also become a paid respite caregiver for their child in certain circumstances, and equitably extending those opportunities across the age spectrum for folks who qualify would be an area worth exploring.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Two big opportunities to support this are more appropriate housing supply and in home support workforce. Like I mentioned above, this means making it easier and more cost

effective to build lower maintenance downsizing opportunities like condos and townhomes, which can also build community that can be really critical to health, well being, and independence. If folks just need a little support as they age, in home support is effective and better for quality of life and independence and we need to find ways to increase that critical workforce's wages.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

We need to make it as easy as possible to draw down federal dollars to support these programs and maximizing matching funds programs that support program expansion and worker wages. Partnering with our local governments as well is an area I see for expansion. Many local governments have amazing programs for older adults and partnering to create more resource efficiencies can help us reach more people more effectively.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Again, this is a situation that my family has personal experience with and it's infuriating. In addition to consumer education, I am heartened to see financial institutions starting to flag potential fraud and asking questions of customers before releasing large sums of money. I experienced this at King Soopers first hand when attempting to purchase a large quantity of gift cards and was very grateful that they took the time to find out what the purchases were for and proactively limiting quantity for this very reason. I'd like to perhaps see a standard simple questionnaire that is gone through before purchases like this, both in person and online, to support more folks in flagging fraud before the money gets moved.

Colorado House District 31

Candidate Name: Jacque Phillips

District Number: Colorado House District 31

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Thornton

Campaign Website: www.jacquephillipsforstaterep.com/

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For younger older adults (50-65), challenges often include age discrimination in employment and inadequate retirement savings. I would support policies that promote job training, upskilling, and enforcement of age discrimination laws to ensure they remain competitive in the workforce. For the oldest adults (80+), in-home care and assistance are crucial. Expanding access to in-home caregiving services, transportation support, and affordable housing would help maintain their independence and dignity.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Integrating an intergenerational approach means focusing on policies that benefit all ages, like affordable housing and accessible transportation, which support older adults while benefiting younger generations. I would engage in cross-generational dialogues to ensure that our policies reflect the needs of people at all life stages. We must ensure that the voices of older Coloradans are represented and accounted for in every conversation about economic and community planning.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace

age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

To support older workers, I would advocate for expanded workforce training programs focused on upskilling and reskilling, especially in high-demand industries. We must enforce laws protecting against age discrimination and provide incentives to businesses that hire older workers. Additionally, creating pathways for part-time or flexible work could allow older adults to stay engaged in the workforce while planning for their retirement.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Family caregivers are a backbone of our healthcare system, and they deserve more support. I would push for expanded access to paid family leave, tax credits for caregivers, and programs that provide respite care to reduce their emotional and physical burden. Additionally, I would support programs that offer training and mental health resources for caregivers to help them manage their responsibilities and their own well-being.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I would advocate for policies that expand in-home services like home modifications, affordable caregiving, and transportation assistance to help older Coloradans age in place. Additionally, we need to increase funding for programs like Medicaid and the Colorado Old Age Pension to ensure older adults can afford housing and stay within their communities, close to their support networks.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Legislators need to prioritize funding for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to meet the growing demand for services like meal delivery, medical transportation, and in-home caregiving support. I would push for budget allocations that directly fund community-based services and explore public-private partnerships that can help reduce service waitlists. Ensuring these agencies are adequately staffed and funded is essential to meeting the needs of our aging population.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

To combat financial scams targeting older adults, I would support stronger consumer protection laws and advocate for increased funding for fraud prevention education programs. Collaborating with law enforcement to create task forces focused on elder fraud and increasing penalties for scammers would also be part of my approach. Additionally, we need to ensure older adults have access to resources and information about common scams and fraud-prevention strategies.

Colorado House District 32

Candidate Name: Manny Rutinel

District Number: Colorado House District 32

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Commerce City; Adams County

Campaign Website: <https://www.mannyforcolorado.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For older adults on the younger side of the spectrum, financial insecurity and age discrimination in employment are significant challenges. Many face difficulty securing jobs as they transition careers, which puts strain on their financial stability. To address this, I support expanding income supports like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and strengthening protections against age-based discrimination in hiring. Additionally, workforce development programs that offer older adults job training can help them remain competitive in the job market.

Housing affordability is another major issue for this group. Rising housing costs can severely impact older adults nearing retirement, particularly those on fixed incomes. I would advocate for policies that increase affordable housing development and options, especially as the children of many of these older adults leave the house and allow the older adults to find another housing option that better meets their needs.

For the oldest adults (80+), challenges revolve around accessing in-home care, affordable healthcare, and avoiding social isolation. Many need long-term care services, which can be prohibitively expensive. I support expanding Medicaid funding to ensure more older adults can access in-home care. Additionally, expanding affordable senior housing and creating telehealth programs would help keep this group connected to essential health services and reduce social isolation.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible

transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I would take an intergenerational approach to housing and transportation policies to ensure they benefit all Coloradans, while also addressing the loneliness epidemic affecting both young and older generations. As the Prime Sponsor of HB24-1007, which prevents localities from setting occupancy limits based on familial status, I'm committed to promoting inclusive housing policies. This legislation, along with my support for Colorado's recent Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bill, helps create flexible housing solutions that allow families to live together, supporting older adults and younger generations alike.

These housing policies not only provide affordability but also help combat isolation by encouraging multi-generational living arrangements. In addition, expanding affordable and accessible public transit ensures older adults and younger commuters can stay connected to jobs, healthcare, and social activities, reducing isolation and fostering stronger community ties.

To ensure older Coloradans' needs are fully represented, I would continue to engage with senior advocacy groups and push for policies that enhance healthcare access, transportation, and community spaces where people of all ages can interact. By integrating these approaches, we can build communities that tackle loneliness and create a more connected, inclusive Colorado.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

To support older workers, I would advocate for stronger enforcement of anti-age discrimination laws, ensuring that older Coloradans can access meaningful employment without facing bias. Age should not be a barrier to work, and we must hold employers accountable for discriminatory practices. Additionally, I would push for expanding workforce development programs that focus on upskilling and reskilling older workers, particularly in high-demand sectors like healthcare and technology. We should also expand access to financial literacy and retirement planning resources to help older workers secure their financial futures while continuing to contribute to Colorado's economy.

As the lead sponsor of SB24-205, which addresses the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in employment decisions, I've worked to ensure that new technologies are used fairly. This bill sets guidelines for how AI is used in hiring, so that older workers aren't unfairly excluded from opportunities. By regulating AI, we can help prevent biased algorithms from perpetuating age discrimination, ensuring fair access to jobs for all workers.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Colorado's new FMLI (Family and Medical Leave Insurance) program is a crucial step toward supporting working-class family caregivers by providing paid leave for those caring for loved ones. However, we can further improve FMLI by expanding the program to ensure all family caregivers can access sufficient paid time off and that the benefits payments are higher for working families, especially those in low-income jobs who often face the hardest choices between caregiving and earning a paycheck.

I would advocate for increasing the duration of paid leave available under FMLI and ensuring that wage replacement levels are high enough so working-class families aren't financially burdened while taking leave. I also support creating a tax credit for family caregivers to help cover out-of-pocket costs, such as medical supplies and home modifications, which can quickly add up. Additionally, I would advocate for strengthening programs like Colorado's Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS), which allows family members to be paid caregivers through Medicaid. This helps older adults receive personalized care in their homes while supporting family caregivers financially. Expanding access to affordable in-home care services and providing tax credits for caregiving-related expenses would further ease the financial burden on families, ensuring older Coloradans receive the support they need. Finally, increasing access to mental health services and stress management resources for caregivers would help address the emotional toll of caregiving, particularly for those balancing jobs and care responsibilities.

These improvements to FMLI and additional policies would better support working caregivers across Colorado, helping them maintain their financial security while caring for their loved ones.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

To help older Coloradans age in their communities, I support expanding affordable housing options and providing funding for home modification programs that allow seniors to adapt their homes to meet their changing space and mobility needs. Additionally, I would advocate for strengthening programs like Colorado's Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS), which allows family members to be paid caregivers through Medicaid. This helps older adults receive personalized care in their homes while supporting family caregivers financially. Expanding access to affordable in-home care services and providing tax credits for caregiving-related expenses would further ease the financial burden on families, ensuring older Coloradans receive the support they need.

I also believe we need to invest in community-based services like senior transportation programs and meal delivery services to ensure older adults remain connected to their communities. Expanding access to telehealth services can also improve healthcare accessibility for seniors who prefer to stay at home.

By focusing on affordable housing, in-home care, and community support, we can help older Coloradans age with dignity while remaining in the communities they know and love.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Legislators can better support Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) by increasing state funding to meet the growing demand for essential services like meal delivery, transportation, and in-home caregiving. Expanding the budget for AAAs would help clear waitlists and ensure that more older adults receive the support they need without delay. I also advocate for using federal matching funds more effectively to enhance the resources available to these agencies, though I understand many federal resources are running out.

Lastly, we should streamline administrative processes and improve workforce recruitment and retention in caregiving roles. Offering better wages and benefits for caregivers and providing professional development opportunities within our high schools and community colleges would help AAAs maintain the staff needed to meet demand. By addressing both

funding and workforce challenges, we can ensure that AAAs continue to serve older Coloradans effectively.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

To protect older adults from financial scams, I would advocate for stronger consumer protection laws and increased penalties for scammers. Educating seniors through public awareness campaigns on identifying scams, along with expanding resources for reporting fraud, is key. I also support enhancing fraud detection systems in collaboration with financial institutions, which can flag suspicious transactions involving older adults.

As AI-driven scams become more sophisticated, we must also focus on the role that AI companies play in this evolving landscape. I would push for regulations that incentivize AI developers to implement guardrails that prevent their models from being exploited by scammers. AI companies should be held accountable and encouraged to work with lawmakers and cybersecurity experts to protect vulnerable populations, especially seniors. By combining education, enforcement, and ethical AI development, we can significantly reduce financial exploitation of older Coloradans.

Colorado House District 34

Candidate Name: Mark Bromley

District Number: Colorado House District 34

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Northglenn/Thornton/Adams
County/Colorado/USA/Earth

Campaign Website: voteBromley.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I support elderly support in our community by lowering costs, providing aging in place, raising benefits and shoring up health care systems that are capable of addressing support to our valued elders of our society. Reduction of housing costs and access to appropriate and helpful support and assistance to our elders. I have worked extensively with elderly persons and come from a very hardy stock of family. My family members live long lives and are very self motivated and independent. Many I meet on the campaign trail want self sufficiency and independence. The right solution to me is a health care system that provides adequate care and respect. In our communities we need to establish affordable systems that include our elderly citizens and provide a rewarding system that keeps our elderly residents a part of our society.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Family is a core value of positive health and community. Getting a grip on current bad legislations of the past should be undone to not become a burden and revised to provide healthy development of family generations coming together. By creating stability of cost

and affordability we achieve a more balanced society. We need to end polarized political structures that are counter productive to that of family. Our current polarized political party structure is wrong here in Colorado. Polarized parties are harmful to family and it shows in our public education systems and awkward agendas. The polarized parties are a problem to the safety of those aging in our communities. I am appalled at the number of elderly residents ejected from single family homes because of a bad open border agenda policies. The senior housing doesn't meet the standards of families. A real breakdown in the financial sector is in order and must be revitalized to meet the generations of families aging in our communities. Access to affordable transportation is essential and we can always allow the interconnectivity of elderly society transportation and close proximity of these venues that incorporate family at it's core. There are many organizations working apart but they should be working together as they could create a more meaningful impact.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

What is a job? There is a constant failing in Colorado to recognize economic development. As it stands Colorado has wrongfully for decades looked to exotic resources for job creation. When in fact all the resources for employment and job creation resided here in Colorado all along. However polarized politics by foreign orientation has failed to provide for a wide range of local economy development. Its wrong that so many think that people over 50 have to be upskilled, reskilled, or still in college getting degrees. When in fact for the past 5 decades they have been at the cutting edge of our modern society. They built it by doing the work. We created everything, We the elderly know how this all works because we have hand on IRL top shelf skills and development. I recommend on Saturdays and Sundays you watch NHK News. You might see a big difference in how we approach the job markets in Colorado and develop small business for future growth. Polarized Politics by people over 35 to 50 are the problem. They don't realize humans roughly live 100 years. Not even a blink of an eye when you talk of generational families. This means they have the same skill sets. We don't need reeducation and I think Pink Floyd is very apt. Hey teacher leave them elderly alone. Incorporate and adapt their high skills so the elderly can teach the future. The age group 35 to 49 have been detrimental to creating economy in Colorado. Its all this failed generation of polarized politics that created some real tyranny. By undoing that mind think we can see that we can build a brighter future by recognizing and redefining

rewards for a humane work place instead of the brutality it has become. By becoming kind and generous in our reimagining of what is a rewarding job.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Our society because of bad politicians and polarized politics has been brutal to families and all ages. Polarized parties to stay in power in Colorado have become brutal and intolerant like slave masters wanting slaves in Colorado. The Polarized Political stress threat is the most common ailment of our society. Negatively impacting what should be a positive experience for families to care for their elderly members. My reason for running for office is because it's the polarized politics offering to worsen a problem with no solutions. I ran against the Mullica's because their BRICS policies are harmful to those aging in my House District and Adams County and bad political policy at the state capitol. Willford is one of those bad actors in polarized politics. I'm over 55 and I care for an elderly mother. These polarized politicians threatened me and my mom with harassment by code enforcement and threats of slavery and court cases. On top of that they gave us Discrimination, Exclusivity, and Intolerance some of this is on my votebromley.com website. It's worse their BRICS policies have negatively impacted the aging in Northglenn and Thornton and Adams County. Stripping elderly of their homes, replacing them with human trafficked refugees and allowing ICR backed Drug Cartels to move into single family homes that were once occupied by vulnerable elderly residents. I knock on doors for the past 5 years I know my neighbors and seen how polarized politics have failed Colorado and way there is an illegal drug problem. As the Drug Cartels illegally trafficked immigration in to Sanctuary cities into rezoned housing. Just so those human trafficked are enslaved to pay drug cartels for family members held hostage south of the border. I'm trying to stop this deceptive practices of BRICS politicians in Colorado the Polarized Politics. In so doing we will provide a better means to reestablish family caregivers and mechanisms to restore humanity to Colorado's health care system.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

By getting elected to House District 34 I can help elderly residents like me (over 55) and my mom (over 84) stay in their life long since childhood homes in Colorado. Lets face it these opponents of mine in supposed "Health Care?" Mullica's, Willford, and soon to be others. Have attacked this elderly 55 year old and his elderly mother with code enforcement brutal tactics to steal property, organized crime, and even a made up threat of a law suit by the Ernst Legal Group it's on my Facebook website. They attack my legit personal business, aimed a 451 plot at my novel to keep it off the market. Hence an attack to effectively market a US made product attacking legit elderly rand businesses. They have used code enforcement to terrorize the elderly in House District 34. Stripped people of their homes pushing harmful conflict of interest polarized party legislations. Created unaffordable senior housing. I get elected as an Unaffiliated by the power of the people can lower costs, deflate inflation, actually create incomes and real affordable housing. I've been running against the problem for the past five years and those polarized politicians have been hateful and I can end the hate by simply getting elected to protect those like me and my mom in my community House District 34. The first thing I learned in emergency response and first response rescue swimming. You have to save yourself first if you want to save others.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Electing Unaffiliated to office is the first step. I've been working with these services for decades. Like I said I have a large strong family. Part of why I'm on the ballot Unaffiliated HD34 is that strong robust family of generational elderly care. I've spent a lot of time dealing with the mechanisms of health care and grand parents, uncles, aunts, and extended family overseas in Japan in Health care. My wife in Japan she's a health care professional in Hiroshima and their elderly issues are complex because of atomic fallout, Typhoons, Earthquakes and other man made and natural disasters impacting the elderly. I even provided care to my brother suffering his final years losing a battle to aids. He received some of these services and there needs to be improvements. Here in Colorado we are going backwards because of polarized harmful politicians like the ones I ran against who have a terrible hidden BRICS agenda. By changing that destructive environment at the state capitol we can move forward with more understanding legislation. What we need moving forward is a statesman and I happen to be that statesman that has cared for so many.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Improved enforcement and reclamation of financial losses and damages. I've worked with Homeland Security and Law Enforcement. I have worked overseas with US SoS, consulates and foreign police in Europe and the Pacific Rim and middle east. With positive results. Our biggest threat is south of the border as they do not care about the restrictions we put in place in the USA to curb technology crimes. BRICS supporting nations are south of our border their drug cartels have a vested interest in undermining the USA and our economy and financial means. BRICS supporting democrats in Adams County are the cause of this piss poor response in the USA to prevent financial loss to the elderly. Look they attack me and my mom with code enforcement harassment and made up threats of lawsuits by Ernst Legal group because they wanted to acquire elderly homes in their Global Socialist BRICS sanctuary cities. I as a 55 year old and my mom 84 years old are in conflict with the BRICS polarized politicians that have been part of this fraud aimed at the elderly in our communities. The people I have ran against for the past 5 years are part of these financial scams aimed at the elderly in my community. I am addressing the issue and winning House District 34 as the unaffiliated elderly candidate and momma's boy is the solution to this problem because I'm attacking the cause of this financial fraud our polarized BRICS elected.

Colorado House District 36

Candidate Name: Eric Mulder

District Number: Colorado House District 36

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Aurora, Watkins, Arapahoe, Adams

Campaign Website: eric4colorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Many seniors I've heard from have concerns about property taxes in that rate increases strain their fixed incomes. I will support additional reforms to property tax law in Colorado that ensure people don't receive drastic increases that harm their ability to live in retirement.

I would also be interested in drafting tougher state laws and working with our federal Congress in order to crackdown on predatory mailers that have scammed countless people by pretending to be invoices or government documents.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

One area of accessible transportation that could help is creating more benches at business stops. I've seen several RTD stops in my area that have resorted to plastic lawn chairs and overturned shopping carts because riders have no where to sit to wait for a bus.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps

would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I would be willing to help strengthen our anti discrimination laws to ensure that any metric used to evaluate employees is fair, and promote the benefits of collective bargaining so that seniors in the workplace can be afforded the protections found in an organized workplace.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I would support allowing expenses related to caring for loved ones to be written off on taxes.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I support property tax rate limits for seniors and disabled persons so that increases do not exceed their fixed incomes.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

The state legislature should consider a statewide licensing for services requiring licensing to cut back on municipal delays for licenses (when required). Consider implementing a rebate program so seniors can utilize ride share apps if transportation is not available.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Colorado should work with our federal representatives to create legislation that cracks down on deceptive mailers that attempt to deceive seniors and others into handing over personal information. Companies and entities who engage in deceptive mail campaigns should have their bulk mail licenses suspended and face steep fines.

Colorado House District 37

Candidate Name: Chad Clifford

District Number: Colorado House District 37

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Arapahoe County, Centennial, Greenwood Village, Foxfield, Unincorporated AC

Campaign Website: chadforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

In HD37 the two biggest we face are (1) the inability to downsize a home and (2) elder care facilities. Home prices are so high here, that so often it is impossible for those ready to downsize, due to kids leaving the house etc, to do so. Additionally, for those that need to be in assisted, living, or memory living facilities, so often the level of care given is terrible. I am actively working on both.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Simply it is to make sure you always have a seat at the table and an invitation to discussions. My line is always always always open to you.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Age discrimination has no place in Colorado and I will always be unfeathered in my belief in that. Training programs and opportunities for career changes through education grants for example can help many.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Caregiving is work, and we should treat it that way in every way the State is involved.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I'm a big proponent of homestead exemption and similar policies that lower the cost of living for seniors in our state. Often monthly income is static, while the cost of living ratchets up. This is a reality for many including my own parents. We can get creative in new ways and build up existing programs to make post-retirement easier.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I would love to join conversations with Colorado's AAA to discuss funding, bottlenecks, and capacity problems.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Where prevention campaigns fail I support the Attorney General to go after bad actors in this space to hold them accountable.

Candidate Name: Kevin Biehl

District Number: Colorado House District 37

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Centennial/Greenwood Village/Foxfield/Aurora - Arapahoe County

Campaign Website: <https://www.kevin4ourcolorado.com>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For the younger side of the older adult age spectrum, more individuals than ever before in the Baby Boomer generation are needing to extend income-earning opportunities and save for retirement for longer - I would advocate for policies that incentivize and subsidize corporations and small businesses to hire among this age group. For the upper side of the older adult age spectrum (and I experienced this as a primary caregiver for my aging grandparents) transportation becomes a barrier to sustaining a range of healthy activities; I would look to support the continued extension of existing RTD infrastructure and also subsidize private first mile-last mile solutions to enable adults in this age group to safely and effectively access better transportation options.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Investment in universal design and accessibility in everything from housing to transportation to other elements of society creates opportunities to not only improve the quality of life for individuals at all ages but also for individuals across the older age spectrum. Long-term thinking and investment in community development and infrastructure planning that creates greater inclusion and access can also be a cost-savings measure. I am hopeful that Colorado's new Disability Opportunity Office can help

drive more universal design and accessibility implementation that benefits not only individuals with disabilities but individuals from older age populations in general.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Most recently as a Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships at the Second Chance Center in Aurora, I helped open and operationalize an Employment Opportunity Lab that served many older adults who had various barriers to employment and create workforce programming as well as led upskilling classes to solve for these challenges. To support individuals from older age groups, I would incentivize and subsidize employers who hired and sustained employees in this demographic and specifically do so in non-labor intensive industries. Access to and learning of technology is also critical for success on the job for older age groups - oftentimes the inability to effectively communicate and utilize programs on computers and smart phones creates a technology gap that can be closed if we invest in educational programs and hands-on trainings for older age groups.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I personally had this experience as a primary caregiver at times with my Grandpa Sidney and Grandma Shirley where there was a missing generation of support for them as they aged in their eighties and nineties especially and dealt with a range of health-related challenges. I would expand upon FAMLI to provide additional state-based benefits and income to caregivers supporting the chronically ill, disabled and elderly. I would also pursue policies that provided stronger cost offsets to expenses related to food, transportation and/or utility bills as well as additional caregiving training.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I would increase public-private partnership as well as public investment in and subsidy of in-home care provider options. As above, enhancing existing transportation corridors and first mile-last mile solutions beyond the current RTD infrastructure would be essential to ensure Coloradans can have better options to remain in their homes and communities.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I would seek better opportunities to subsidize or offset the costs of private transportation options (e.g. rideshare and food delivery companies) where meal delivery, medical appointment transportation and other needs are lagging for older adults. In working to help adults of all ages access transportation through rideshare while working with Lyft during the pandemic, I have worked directly on creating and enhancing transportation possibilities for those who were constrained in exactly these ways - driving strong public-private partnerships will be key to success.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

AARP's ElderWatch and other programs that similarly provide services to help older adults prevent and cope with financial scams are essential and should be further invested in to provide individual direct services where needed. I would also support enhancing law enforcement activities that preemptively respond to and investigate these crimes that are targeted towards older adults.

Colorado House District 39

Candidate Name: Eric Brody

District Number: Colorado House District 39

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: All within Douglas County: Lone Tree, Castle Pines, Roxborough, Sedalia, Louviers, Franktown, Sterling Ranch

Campaign Website: <https://brodyforcoloradohd39.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The oldest of our older adults are among the most vulnerable people in our society. Generally speaking, they are in frail health and, being beyond their working years, are in a precarious financial position. Additionally, many are either overwhelmed by the challenge of caring for a frail partner or lonely on account of the passing of such a partner.

At the younger end of the older adult spectrum are financial challenges associated with being a member of the “sandwich generation” that supports both children and parents and also may bear the brunt of age discrimination in the workplace.

In between, we have older adults for whom health issues are also a concern and as well the challenge of continuing to work because means are insufficient for a dignified retirement.

These are diverse problems; I would like to focus on a policy approach for a subset of them. People of a certain age may remember the “Golden Girls” television series. I would like to see the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) play a part in fostering such mutually supportive living arrangements among unattached adults across a wide range of older ages. This past regular session saw the enactment of HB 24-1007 (Harmonizing Occupancy Measures Equitably Act), which provides greater flexibility for groups of unrelated people to live together. CDHS could initiate a program to help individuals form and or join such living arrangements, perhaps through a grant-funded program in which non-profit organizations that might also provide or help coordinate caregivers to assist these families of peers.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I strongly support walkable communities, which are attractive and important for people of all ages. They can be essential to older adults (and others) who are unable to drive and for whom access to shopping and amenities by foot and public transit can be essential to a healthy, independent lifestyle. Transit-oriented development is crucial, as the . Lifelong Colorado Initiative recognizes.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

A very important element of financial security for retirement is education starting (but not ending!) at a young age that emphasizes the importance of saving for retirement, including such topics as maxing out employer contributions to retirement accounts and working early with a financial advisor to establish and improve a retirement savings plan. Colorado Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) is a very good law, but do people both understand their rights and know how to obtain legal recourse? Are employers sufficiently aware of the law? I would like to see more public education in this area and a strong budget for enforcement.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I would support robust tax deductions and even tax deductions for those who provide such crucial care as well as mentoring and consultation services. Such investments are cost

effective compared with the higher direct costs of providing care for elderly individuals who suffer declines in health and vibrancy as a result of insufficient ongoing care.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I would support a higher tax credit (one that perhaps tapers at a steeper, more progressive rate) for the Senior Housing Income Tax Credit enacted under HB24-1052. As I mentioned in response to an earlier question, I would like to foster “Golden Girls” living arrangements among compatible and companionable older adults. A robust grants program may empower non-profit organizations to provide assisted living solutions and home health care. I understand that this already is an important element of the Lifelong Colorado Initiative, which I am eager to investigate further.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado’s Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Clearly the AAAs are under-resourced. I would like to see a robust grants program provide them a boost to help them meet the needs of the older adult community.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

All of us are susceptible to socially-engineered financial fraud, and older members of our community perhaps a little more so than others. I would like to see greater public education efforts across the board. Specifically with respect to our elders, I would like to see targeted campaigns that reach them through elder care providers, medical providers, and all forms of senior living communities. Especially effective would be dramatic TV-style productions, such as one might see as part of a company’s security training for its employees. These are often quite well done and can engage seniors better than print material. CDHS can make such videos (and printed materials) available on its website and can encourage people and organizations to share and view them with the older adults with whom they interact.

Colorado House District 40

Candidate Name: Naquetta Ricks

District Number: Colorado House District 40

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Aurora

Campaign Website: <https://www.ricks4co.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Older adults face a range of challenges, including physical and sensory impairments, financial insecurity, transportation issues, and limited access to services. I strongly support comprehensive policy changes to help senior citizens maintain their security and independence. Such changes could involve strengthening social security systems and pension plans, expanding and enhancing transportation services for older adults, and developing programs and increasing resources for caregivers, including improved financial assistance.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I would first evaluate the needs of my district while also considering the needs of senior adults across the state. This would require the collaboration and support of multiple lawmakers and organizations that are knowledgeable and passionate about the needs of senior citizens. It is crucial to assess the diverse needs of each Coloradan, taking into account their district, location, and unique circumstances.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace

age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

To ensure that older workers have the opportunities and resources to improve their financial security, I would work to expand job training and education programs specifically designed for older adults, advocate for flexible work arrangements like remote work and part-time positions, and support entrepreneurship and small business ownership.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I would support family caregivers by advocating for legislation that provides training programs offering practical skills and knowledge for effective caregiving. Additionally, I would explore legal and advocacy support groups to assist caregivers in navigating legal and financial challenges. Another approach would be to investigate community resources that connect caregivers with transportation services and meal delivery programs to help ease their daily burdens.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

It's crucial to emphasize in-home care services, community support programs, and health and wellness initiatives, while also enhancing home modifications for safety and accessibility. Additionally, providing technology training, assistance, and resources can help seniors effectively use online healthcare services, emergency alert systems, and social media platforms to stay connected with others while they are at home.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Legislators can enhance and broaden volunteer programs and increase public awareness through their social media channels. This approach can help strengthen collaborations between AAAs, local governments, non-profits and any other local community organization.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

It is essential for us as legislators to enhance consumer protection laws to protect older adults from financial fraud and exploitation. We should also boost awareness and education through our social media platforms to inform older adults about common financial scams. Additionally, partnering with local banks and financial institutions can help extend this message further.

Colorado House District 41

Candidate Name: Iman Jodeh

District Number: Colorado House District 41

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Aurora, Arapahoe

Campaign Website: www.imanforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Older adults in Colorado face distinct challenges depending on their age. Younger older adults (50-65) often struggle with age discrimination in the workforce, insufficient retirement savings, and housing affordability. To support them, we need stronger employment protections, expanded retirement savings programs, and more affordable housing options. Meanwhile, the oldest adults (80+) require in-home services, healthcare access, and support for caregivers. Expanding in-home care programs, improving healthcare access, and providing more resources for caregivers are essential to help them maintain independence and age with dignity. By addressing these unique needs, we can create a more supportive system for all older adults.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

To integrate an intergenerational lens into my work, I would advocate for policies that address shared challenges like housing and transportation across all age groups. This includes promoting multi-generational housing options and ensuring developments are accessible to both older and younger residents. For transportation, I would support improvements to public transit and provide affordable, reliable services for older adults.

Engaging directly with older Coloradans and advocacy groups will ensure their needs are always considered, creating policies that benefit all generations in Colorado.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

As a legislator, I am committed to supporting older Coloradans by combating age discrimination, expanding access to upskilling and reskilling opportunities, and promoting flexible work options. I will advocate for stronger anti-discrimination laws, targeted training programs, and financial literacy resources to help older workers secure meaningful employment and financial stability. By leveraging their experience through mentorship and leadership roles, we can ensure older workers continue to be valued contributors to Colorado's economy.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I will advocate for expanding respite care, strengthening workplace protections like paid family leave, and providing financial support through tax credits to help family caregivers. I will also promote community-based support networks and public awareness to ensure caregivers have the resources and recognition they deserve.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I will support policies that expand affordable housing options, provide property tax relief for seniors, and increase funding for home modification programs to make residences more accessible. Additionally, I will advocate for improved access to in-home care services and support community-based programs that help older adults stay connected and engaged in their communities.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I will advocate for increased state funding to reduce waitlists for critical services provided by Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), such as meal delivery and in-home care. I will also support policies to streamline funding allocation, encourage partnerships with local organizations, and explore innovative solutions, such as public-private partnerships, to expand resources and improve service delivery for older adults in our communities.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I will advocate for stronger penalties for those who target older adults with financial scams, and push for increased funding for programs that educate seniors on recognizing and avoiding fraud. I will also support initiatives to enhance coordination between law enforcement, banks, and community organizations to identify and prevent scams, and work to ensure that victims have access to resources and support.

Colorado House District 44

Candidate Name: Alyssa Nilemo

District Number: Colorado House District 44

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Town of Parker and some surrounding neighborhoods in Douglas county

Campaign Website: Alyssa4Colorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I believe it is important that legislative efforts for all Coloradans is making sure health care is accessible and affordable. I would work on making sure that insurance companies can not inflate the cost of medications. I also believe that as health issues become more complicated that individuals do not need to be spending their time trying to navigate if every provider on a care team is in your network or have an insurance employee questioning if a care plan your doctor has made with you is really what you need.

Specifically targeting those who would benefit income or employment policies I want to make sure we have safety nets in place to bar against ageism in the work place. And also to make sure that minimum wage is tracking in accordance with providing individuals a livable wage and one that allows folks to save for retirement.

For those who are in the oldest category who may need in home assistance I want to listen to experts when it comes to what we need to do to support in home care, keep good safety parameters on those who are allowed to care for our elders, and also make sure end of life care is fully encompassing and person centered.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

My background is in the care industry and has guided my decision to pursue a position in the state house. My time in early childhood education and also hospice care have formed my view in many ways. Seeing how government could create either barriers or opportunities for us across the spectrum of our lives made me passionate about working for others. I believe by continuing to work with individuals and organizations across the state and age focus, keeping an open door and my past jobs as a guiding light that I will be able to serve through an intergenerational lens.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I support strong protections in the work place against all forms of discrimination, including age discrimination. I also believe in our ever changing world that our economy will become more reliant on robust programs that help individuals upskill and reskill. As technology moves at an ever accelerating speed I believe that more often in everyone's careers we will see the need to provide these opportunities to all. I think by honoring the hard work of those who have been in the workforce for many decades is our responsibility as a society.

Steps I would take include supporting unions to improve pay and work conditions across industries. This would include making sure that employers offer retirement packages and opportunities for employees. Additionally, allocate dollars to education and technical training that is not just aimed at those entering the workforce for the first time.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Having worked as both a paid professional in caring for elders, and watched as my family navigated care for my grandparents I know the burdens are truly emotional, financial and physical. I believe the same way we provide tax breaks for parents when their children are in the home, and aimed to make things like universal pre-k free we should be looking at

elder care. I think we also need to support the amazing work community organizations are doing, with classes like "Ducks in a Row", which helps families navigate what to expect as parents age and what to take care of early. Or facilities like adult day care centers which provide social outlets for elders living with caregivers, and respite for caregivers.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I think we can help elders stay in their homes and communities by making sure fixed incomes keep up with housing and medical needs (especially if the individual is a renter). Supporting local organizations that provide individuals with social outlets and supports. Keeping pay competitive for nurses and care providers who make house calls, and make sure insurance companies or medicaid have to provide these types of care services. Invest in transit, including share rides, so that individuals can continue to shop, volunteer, work or do other activities even if they can no longer drive.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

We need to make sure that we are committed to prioritizing dollars for services that provide for the essential needs of coloradans. We need to work collaboratively across levels of governance, and engage with experts in the industry to seek guidance on how to cut red tape, make invested dollars go further.

Additionally, we need to support educational pathways and pay that incentivize individuals to seek careers in caregiving and transportation. Once folks are in the industry we need to make sure they also receive good supports to keep them physically and mentally well.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

This is an area in which I would rely on experts in the field to guide how legislators can best protect against scammers. From phone scams, to email and texting I myself often feel

overwhelmed by the ways in which thieves are using technology to target our dollars. I believe with the advancements in AI and our ever growing dependency on technology in our day to day lives we must be aggressive in whatever form protection takes. I would rely on those who have experienced such fraud, experts in the technology field and law enforcement to guide my decisions on this issue.

Colorado House District 45

Candidate Name: Max Brooks

District Number: Colorado House District 45

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Castle Rock/Douglas County (partial)

Campaign Website: <https://www.maxbrooksforcolorado.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Housing needs change throughout this range as the younger end may be looking to downsize their homes and the older range may be looking to do so again, or transition to living with an adult child in a multi-generational home. Across the board there are housing challenges as many communities have primarily the standard single family detached home stock available. Proposition 123 was a good way to provide incentives (Castle Rock has opted in, and I was part of that support as a member of Town Council) for municipalities to build affordable housing and build a mix of housing stock to accommodate these various needs. Continuing those efforts and continuing to find additional incentives for local governments to meet housing needs is imperative.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As stated above, I support the intent of Proposition 123 and support additional resources to provide incentives to municipalities to vary the housing stock they are building and offering. We see a substantial influx of older adults here in Douglas County that are moving here to be closer to grandchildren. Having those various options for different stages in life is so important. Here in Castle Rock, we have been fortunate to work with builders of senior

affordable housing that have met our demand for including transportation connections through Douglas County Aging Resources that will help alleviate demand on our Senior Center transportation services. We need to find ways to keep our older adults connected and mobile.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Continuing to work on, and expand, efforts like the Senior Community Service Employment Program and other services/support through Colorado's Dept. of Human Services. We need to ensure these programs are adapting to the changing environment and demands of older adults as more and more age into the category and increase the importance of program functionality. It isn't enough to have the program simply "in place".

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Aging in place and aging in the home of a family should absolutely be recognized and supported. Family will remain the best environment for all and provides multi-generational support and the foundation to an incredibly strong family bond. With a 45+ Billion annual budget, I am confident we can reallocate funds to ensure Family Caregivers are properly compensated to encourage aging in place structures and support.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

This is best answered through a summation of responses above - providing incentives for municipalities to build multi-generational housing stock or other affordable housing options for those that wish to downsize and transition to a different home but still remain in their community and remain close to family. Transportation services will need to be

expanded as aging in place adults will eventually begin to drive less but demands remain for trips to doctors appointments, grocery stores, senior centers, etc. Promoting and expanding programs for Family Caregivers is also a vital piece to ensure older adults are able to remain with family and provide meaningful contributions to multiple generations under one roof.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Financially support our Counties that work with these agencies, but also to provide incentives to development companies and builders to assist their communities in which they build with providing their own transportation solutions that tie into AAA's. For example, Ulysses Development here in Castle Rock is building a senior affordable development (Meadowmark) and is working through Douglas County Aging Resources (funded by Douglas County) to provide a "loop" transportation service that works both independently and in conjunction with current transportation resources provided by the Castle Rock Senior Center. Another senior development, Bridgewater, which is located in the Castle Rock area but in unincorporated Douglas County, will do the same. Encouraging and providing incentives to these builders to solve their transportation needs and connect to areas in town is vitally important to a community like Castle Rock with no connection to public transit services, but will also serve other connected communities as well for seniors that require transportation within, and not outside of, their community.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I have witnessed this personally with a widow in my neighborhood that my wife and I befriended and helped support. It is heartbreaking. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office has a dedicated deputy to support the older community - he visits senior centers and senior housing areas to meet with them, make them aware of scams as they are identified, and to help provide resources to resolve issues or, hopefully, catch scammers in the act. As our aging community grows and these scams become even more complex through AI and other technologies, the support systems will need to flex and grow as well. More resources will be necessary to ensure the programs remain robust, and programs similar to what we have

in Douglas County need to be put in place for areas that do not currently have a functional support program.

Colorado House District 47

Candidate Name: Elizabeth Bulthuis

District Number: Colorado House District 47

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Counties: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, (Pueblo)

Campaign Website: Elizabethbulthuis4hd47.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I am on the younger side of this spectrum. We need help in preparing for retirement and a lot of people in their 50's and 60's are caring for their parents. A home health solution is key for those who want to keep their parents home with them, or at least feel that they are safe in their own home. I cared for both of my parents and it is not easy, but so very rewarding. I have to say that my mom was very comfortable in retirement and her medicare worked well. But this is where we ran into drug cost issues. She was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and had made the difficult decision to not do Chemo or radiation. She was going to live as long as she could with the cancer. The life extending drug that they wanted her to take was over \$2000.00 per month. She was then faced with a decision she should never have had to make. It felt horrible to think that if she had more money she would have been worth helping. We absolutely need to cap prescription costs, and medications that can save or extend life should never be held back for financial reasons.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Housing is a huge issue across the board. Our older Coloradans should not be struggling with finding an affordable place to live. This is a systemic issue, but we cannot let anyone get lost in the shuffle. Especially in our rural areas. Access to housing and healthcare is lacking. Corporate buy up of rental housing is a huge part of the housing costs rising so dramatically. In our rural district, accessibility to affordable housing is almost non-existent. And our aging and veteran population is growing. The fact is, our little community economies are stagnant. We need sustainable growth to be able to get these economies moving again. At which point we must monitor and regulate the housing development.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

This is another systemic issue. I do not believe, as a country and as a culture, that we teach our children to revere and admire our older generations. I always think about the movie "the Intern" with DeNiro and Hathaway. We have so much to learn from those that have gone before us. It would think that anyone would want experience and dignity as a part of their organization. It would be an asset. Why not offer incentives for hiring employees who want to work in their later years. Educate young people about preparing for retirement. And we need to ensure that our safety nets stay in place, and improve, for those less fortunate.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

FAMILY LEAVE!!! It should be the law. Not unlimited, but readily available when needed. I cared for my mom for the last 6 months of her life. I was blessed because I work remotely. I only needed time at the end so we could be together. This is a stressful, scary, overwhelming and very sad time. But so very special and invaluable. And as for compensation. I was very lucky to work for an organization that also had my back (still work there) So I was not financially strapped. In that respect, I am in a far too small percentage of the working class. A person should be able to take leave and not lose their

job. Medicare can pay that person what they would have paid a healthcare worker. In rural areas, this is an absolute necessity.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Same answer. The issue in our rural areas is staffing. Which all goes back to sustainable growth in our rural economies and affordable housing.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

We need people to work. I'm again focusing on the rural issues. Almost every county in district 47 falls in the lower 50th percentile, in the state, for per capita income. We are stagnant, and we can't get the workforce because the cost of living wage gap is ridiculous. Economic growth is key. All of Colorado needs to be competitive with wages to assemble a quality workforce. Healthcare workers, Teachers, Law enforcement, Fire and rescue. If we pay these heroes what they are worth, we would go bankrupt, but there has got to be a way to compensate them more appropriately. We also need to provide more trade related schools in our rural areas so our current population can be trained and then gainfully employed. While staying in their communities.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

We need to start on the tech side. There need to be better protections. I know everytime a step is taken to thwart the scammers efforts, they find a work around. I know nothing about tech, and when my dad got conned, I felt helpless. It seems, though, that these tech companies sure make a lot of money and it would be nice if they invested more of that into consumer protections.

Colorado House District 49

Candidate Name: Lesley Smith

District Number: Colorado House District 49

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Western Boulder and Larimer Counties, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties

Campaign Website: LesleyForCO.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The age at which older adults can begin withdrawing from their retirement and social security accounts with out a penalty continues to rise seemingly each year. As a consequence, older adults between the ages of 50 - ca 75, might need to continue working longer than they were planning to in order to cover their expenses. As an educator and CU regent, we focus a lot on education and retooling of what we call non-traditional students, many of which are older adults looking to acquire new workforce skills so they can continue to be in the workforce. I think Colorado's institutions of higher education, two- and four-year, can play a vital role in retooling adults so they can continue to work. Of course, age discrimination comes into play, when applying for jobs, and there are laws banning all types of discrimination, including age. I don't know how these laws can be implemented with fidelity. In terms of older adults, based on my limited knowledge of senior care and support, I would say there is a need for help with navigating healthcare (Medicare and Medicaid) and housing. I had to do everything for my mother, when we moved her to Colorado. She was unable to find housing or find a doctor that accepted Medicare due to her failing eyesight. I would look to organizations, such as the Colorado Aging Advocates, for suggestions of policies that would help to improve senior care.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an

intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I strongly believe in stakeholding, and I have a track record of doing this in my former role as a school board member in the Boulder Valley School District and my current role as a CU Regent. I have been traveling my large district that has four counties, partial or whole, meeting with constituents through town halls, one-on-one meetings and events. The state is aging, and many voters in HD-49 are seniors. I have heard directly from them about the issues they face, and to be honest there are issues of universal concern, such as access to housing and healthcare, that span all ages and are intergenerational. Another important resource for information are county commissioners, who oversee health and human services and have their fingers on the pulse of issues that affect seniors in their county. I will continue my stake holding and outreach, if elected to the state house.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I discussed this previously in the first question on issues. I would also be very open to hearing ideas from the Colorado Aging Advocates.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I don't know what the answer to this is. Any knowledge I have about providing this type of care comes from my experience of moving my mother to Colorado after my father passed away in 2008. I did all my own research on where to place her, find services to aid her and transport her to the myriad healthcare appointments she required. I was lucky because I had the financial means to be able to do this. I do know it's stressful, time consuming and costs money. Any type of support system would be beneficial, including emotional/mental health support.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I think the homestead exemption is a good start to help seniors to be able to remain in their homes. However, with the steep increase in property valuations and concomitant increase in property taxes the past year, many seniors are very worried about the ability to remain in their homes. I am hopeful that the legislation that passed in the special session will help to somewhat alleviate the sharp increase in property taxes. I am leery of proposing a statewide law, like the failed SB23-213, because we are a strong local control state. I have been meeting with elected officials from across my district for the past year and a half. In speaking with them, I heard loud and clear that a one size fits all approach, such as what was proposed in SB23-213, is untenable. In meeting with administrators in Clear Creek County, I learned they had gathered input from all the towns in the county to develop a county-wide housing plan. Idaho Springs needs housing for the workforce, while Georgetown needs housing for people aging in place. I like the approach the legislature took this past session to require all counties to develop their own affordable housing plan. I believe this is a good first step for communities to come together to help craft what they see as will work best.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I would need to learn more about where funding for AAA's come from - local taxes, state budget, federal dollars. As we all know TABOR has very much constrained our state budget and tied legislator's hands when it comes to funding the myriad pieces of pie that make up our state's budget. If elected, I will learn more about AAA's and their funding.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Preying on seniors with fixed incomes through financial scams is criminal. It seems like a new scam crops up every week, and seniors are particularly vulnerable to these scams

because they may not be as tech savvy as your adults. My husband and I are members of AARP, and I comb through their publications because they do a great job describing the latest scams and how to avoid them. I also see warnings about scams when I go online to check our bank account. I think the more creative avenues we can use to alert older adults to the types of scams that are out there, the better. I just returned from our CU board of regents meeting, and we had a special session on AI. What is particularly pernicious is voice cloning where AI can copy a loved one's voice on the phone and say money is needed for X, Y, or Z. I have become very skeptical of many emails, texts, phone calls etc. My husband is 72, and I am trying to teach him to be just as suspicious. We need ways in which seniors can learn the same type of suspicion, which can be difficult especially if they are losing their cognitive abilities.

Colorado House District 50

Candidate Name: Mary Young

District Number: Colorado House District 50

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Greeley, Evans, Garden City

Campaign Website: <https://maryyoungforcolorado.com>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I am glad you used the word spectrum, because based on my experience there is a wide variety of needs in each age range. These needs vary based on individual experiences. I don't believe it's appropriate to stereotype people by age--solutions for each individual should be based on need, not on age. For example, some in the early 50+ range may need significant supports because of the accumulating effects of chronic illness or a life event such as a stroke or other debilitating event or illness. The need for income and employment policies continues for some through their seventies. My solutions for income and employment policies and in-home services are addressed in questions that follow.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As I mention later in this questionnaire I plan on sponsoring a bill around universal design. This approach promotes intergenerational housing and communities. This approach works especially well when it is adjacent to transportation, but not all communities have access to transportation so universal design can also be based on a walking.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace

age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I sponsored HB24-1317, which addressed many of these important employment realities of seniors. The bill required the director of the division of employment and training in the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to annually collect, analyze, and make recommendations to the General Assembly based on data from workforce centers; the state, in relation to data it has collected concerning workers in specific age categories, beginning at age 50; and individuals with disabilities.

The bill also required the director, every 3 years, to conduct, or contract with another entity to conduct a survey to better understand the experiences and needed tools and resources of individuals in Colorado who are 55 years of age or older--people who are considering entering or reentering the workforce, are unemployed, underemployed, or are looking for a career change. Even though the bill didn't make it through Appropriations, I plan on running this bill again to address these issues.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

We should replicate the way we pay these individuals in the same way we authorize payment to those who provide direct care services to their child or family member with a disability. The feasibility of a tax credit should be explored as well as respite care. The opportunity to have a break from providing continuous care is often restorative.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

This is an important issue to me. In order to do this successfully there are many issues that need to be addressed. Appropriate housing continues to be a central issue. Often as seniors age, they need modifications to their home in order to continue to live there. SB22-

159 established a loan program to make these modifications to homes. This last session I co-primed a bill which allows the portability of the senior homestead tax exemption.

For this next session I am considering legislation around universal design which will give more accessible housing to seniors and individuals with disabilities. We need to continue to look at the amount of accessible units being built in affordable housing projects.

Access to Direct care is the other issue impacting aging in place. The use of unpaid care by families is addressed above. Many of these families may prefer a direct care worker instead of providing care to a loved one because they don't have the time with their other obligations, the strength, or the skills to be effective. We need to expand significantly the direct care worker pool. We can do that by increasing pay and expanding educational opportunities.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Last session I sponsored an amendment to the budget to increase funding for AAAs by 6 million dollars because of these unmet needs and what are increasing needs with our quickly growing senior population. It successfully passed the House and then the Senate. In Appropriations it was reduced to 2 million dollars. During session I was the co-prime sponsor of the bill SB24-040 which requires a three year look back at the adequacy of funding of AAA to meet the needs outlined in the Older Coloradans act requested by seniors. This look at adequacy of funding will inform budgeting so we don't have ongoing AAA budget deficits.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

From my perspective it is at least a two pronged approach. We need to have a detailed and well-developed educational plan that is designed for seniors utilizing how they obtain information. We need the data on the particulars on how these frauds occur including methods of contact, structure of the fraud among other things in order to develop effective plans. Yesterday a constituent told me that they had a phone call from his son, saying he had been in a car accident and he needed money, he explained his mouth had been injured

and that is why he didn't sound like himself. Luckily, he was able to reach his son, discovered it was a scam, and didn't send money. The educational plan could be through direct communication from their physicians, written material from their banks, phone companies or other resources. We need to expand effective financial guardrails. This work will need to include banks, credit unions, credit cards, pay days and other methods seniors use to disperse funds. The Colorado Attorney General's Office has programs for consumer protection and fraud deterrence that could be strengthened, if needed.

Colorado House District 51

Candidate Name: Ron Weinberg

District Number: Colorado House District 51

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Loveland

Campaign Website: www.weinbergforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Policy that is based on taking care of our older adults and less tax burden

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Reduction in taxation and fees, especially for our older adults

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Enforce workplace age discrimination and produce jobs that are best suited for older adults

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their

estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I would commit to working with organizations like AARP to help me come up with the solutions. Finding experts on the subject matter that can propose good solutions

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Reducing taxation and fees, keeping costs low

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I would ask that organizations who are well versed with the subject matter reach out and propose solutions. I have parents that live a mile down the road that are older adults. I will be asking them these same questions to best understand the topic.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Education about what is and isn't a scam is beneficial to ALL. I believe this would be more on the Federal level but would be happy to run any legislation that would protect everyone including our older adult population from scams.

Candidate Name: Sarah McKeen

District Number: Colorado House District 51

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Loveland, Larimer

Campaign Website: www.mckeenforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For those on the younger side, I see housing, health (physical & mental), and retirement/employment being the biggest challenges. I believe we need to support the development of more age-friendly communities and affordable housing options through the use of zoning changes, the encouragement of diverse housing developments, and tax relief for older homeowners that stays with them when they need to move. Health issues can be addressed by expanding and supporting Medicare & Medicaid, making prescriptions more affordable, and healthcare services more accessible. In terms of retirement/employment, we need to hold employers accountable for pension programs and age-discrimination.

For those 80-85+, healthcare, safety, financial security, and housing can all be challenging. We can work toward a stronger workforce of in-home healthcare providers and more oversight of those providers to provide more safety and allow people to age in place. We can strengthen laws that protect people from being financially abused and help to promote independence in decision-making to promote autonomy.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Many of the necessary housing changes that need to happen (code changes, housing stock review, tax relief, etc.) all impact the entire community, but especially those who need it most. I believe the key is in targeting legislation and support that support all vulnerable populations. There is a large percentage of older adults in my district and I must do my due diligence to ensure they are well taken care of and support any decisions I make.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I think we need to strengthen anti-discrimination laws and ensure people understand how to

and feel comfortable making reports for discrimination. I think we could also help to promote age-friendly workplaces by ensuring flexible work scheduled, phased retirement, or even opportunities for skill development or reskilling to support lifelong learners. We could even consider programs that offered support in entrepreneurship and small business ownership.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

There are currently a variety of programs that offer pay to family caregivers for a variety of different caregiving situations. These programs can be vastly different and overwhelming to get started with for many, but a lifesaver for those who have already began using them. I would love to make these funds more accessible by providing more education about how to access them, the requirements, and supporting the education components that are required with some.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

There is a shortage of home healthcare workers in Colorado and that is where we need to start. In order to facilitate more Coloradoans aging in place, we need to reconsider our approach to supporting this industry and the industry leaders such as Colorado Care Workers Unite. If we better support this workforce through better pay and accessible training, we will have more workers and better quality care for those they support.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Unfortunately, many supportive and nonprofits agencies are struggling right now for a variety of reasons. I would love to meet with the local AAA Director(s) to hear from them exactly what their needs are and how I can best provide assistance. I think we have to prioritize legislation that impact seniors, but I also find it most important to hear from those with the most knowledge of the situation right here in this district.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

There must be more accountability for scams and we need to consider enhanced penalties and enforcement of those penalties for those who commit such crimes. We must make it easy for individuals to report such scams and ask that financial institutions be a partner in reporting and recognizing scams. I think we also need to provide clear and concise education regarding how to avoid fraud and what known scams to look out for, and provide that education at senior centers and other age-friendly communities.

Colorado House District 52

Candidate Name: Stephen (Steve) Yurash

District Number: Colorado House District 52

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Fort Collins / Larimer County

Campaign Website: www.ColoradoCenterParty.org/steve-for-house52

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Property taxes are always a concern for both groups of older adults, and so we must make sure that taxes do not push older Coloradans out of their homes. Fifty percent of Americans have not saved any money for retirement. We must make sure that Social Security is financially secure for those who are of retirement age. This means that the Federal government needs to stop overspending on other items not related to older Americans. Medical services and hospitals are at risk financially because Medicare and Medicaid do not reimburse hospitals and doctors for the full cost of services provided and we should make sure that benefit cuts do not fall on the elderly.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

The Federal debt is an intergenerational tax that will fall very hard on the young. We must reduce spending, albeit gradually, to reduce this eventual burden. I believe that the large numbers of immigrants we are currently taking in do not benefit the situation in housing or transportation because they immediately consume these resources without our economy being able to build out these things that require a longer timeframe. I would reduce the numbers of immigrants coming in until we get into a better cost situation on housing.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

We should provide tax breaks for companies that employ and train older workers so that employers are incentivized to hire and train older workers.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

This is something that is mostly outside of the government's responsibility. It would be nice to have some care facilities to offer essentially daycare services so that responsible family members could take short term breaks from their care responsibilities, but I do not have any ideas on how to incentivize that since it is hard enough to staff for longer term care facilities.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

There are many businesses set up to provide in home care services, which I have experience in engaging with during the care of my parents. We need to make sure these providers are not over-regulated which could cause a reduction in businesses that offer this service.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Make sure these community based AAAs are not over-regulated causing a reduction in services. The government needs to work with service providers in enabling new technology, such as driverless cars and robots, to be brought into service to help reduce the manual workload.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

We need law enforcement to be more proactive in finding and taking down these scams. This may include the need to this work on an international basis. My Facebook account was hacked by people from Albania and I understand the frustration and anguish that this causes. An easier way to report these things would be helpful, and supportive criminal laws that make it easier for law enforcement to take down or block these criminals.

Candidate Name: Yara Zokaie

District Number: Colorado House District 52

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Fort Collins

Campaign Website: www.yaraforCO.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For older adults on the younger side of the spectrum, we have seen challenges with economic security and ageism. We need to promote employment opportunities and education employers about ageism and implicit biases. I also think job training and programs that promote digital literacy are important for our older adults to remain competitive in the workforce.

For the oldest adults (80+), challenges include aging in place and access to healthcare. I would like to promote policies that increase access to in-home care and provide support for caregivers. We also must continue to tackle the affordable housing crisis, and I would support an expansion to the senior homestead exemption.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

With all policies, it is important that all perspectives are heard. I will make myself accessible through town halls and listening sessions, and will seek out diverse opinions from a cross-section of our Fort Collins community. Collaboration across age groups strengthens community resilience. My goal is that any policy I pass is inclusive - considering accessibility for older adults and young families. With housing specifically I want to promote multi-generational designs that make shared living possible.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I would prioritize policies that combat workplace age discrimination through stronger legal protections and enforcement. I would also advocate for expanding access to upskilling and reskilling programs. Job training programs are needed, and I would like to focus on sectors with labor shortages. I would also be supportive of initiatives that help older adults save for retirement. I look forward to working with likeminded organizations to enhance employment opportunities and financial security for our older adults.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

It is crucial that we support family caregivers. I worked on passing paid family leave, and would like to make sure this is expanded to allow for paid leave for caregivers. We can also use our tax code to provide immediate relief through credits or monthly stipends to help offset costs such as transportation, home renovations, or medical equipment. We also need to continue to support respite care programs, and expand funding when possible.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

The cost of housing is a crisis throughout Colorado, and Fort Collins is certainly feeling the impact of rising housing costs as well. I believe that all housing should be accessible, and would promote building more housing that follows a universal design standard. Until this becomes a norm, we need to offer financial assistance for those seeking home modifications such as ramps/grab bars/ other safety features. Through my work in the assessor's office, I know that rising property taxes are causing financial strain for our older

adults. I support expanding the homestead exemption and making the exemption portable. I would support a program that gives further property tax relief to individuals on a fixed income.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Much of the answer has to do with funding. Unfortunately with TABOR, we are limited in our ability to fund these programs or increase reimbursement rates. I would like to end corporate tax loopholes to bring additional dollars into the State so we can expand essential programs and agencies. We can also help with workforce development and advocating for federal grants.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Unfortunately these scams target our older adults. We must do a better job of educating the public about these scams. I would like to partner with agencies that are already doing this work to get wider reach on their educational programs. We also need better mechanisms for banks/credit unions to flag suspicious activity and stricter enforcement mechanisms to hold the scammers accountable. I would support increasing services for fraud reporting and the subsequent investigations.

Colorado House District 53

Candidate Name: Andy Boesenecker

District Number: Colorado House District 53

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Fort Collins

Campaign Website: www.andybforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Affordable housing remains a key challenge for people across age groups in Colorado. For those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum, this includes the ability to move or downsize their home if desired. For people of retirement age and/or on the older side of the spectrum, this includes being able to age in place and afford to stay in their home while on a fixed income. I have worked to protect older adults, specifically mobile home park residents, from costly fees and rules to ensure stability in housing for residents and tenants alike. Now that we have made the senior homestead exemption portable, we need to do more to ensure affordability across the housing spectrum, including building smaller, more affordable homes for those who are either first-time homebuyers or those who wish to downsize from their current home.

Access to affordable healthcare and prescription medication is also a challenge, which includes staffing and workforce challenges in the home healthcare and nursing facility sectors. I have supported efforts to increase worker protections and pay while providing a pipeline for healthcare workers who serve our older adults as their healthcare needs evolve. I have also supported bills that would help with prescription affordability, including legislation to cap the cost of insulin. We must continue to expand home-based medical services so that older adults can stay in their homes if they choose.

Transportation can also be an issue that uniquely impacts older adults. Since joining the legislature in 2021, I have passed bills expanding Colorado's multimodal and public transit options. These include a bill to expand the number of recreational trails in our state and a

bill to bring passenger rail to Fort Collins by 2029. Public transit and paratransit services are critical for those who choose not to drive to medical appointments, the grocery store, etc.

Broadband access is also critical for older adults as many continue utilizing telehealth or employment opportunities requiring high-speed broadband services. Digital connectivity is also a key way to combat isolation and loneliness. I have passed a bill to allow residents to request service from broadband providers of their choosing, as lack of access to the internet is an equity issue for younger and older adults alike. To that end, I will also work to combat predatory lending practices, online and telephone scams, and other financial schemes targeting older adults and retirees.

Lastly, employment discrimination is real and impacts older adults disproportionately as compared with younger adults. I will continue to fight for policies allowing older adults to remain, enter, or re-enter the workforce without discrimination, should they desire to do so, while ensuring they are paid a competitive and fair wage.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As noted above, affordable housing remains a key challenge for people across age groups in Colorado. Since joining the legislature in 2021, I have worked to protect older adults, specifically mobile home park residents, from costly fees and rules to ensure stability in housing for residents and tenants alike. I have also passed laws to ensure clean drinking water and a more meaningful opportunity to purchase for mobile home park residents. We can and should be building diverse housing at various price points so that older and younger adults alike can own the home that fits their needs and budgets. Part of the solution to this involves bolstering our manufactured housing industry and supply here in Colorado. In 2024 I passed legislation that would allow local governments a right of first refusal to purchase existing affordable housing. While building more affordable housing, we must work to protect our existing affordable housing stock, knowing that it is critical to ensuring housing stability for low- and fixed-income Coloradans.

Transportation is also an intergenerational issue that uniquely impacts older adults. Since joining the legislature in 2021, I have passed bills expanding Colorado's multimodal and public transit options. I was proud to support a bill allowing for more housing density near transit areas - offering diverse transit options to residents while reducing vehicle miles

traveled and improving our air quality. I have also passed a bill to expand the number of recreational trails in our state and a bill to bring passenger rail to Fort Collins by 2029. Public transit and paratransit services are critical for those who choose not to or cannot drive to medical appointments, the grocery store, etc. As a member of the Transportation, Housing, and Local Government Committee, I am committed to protecting vulnerable road users. This requires significant investments in both infrastructure and education to ensure that roadway users - whether on a bike, in a car, or on foot- are aware of their surroundings and others on the roadway and remain safe. Transportation equity is a critical component of ensuring that older adults can maintain their health and active lifestyles as they see fit.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

One key area that I am immensely proud of here in Colorado is the passage of SB23-058, The Job Fairness Act, which prohibits employers from inquiring about a prospective employee's age, date of birth, and dates of attendance at or date of graduation from an educational institution on an initial employment application. I fully support hiring practices like these, as this is just one of the ways that we can encourage employers to open up their hiring practices and consider older workers. I hope that the passage of SB23-058 can also facilitate the creation of intergenerational work teams, which can be innovative and productive for organizations. Wage theft and employee misclassification also require additional work to ensure that older adults are paid fairly and in accordance with their job responsibilities. In addition to combating ageism in the workplace, we can also work to reduce similar barriers in volunteering. Lastly, I would continue to support legislation and initiatives that foster and support independence for older adults, noting that these supports necessarily break down stereotypes as older adults continue to enjoy the same opportunities for engagement as their younger counterparts.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Unpaid caregivers present incredible cost savings to the budget in the State of Colorado while providing the gift of unparalleled care to older Coloradans. I believe that support could be considered by providing caregivers with mental health services, direct financial support, opportunities for respite, training, and additional workplace supports. The fiscal impacts of providing these services and supports would be more than offset by the continued benefit to our state budget as a result of these unpaid services.

Colorado voters approved Proposition 118 in November of 2020, creating the state-run Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program. I support this initiative and believe that paid family leave is critical. Paid family and medical leave is good for businesses, it's good for workers, it's good for women, it's good for families, and it's good for Colorado. Unpaid caregivers also provide a level of equity in terms of care, noting that barriers to care and/or inequities in the healthcare system necessitate additional support for unpaid caregivers.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I have supported several measures to address the home healthcare workforce shortage that continues to impact older adults. I support a living wage, accountability for employers/increased protections for workers, ensuring a safe workplace that is free from harm/harassment, and paid vacation/sick leave, alongside affordable benefits. A high-quality direct-care workforce means that Coloradans can continue to live/age in place with dignity while ensuring that our direct-care workforce is paid a competitive salary. More broadly, I support a living wage for workers in Colorado, the right of workers to organize, and the strengthening of collective bargaining rights. Every worker in Colorado deserves a good-paying job, a safe workplace, and the dignity and respect that goes along with earning a living wage.

Long-term affordability and stability in housing are also challenges. I am proud to support the property tax deferral program and legislation making our state's senior homestead exemption portable. I will continue to fight to protect mobile home park residents so they can afford to stay in their homes for as long as they desire. Our recent bipartisan property tax measures, now signed into law, also speak to this same concern - ensuring that older adults, especially those on a fixed income, can afford to stay in their homes.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Our Area Agencies on Aging represent a literal lifeline between older adults and the support available to them in the community. Funding will always be challenging due to the fiscal constraints we face at the state level, but I was pleased to advocate for sustained funding during the 2024 budget process in the House. I engage regularly with the Larimer County Office on Aging and have discussed fiscal and programmatic challenges with them at length. This point of engagement and open communication is critical as legislators seek to understand better the positive impact our Area Agencies on Aging have on their communities. I also supported HB24-1211, which created state funding for the senior services contingency reserve fund in the Department of the Treasury to aid the state office in addressing unforeseen circumstances experienced by an area agency on aging or a provider of eligible services.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I support the Office of the Attorney General's efforts in this space, including creating the Task Force for Financial Security for Older Coloradans. I will also work through the legislative process to combat predatory lending practices, online and telephone scams, and other financial schemes targeting older adults and retirees. In 2021, I was honored to join Rep. Cathy Kipp in passing HB21-1239 Protections in Consumer Sales Transactions, which addresses some predatory practices via automatic renewal contracts. Education and public awareness are critical as we help older adults recognize and report scams and fraudulent activity. To that end, partnering with our non-profit partners to better equip older adults against financial exploitation could be mutually beneficial.

Colorado House District 55

Candidate Name: Rick Taggart

District Number: Colorado House District 55

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Grand Junction

Campaign Website: <https://www.rickfor55.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

One of the primary challenges I have seen in the last couple of years are people not having enough access to trained home care professionals that could provide these services in a very tight market. An additional challenge has been the compensation of these providers at an adequate rate. One challenge that strikes me for the upcoming session is with a very tight budget year, figuring out how can we continue to raise provider rates. It has been a priority for me in the JBC and will continue to be, but there's only so much money, which is worrisome.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As it relates to housing, I believe it is incredibly important to be very careful when passing legislation that has the potential to place additional regulations on the industry that have tendencies to drive housing prices up. As you all know, we're working right now to lower property tax rates, which have a significant impact on individuals with fixed incomes and lower income individuals. When it comes to transportation issues, I firmly believe our support needs to be with local authorities to address, with state support through varying grants and initiatives. Local community leaders often have a much better idea of what is

needed for these projects than those at a state level, so we need to be in a support role. We must do this within our means given the tight budget.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I think the biggest thing for upscaling is continuing my support for higher education, both technical schools and community colleges that provide a significant amount of opportunity at good cost for upscaling. Age discrimination is covered by federal law, so it is important we uphold it. One idea is running a campaign to educate older adults of the rights granted to them under federal law, so that in the unfortunate instances of employer discrimination, they know specifics of their protections.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I'm not sure this is a legislative issue, rather than a family. Our parents supported us in our younger years, and I know when my mother law started to deteriorate, we opened our home to her. Perhaps, when budget allows, we could look at a tax credit for that purpose. We give tax credits to families with children growing up. But again, it would have to fit in a budget.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Given a good number of older Coloradans are living on a fixed budget, we have to look very carefully at any tax increases, regulations, fees, etc. that add to their cost of living. We passed recent legislation to not only reduce property valuation for seniors, but making that benefit portable as well. I was in full support of this. I will continue to support initiatives

such as these. I believe it is important for our lawmakers to know there is always a significant cost with any type of regulation put on the housing industry, so need to figure out alternatives that avoid placing a burden back onto homeowners.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

As a member of the JBC, we added significant dollars to AAA program this last year and made it very clear to the Department of Human Services that this was not an area that we wanted to see any cuts in. I would expect the JBC will continue to press very hard on this issue to make sure seniors are supported.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

This has been brought to my attention as of recent, and I am going to sit with local authorities in the first week of September alongside cybersecurity issues on this. It is such a complicated issue and I do not have a solution off the top of my head, but I want to talk with experts to find what we can do.

Colorado House District 56

Candidate Name: Chris Richardson

District Number: Colorado House District 56

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Elbert/Lincoln/Kit Carson/Cheyenne Counties & eastern rural El Paso/Arapahoe/Adams

Campaign Website: www.Rixchardson-HD56.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The starkest difference I have encountered in discussions with constituents in these two vary different stages of life is this:

- 1) Those in the 50+ range are re-evaluating their retirement plans and projected needs and most are realizing they must continue to work. Some who had retired in the past few years or retired early during the COVID years, are returning to the workforce. They are generally accepting that the spike in cost of living is difficult, but can be managed.
- 2) Those who have been retired for a considerable length of time, paid off their homes and/or have become adjusted to a fairly fixed income with fairly fixed expenses, are truly struggling as the high-cost of living overtaxes their resources. This are truly now our most vulnerable.

We need always ensure a strong social safety net for our most vulnerable and focus on supporting those that can ease, or eliminate, their reliance on government to do so. Our metrics cannot be just "how many are we serving" but, how can we create an economy that allows folks to work and save for their own futures.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

The cost of housing, access to care, cost of living, and transportation are truly issues that cut across all demographics and age groups. Improvements in these areas in general, not just for one segment of society, is definitely needed. Recognizing that these issues are not just suffered by some is critical.

Some effort should be made to ensure that we are not spending tax dollars in narrowly defined ways that reduce the ability to provide broader services to all. An example might be the senior transit dollars that flow from federal to state to local AAA's. While every effort is made to ensure that these dollars are focused on the transit needs of our older adults, this can result in buses and vans that are very expensive to purchase, insure, operate and maintain are not fully utilized.

Increasing the flexibility of spending of available dollars (with suitable controls to ensure none is misspent) should be a goal. Some of this can be addressed at the state level but, but as much of this money comes from the federal government, engaging our federal counterparts is necessary as well.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Regional offices of state workforce centers, our community colleges, and in many instances our county Veteran's Services Offices can be great resources for those that are looking ant re-entering the workforce, up skilling, or simply needing assistance in finding available jobs.

As I travel the rural areas of my district, I find many business owners lamenting the lack of available employees. In many instances this leads to businesses reducing the services they can offer or their service hours.

Connecting and educating those who need work with those that need workers is an area that needs definite focus.

for those that truly have been victims of age discrimination, access to report and have action taken either through the Department of Labor or the courts should be streamlined.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

My wife and I are part of the 20% cited above. My wife and I have cared for her elderly parents, first working with various county agencies to assist her mom in finding homes where she could live independently and later supporting her end of life wishes by taking her into our home for hospice care in her final days. Currently, her father who has physical disabilities and struggles with clinical depression lives with us in our home. I can vouch for the fact that stresses referred to above are real.

Financial pressures are sometimes the easiest to quantify and the hardest to address. However, with suitable guardrails in place, I believe that some dollars that currently programmed for in-home lower skilled assistance by third parties could be provided directly to family members providing care via refundable income tax credits.

Education and connection with those who can provide emotional/mental health counseling for those that do not have a strong support network either in their community in general or through their church is a need that could be filled via information resources at county human services agencies, public health, and/or community-based organizations.

The engagement of family in ensuring quality of life for our aging adults is something that should always be encouraged. It strengthens our society as a whole.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

There are several areas of policy where responsible changes can ease the barriers to aging in place or with supportive family members. We should focus on promoting market-driven solutions, ensuring efficient use of resources, and encouraging private sector innovation while maintaining a safety net for those in need.

- Tax credits or deductions like child-tax-credits that incentivize families to take of their parents and grandparents in multi-generational homes should be considered.

- Increased support for home-based care, allowing seniors to age in place. This can include tax credits or deductions for home modifications, subsidies for in-home care services, and support for family caregivers.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to develop affordable senior housing. By leveraging private investment with public support, more senior housing projects can be built efficiently.
- Continued advocacy for zoning and land use reforms that allow for more diverse housing options, such as accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and multi-generational housing, making it easier for seniors to find suitable and affordable housing within their communities.
- Encourage and support non-profit and faith-based organizations that provide affordable housing and care services for seniors. These organizations often have strong community ties and can offer valuable resources.
- Further investment in workforce development programs to train more healthcare and caregiving professionals. A well-trained workforce is essential for providing quality care to seniors in various housing settings. Local K12 vocational and community college training can help our youth secure career opportunities.
- Programs that foster community engagement and volunteer programs that support seniors, such as neighborhood watch programs, volunteer caregiving, and community-building activities that reduce isolation and enhance well-being.

These and other policy ideas that promote personal and family responsibility, private sector solutions, and efficient use of public resources can ensure that seniors have access to the housing and care they need.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I have been a board member of the Eastern Central Council of Local Governments (ECCOG) for nearly seven years and Chair for the last three. The ECCOG is the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne Counties that coordinates and provides services that help older adults remain in their homes - if that is their preference - aided by services such as Meals-on-Wheels, homemaker assistance, and whatever else it may take to make independent living a viable option. Primarily we provide congregate

meals at senior centers across the east central plains, transit services to assist seniors in accessing care and obtaining basic needs, and Helpmate in-home care options.

From a policy/program level, I believe the following is necessary:

- 1) We must look for ways to push more resources to those in the most need rapidly.
- 2) I believe we need to determine if the state has a clear picture of the overall scope of the need and seek additional resources and/or clearly prioritize what needs should be addressed first.
- 3) An effort to ensure a simple, easy to access, listing of resources available to seniors needs to be created. Those that live in one Area Agencies on Aging catchment area might not know of a service available just across a county line in another AAA. Each agency or local government seems to have a different way to access services a common method of applying for support regardless of region, county, or municipality should be the goal.

The capabilities of the AAA/Councils of Governments (COGs) are not widely known and the funding level is low relative to the need. In some instances, I believe there is reluctance to widely promote their services out of concern that a greater uptake would deplete the resources available. First come, first served can help make an immediate impact but, waiting to ensure there isn't someone in greater need can lead to longer wait times as a pool of applicants for services is built to prioritize.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Supporting programs and organizations that educate older adults, their families, and caregivers regarding the risks of scams directed at this vulnerable population is critical. In many cases this sort of fraud can have an interstate, or even international aspects and we must ensure that law enforcement and other agencies that may receive reports or suspect victimization have clear authority to act and coordinate with other levels of law enforcement.

Direct support from county-level Human Services Adult Protective Services, regional AAA, and local law enforcement should all be engaged in ensuring awareness and have the tools

to ensure appropriate law enforcement/judicial district investigation and prosecution (when appropriate) occurs.

Indirectly, technology education provided through community colleges, local library districts, and even K12 schools can raise awareness more broadly in the community and help, over time, reduce the likelihood that people will succumb to online scams.

Where state funding is used to support technology training, fraud awareness training can be mandated and as an elected official I will help raise awareness in newsletters and townhalls with constituents.

Candidate Name: Alessandra Navetta

District Number: Colorado House District 56

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne , the eastern portions of Arapahoe, Adams and El Paso

Campaign Website: vote4navetta.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The challenges for young seniors and older seniors are quite different. Those in the younger spectrum are probably still working and want to continue working. Technology changes the workplace and older workers may not be as proficient with the new technology. Employers should prepare all workers for changes in the workplace by offering periodic updated training for their workers both old and young.

Older seniors more often than not have age related health issues. They often need household help if living in their own homes. They are often the victims of scams when hiring help. It would be helpful if aging agencies(with the help of government) could provide the elderly with lists of “approved workers” who could help with household tasks. I am familiar with the Canadian system, which provides the elderly with household services and therapists as needed. This is partially funded by the government, although payment could be on a sliding scale based on ability to pay.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Transportation becomes an issue as a person ages. This is especially so for rural seniors who often live hours away from essential services. There are federal grants available of

communities who apply for them. There are solutions to this problem assuming a willingness to work on them.

As for housing, the problem is different. Rural seniors often live on acreage which becomes difficult to maintain once their children leave home. Urban seniors may live in homes, whose value has increased, making tax and utilities payments prohibitive. Perhaps tax reduction/abatement may be an option to help them remain in their homes.

Both groups will eventually have to face the cost of living in a senior living facility, of which there are few and very expensive.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

All citizens need to take responsibility for their future economic security while they are young and still employed. Individual employees and employers need to assure that that workers are receiving retaining in keeping with the demands of their occupation. It needs to be enforced that Social Security alone will not be sufficient to meet the financial needs of the future and there should be a savings plan implemented. Often employers will offer a saving/retirement program in which employees should participate.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Having cared for my elderly parents, I view caring for elderly loved ones as a repayment for the love and care they provided to me. Having said that, I am well aware of the stress involved. It would be helpful if some form of affordable respite care were available so that the care giver could get periodic breaks. Every situation is different since the amount of care needed varies, as does the location in which the senior resides. The objective should be in providing the care giver with backup and support, not payment.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Unfortunately, there comes a time when all seniors must leave their homes. Until then, if there was way of providing them with affordable, reliable household help they may be able remain on their homes longer. If the impediment is financial, then some form of tax abatement may be a solution.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

A partial solution may be providing adequate funding for these services, so that the providers can earn a decent income. This may also attract more people willing to provide these services. There are often liability issues associated with these services and insurance is expensive. Government funding of insurance would reduce those costs and may attract more individuals to this type of work.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Public service announcements and information sent to seniors by various means (radio, TV, mail) warning them of scams is a means of protecting the elderly. Heavy fines and imprisonment is a means of punishment for the perpetrator, which should be enforced regardless of the amount embezzled.

Colorado House District 57

Candidate Name: Elizabeth Velasco

District Number: Colorado House District 57

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Parachute, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Basalt, Snowmass, Aspen/Garfield, Pitkin, Eagle

Campaign Website: elizabethforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For our younger side of our adult age spectrum I do see challenges with employment discrimination, the difficulties of seeking new roles and positions as well as trying to balance those transitions with maintaining their healthcare benefits and retirement plans. I do support studying and listening to folks who advocate for potential policy solutions such as a gradual retirement policy that allows individuals to lower their working hours and pay taxes longer in order to maintain & boost their healthcare and retirement benefits. As well as support protecting flexible workplace policies.

I also understand that our older populations are struggling because they are living on a set amount and deserve to age in the homes they spent their lives investing in but face challenges of needing accessibility updates to their home as well as care assistance. I do support policies that encourage insurance and medicaid to help cover more of the accessibility improvement costs, increasing transportation assistance, and other essential services that make at home living an true option for Coloradans.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

The largest part of incorporating that intergenerational lens truly is about bringing those folks to the table and listening. I am generally able to bring a different perspective to the legislature as I champion the communities often left out of policy conversations such as the language and disability accessibility community and low income folks who reside in mobile home parks because of my personal lived experience. But truly because we include these communities in the policy conversations and I am able to amplify and share their feedback. As a Mexicana I believe I have a unique understanding as I grew up in a family oriented structure and understand that being able bodied is not a permanent blessing especially as we are lucky enough to age. I will do my best to continue facilitating intergenerational feedback and include that in the policy work.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I believe that we need to look at the past Colorado Strategic Action Plans on Aging and consider the need for another updated one including a roadmap to supporting our state's workforce in order to adequately develop opportunities and resources so that seniors and families can be financially secure and prepared for the factors of aging. The last plan was in 2020 and the landscape has changed dramatically following COVID. This is also a good opportunity to break up the larger generalization of ages 65 and up and look at those age groups in better segments in terms of planning.

Looking ahead at other solutions with potential as we develop state programs that provide skill and workforce development we should ensure that our aging populations are included in the development of those and are available opportunities to those folks.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

It is so important to support our Coloradans who are hung in a difficult balancing act of continuing their roles at work, maintaining their benefits, and struggling to care for their family members as the cost of home health aides is expensive. I support expanding coverage under FMLA's Paid family and medical leave as the definition of immediate family does not take into account a variety of family definitions especially for communities of color. I do see value in potential initiatives that offer tax credits to those who care for their aging family members in order to help them afford supplementing the care with in-home healthcare as well as balance the financial strain of less available hours as they remain home. I fully support policies of protecting at home remote work when possible so that family members can continue to care for their families but access work as needed.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Coloradans spent their life working to invest in their home and build a strong community around them. Financially supporting programs like CO AAAs and others that help provide in-home care and transport is important but beyond that we as a legislature can support these folks by raising awareness for programs that provide help with accessible in-home modifications. There are programs under medicaid that help provide energy back up modules for qualifying folks which are important for those at home and need to ensure they are prepared and have energy for their personal and medical devices to get through a potential power outage. In my district it is a critical need for folks to have accessible and reliable transportation for medical treatment which can often be hours away. These constituents should not have to leave their lifelong community for a more urban area just because they cannot access or afford medical care reliably.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

We as legislators know that supporting vital programs such as community based AAAs is critical to protecting Coloradans safety and health because they provide the essential services of meal delivery and healthcare support. Currently with multiple funding grants expiring there is a need for us to support the supplemental funding requests from the state. Nursing homes are extremely expensive and as the waitlist grows folks may be pushed to

rely on medicare which can cost the state even more. This upcoming year will be extremely difficult financially but it is important that we maintain a proactive balanced lens and do our best to help find funding sources and continue to ensure these services can be provided.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I am very sad to hear reports of elder fraud and how those folks are continually targeted. I support measures such as the Colorado Consumer protection act that in 2019 raised the penalty to 10k-50k for each violation committed against an elderly person. I also believe it is important to support the professionals in the role of reporting elder fraud schemes and help those affected navigate the process. It is important for us as a legislature to help regulate advancing technologies to ensure that they are not abused to mimic the likeness of individuals especially for the purpose of fraud. I do see a need for all of us in social services to take a proactive approach as well and share information and ensure that folks are aware of potential schemes and other vulnerabilities. I truly hope we can help folks feel empowered and knowledgeable about where to seek help for this kind of offense and to not feel ashamed because the landscape is constantly changing.

Colorado House District 59

Candidate Name: Clark Craig

District Number: Colorado House District 59

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Cortez, Dolores, Mancos, Silverton, Durango, Bayfield, Ignacio, Pagosa - Montezuma, San Juan, La Plata and Archuleta

Campaign Website: electclarkcraig.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The challenges for these adults are somewhat unique and different. On the younger spectrum, financial stability and employment are concerns. Steps have been taken to make sure there is fair treatment in the job market. We should ask how that's working and what could be done to improve employment opportunity and stability.

On the older side of the spectrum, these people are faced with mobility, independence and health concerns as many want to stay in their home. However with rising property taxes, cost of in-home health care and other costs it's becoming difficult to stay in homes and many can't afford assisted or full care facilities. We should look at policies that honor our aging population and provide more in-home services that meet their needs. We can do better in taking care of our oldest population.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

It's already a part of my who I am and what we do.

I would also lean on what we are currently doing in La Plata County. Our municipalities are incorporating more inclusive groups that represent our communities in the planning processes, defining building standards, and creating a more inclusive environment.

We have been developing an agile demand and response transportation solution that is meeting the needs of students, travelers and our aging population. We are implementing housing projects that target young families that are starting and the older people that might be downsizing.

It's a footprint other communities can adopt.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

We need to understand how the current laws are working what can be done to improve them.

There may be a need to strengthen Anti-age Discrimination Laws, but I would think incentives to promote the employment and development of an aging employment base would be much more productive. We've seen employers be successful with flexible work schedules that impact all ages of employees.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

We need to do better. How does the saying go? It takes a village.. Most people want to take care of their aging family members. There are so many different reasons why this doesn't work in every case. And there are those without family.

Thinking about those who are providing care, some thoughts that come to mind are tax credits or some type of compensation. Possibly training and support services to help offset the emotional and physical drain?

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Very similar to family provided care services. I think improved In-Home services will be the key here. This is not just someone checking in on an elderly person every couple of days, it includes simple home upgrades to improve mobility, it could include a path to a more affordable housing option, and even protections against rising property taxes. Many people who have owned their homes for 50 years find themselves in a situation where they can't sell because there is no option to stay in their community. I would be interested in policies that would provide real solutions.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Funding for services must be a priority. While there are several grants and matching funds for different services, it continues to be a challenge for service providers meet the needs of our communities.

I've been having conversations with some of our service providers to better understand their needs and what can be done. Housing and transportation are rising to the top.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

This is very frustrating, and I would estimate everyone has a relative that has been a target.

This is not limited to in-state scams where state legislators have more influence. This is a national and, in some cases, international problem. Fraud prevention laws are great. However seldom does the guilty party compensate the individual for the actual loss.

I would be interested in public awareness programs and campaigns to help curb scams.

Candidate Name: Katie Stewart

District Number: Colorado House District 59

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Archuleta, La Plata, most of Montezuma, San Juan

Campaign Website: www.katieforcolorado.com/

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Healthcare access is a challenge across the board for rural communities, but the burdens of limited access weigh the most heavily on our older residents. We need to strengthen the existing rural health education and recruitment pipelines, and ensure it includes all types of healthcare providers so that older Coloradans of all ages can receive the range of care that they need. I support expanding access to telehealth as well, which also requires the expansion of broadband in our rural areas.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

It is our responsibility to care for all ages of Coloradans and stakeholder engagement is an important part of that work.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps

would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Expanding upskilling and reskilling programs will provide more opportunities for everyone, especially older Coloradans. As a member of the school board, I firmly believe that education - in the classroom and on the job - is the best way to ensure people's continued success. It's important that we support programs that meet older people where they are and give them the tools and skills they need to keep up with the changing workplace and rising costs of living. HD59 has two CO Workforce Centers, and I support continuing to expand the resources, grants, and training they offer as much as possible with our unfortunate budget limitations.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

We need to expand supportive services as much as possible with Colorado's budget limitations. There is also a serious shortage of senior housing and placement options available in Southwest Colorado. While remaining in place is the best option for most seniors, senior housing is an important part of the picture as well, for when more comprehensive care is needed.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Access to healthcare is one of the biggest concerns for seniors in Southwest Colorado. Rural Coloradans often have to drive very far distances to get the care they need. Many procedures can only be accessed in Denver or Grand Junction, which poses an often insurmountable barrier to seniors. Without access to quality healthcare, our seniors are not able to stay in their homes and communities. It will be one of my top priorities to fund rural hospitals and increase our recruiting and retention of healthcare providers, so that rural residents can get as much care as possible, as close to their community as possible.

We also need to be mindful of older Coloradans when we raise property taxes, because such changes should take into account those living on a fixed income.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Rural areas have struggled to find the staffing needed to provide meal delivery, medical appointment transportation and in-home caregiving. As the cost of living has risen, it has gotten harder to recruit and retain workers for vital services - especially in-home care workers. I support opening up more state funding for these programs and organizations , so that they can offer higher wages to recruit and retain staff. Additionally, we need to increase affordable housing, so that in-home caregivers can live and work in our communities and help support seniors.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Fraud is a major issue in our communities - one that targets some of our most vulnerable citizens. I would absolutely support legislation that would fight financial fraud, but would like to know more about what can be done at the state level. My understanding is that federal action is needed as well, because so many of these scams are national/international.

Colorado House District 60

Candidate Name: Kathryn Green

District Number: Colorado House District 60

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Teller County, Fremont County, Custer County, Pueblo West, Chaffee County (small portion)

Campaign Website: <https://green-hd60.com>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For younger older adults, training in job hunting skills, changing the belief that older adults who haven't reached retirement age cannot learn the skills and ideas that are now in the workplace, and support.

For the oldest adults, finding the care needed to age in place or help finding the place where they can live their remaining years in an environment that supports them and gives them options for living.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I think that for the issues of housing and of transportation that increasing awareness that this is an inter-generational need. There are many pieces to this issue. and making sure that all resources are available. There are housing resources, but these resources are not publicized to members of the public, at any age. Transportation issues vary on whether you are in an urban or rural area. Denver metro, in particular has a good transportation system and the area does help people use it.

Rural areas tend not to have a transportation network. If you do not drive you cannot go to many places. The med-ride and other means of transportation are specifically based. Rural areas tend not to have Uber or other single person options.

I will admit I do not have solutions for this issue. I am looking to find the best option for this and hope your seminars have ideas.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Breaking down the prejudices and myths about older workers is the first step in making changes. Colorado Workforce works hard to train younger workers, but there is not much emphasis on re-training and up-skilling for older workers. There should be more emphasis and opportunity for older workers to make the changes in their skills to move to meaningful employment. Industry needs to realize that having an extremely skilled older worker for 5-10 years because this bias against older workers does not work for industry. Low level jobs that do not use the excellent skills of older workers does not aid in increasing financial security and contributions to Colorado's economy.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

There is a prejudice by government agencies giving payment to family members to make it easier to care for an aging relative. Insurance also does not provide payment for relatives caring for relatives. Both entities do not consider relatives who give care may need money to provide the best care. Policies and requirements need to be changes to allow these caretakers to obtain some reimbursement for their services. I will work in the Legislature to change this policy.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

There are some services now to help people age in place. These need to be expanded. Meal delivery is volunteer right now. Many of these volunteers are also on limited resources. Having reimbursement available for these services and help to make this a better option. Home visitors such as caring angels and other services for homebound who can live on their own with minimal help gives the opportunity to age in place.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

All of the AAA's services are underfunded, both by the state and federal governments. These are some of the services that need to be better funded, because these are some of the services needed to allow people to stay in their homes. In the legislature, I will push for added funding for the AAA's and I will also work with our Congressional Representatives and Senators to expand the Federal funding for these groups.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Locally we have had scam training for our citizens at the Senior Center presented by local financial institutions. That has helped some. In general, making the Seniors aware of these scams and how they are targeted is one way to cut down on the responses to the scams. One of the local communications publication gives advice to avoid scams. Otherwise, we need to continually work in our communities to stamp out scamming.

Colorado House District 62

Candidate Name: Carol Riggerbach

District Number: Colorado House District 62

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Alamosa, Monte Vista, Blanca, Ft. Garland, San Luis, Center, Saguache, LaJara, Antonito, Chama, San Pablo, Jaroso, Gardner, Rye, Del Norte, South Fork, Creede, Mesita, Crestone, Pueblo, Villa Grove, LaGarita, Manassa, Sanford

Campaign Website: Carol@carolforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The first group you refer to can benefit from employers being willing to be patient, train, and encourage older adults to enter the work force even at a part time basis. They are reliable and careful in their work. They are faithful, timely, etc. They have work values that are invaluable to an organization. A policy solution may include incentives to hire and organization/leadership training on how to work with an older adult to be successful.

The second group you refer to are those folks who need a little help at an early stage to stay successful at home and avoid the falls that lead to institutional living. Exploring funding solutions to get that little bit of help is going to be vital to help the aging older adult to stay at home longer effectively.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Intergenerational living has it's challenges and it's benefits. Younger folks who need to make some money and older adults who have funds to pay for some help can make a great

partnership. Education as to the upsides of partnering together and how to "live" with each other could be a fantastic endeavor to benefit our communities.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Again, an educational approach and most likely some sort of incentives to shine the spot light on how effective older adults are in the workforce is a need. Thinking outside the box to give older adults a chance to do tasks in a different way many times can lead to innovative ideas for success.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

It is not a drain to care for an older loved one. It is a blessing. Seeing, saying and hearing that it is a blessing and not a stressor is #1 an absolute need. There are more benefits that come for caring for an older loved one. Most older adults have Medicare and or Medicaid. Most have a revenue source, SSI, pension, etc. coming in. Lifting up families as heroes for making sacrifices and honoring an older loved one needs to be a focus. Money is not everything. We as a society honor our emergency workers, teachers, soldiers, etc. and their pay is not comparable to what they sacrifice yet many are willing to do it. Same goes with families who are honoring their elder. It's a privilege first and foremost and needs to be addressed as such. Then from that turning point, the stresses are much more manageable.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I would explore financial resources to help assist older adults in their homes at an earlier stage. Just someone being able to shop and deliver some good food is a huge start - someone to take out the trash, someone to help get to a doctor's appointment, someone to

pick up some medications, etc. These little tasks are no big deal but can be daunting as we age.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

The funding for AAA needs a deep look as to the most effective use of funds. AAA's are vital and need the support of their communities. Exploring other funding sources within the community as well as the state needs explored.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Law enforcement need some teeth to go after the scammers. Brainstorming solutions with law enforcement will be vital to address financial scamming of older adults.

Colorado House District 64

Candidate Name: Mark Matthews MD

District Number: Colorado House District 64

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: West Greeley, Berthoud, Johnstown, Milliken, Mead, mostly Weld county, some Larimer

Campaign Website: <https://matthewsfor64.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

We know that Colorado's older adult population is growing and by 2030 approximately one in five Coloradans will be over 65. For those on the older side of the age spectrum, we need to expand funding for senior services like Meals on Wheels, senior centers, and community-based services to help meet the growing demand. For the younger spectrum, providing support for employment assistance, programs to assist with healthcare costs, affordable housing, and initiatives that integrate seniors into community life are priorities. Other economic support can take the form of financial literacy programs tailored for older adults, support for pension programs and initiatives that provide financial assistance for low-income seniors, especially in rural areas of HD 64.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

As a retired physician, I am very well acquainted with the challenges that aging Coloradans face in accessing affordable and quality healthcare. Also, many older adults find it difficult to find housing that meets their needs, whether it's due to affordability, accessibility, or location. As people age, driving can become more challenging, and public transportation

options may not always meet the needs of seniors, particularly in rural areas. Healthcare, housing, and transportation are intergenerational issues that require intergenerational solutions.

To address the specific needs of older Coloradans, I believe we need to expand programs that assist with healthcare costs, provide access to comprehensive care, support telehealth services, and ensure that healthcare facilities are equipped to meet the needs of older people.

We need to invest in and promote affordable senior housing options by creating more age-friendly communities and new housing developments with accessibility features.

Finally, we need to develop more public transportation options that meet the needs of aging Coloradans, including expanded public transit services, ride-sharing programs, and community-based transportation services. Transportation needs are especially critical in rural areas of HD 64.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Ensuring that older workers can enhance their financial security for retirement and continue contributing to Colorado's economy involves a multifaceted approach. There are several steps that can be taken to support older workers:

Implement supportive legislation that protects older workers from age discrimination and ensures equal opportunities in hiring, promotions, and training. Also, advocate for policies that encourage retirement savings, and enhanced tax incentives for contributions to retirement accounts.

Promote flexible work options including remote work, and part-time and consulting roles.

Encourage skills training to help older workers acquire new skills or update current ones and offer scholarships for older adults for education or certifications in their fields.

Support entrepreneurship for older adults interested in starting their own business.

Encourage age-friendly workplaces that accommodate the needs of older workers and promote training to combat age discrimination.

Enhance retirement planning resources including workshops on retirement planning and understanding Social Security benefits, and develop user-friendly online tools to plan for retirement.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I know first-hand, as a retired internal medicine physician, that many families are dealing with the challenges of caregiving, which can be physically, emotionally, and financially demanding. Support for caregivers is essential to the well-being of the multi-generations of Coloradans. We need to provide essential resources and support for family caregivers, including respite care, support groups, financial assistance, and access to training and resources to effectively manage their caregiving responsibilities.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

To stay in their homes and communities, older adults need to have programs that integrate them into community life, promoting intergenerational activities and partnerships with local organizations to create a more inclusive environment.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado’s Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Addressing the strain on Colorado’s AAA requires a combination of policy changes, community initiatives, and individual support. Collaboration between government agencies, non-profits, and the private sector can help create a more supportive environment for Colorado’s aging population.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

As an older adult myself, I am very concerned about falling prey to financial scams. Fortunately, Colorado has several legislative measures and policies that protect older adults from financial fraud. I strongly support the work of these programs, agencies, and resources that focus on prevention, education, and enforcement to help safeguard seniors from scams. Some that I find to be very informative and effective personally include the Colorado Elder Abuse Task Force, the Colorado Senior Law Handbook, and while not specifically aimed at protecting older Coloradans, the broad protections against fraud the Colorado Consumer Protection Act provides are critical in combating elder financial abuse.

Candidate Name: Ryan Armagsot

District Number: Colorado House District 64

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Berthoud, Mead, Johnstown, Milliken, West Greeley, NW Evans

Campaign Website: www.Armagost64.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Housing, benefits, cost of living with fixed/limited income, disabilities and medical needs, etc. Offering tax exemptions, tax credits, housing assistance, incentives for senior centers in communities, etc

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

We have a caucus and committee for again, and having a wider reach and range would benefit legislation as well as county/municipal support.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Create a task force that can brainstorm ideas for funding benefits that would have little or no impact on current taxes and costs of living.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

We have seen and I have supported bills to codify and support the caregivers and families that don't make enough for what they do in our communities... I will continue to support legislation that has reasonable outcomes for caregivers and families.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

I believe there could and should be more incentives for family members and caretakers to help people stay in their homes with whatever reasonable assisted living they may need.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado’s Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I think legislation might be less effective than public service announcements and advocacy to raise awareness and support for caregivers and families.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I would like to continue to create safeguards and raise penalties for those that prey on older adults especially.

Colorado House District 65

Candidate Name: Will Walters

District Number: Colorado House District 65

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Larimer & Weld Counties, Windsor, Wellington, Severance, Timnath, Eaton, Johnstown, LaPorte

Campaign Website: willwalters.us

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I am in this age group, so I interact with many folks in this age group in my community and in my own extended family. Affordability, age discrimination, scams, and independent living are all challenges I am aware of just from my own experience supporting family members in my age group and older. We need to pursue policies that lower costs of living for all Coloradans; we need to fully fund senior services at the state level that allow seniors to remain in independent living; we need to regulate housing facilities so residents are safe; we need to allocate funds to investigate and enforce against fraud and scams; we need to prohibit age discrimination in employment. I am also open to suggestions.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

By having regular ongoing conversations with a wide spectrum of Coloradans but particularly including a representative spectrum of seniors from all political persuasions in my district. This will include regular accessible town halls in every community in my district.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Enact legislation prohibiting workplace age discrimination. Requiring that state and local governments allow experience to count toward qualifications for jobs.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

These people are providing a service that is saving taxpayers billions of dollars. Similar to a child care tax credit, I believe we should find a way to implement an elder care tax credit in an equitable way.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Rent controls, property tax breaks and accessible public transportation are some of the ways we can help seniors remain in independent living in their own homes.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

More funding! I am open to other suggestions to eliminate these wait lists.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Work with federal, state and local government on fraud investigation and enforcement as well as on laws that will act as deterrents, including mandating that communication providers whose services are abused for fraudulent purposes put in preventative and detection measures.

Colorado State Senate District 2

Candidate Name: Jennifer Brady

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 2

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Parker and Castle Rocky, Part of Douglas Co

Campaign Website: Brady For Colorado Senate

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I worked in eldercare with Innovage. I had assignments in Aurora and Littleton. They were trying to get approval in Parker and Castle Rock. I would like to check into that and see how that can be cleared. This is for the older set. I did this job when I was age 65. I think this type of employment was good for me at this point. I felt I helped and understood my clients.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Please see my website for these issue.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

These barriers have to be addressed position by position. But I would look forward to briefings on this.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

There should be respite at a minimum and compensation also if qualified. But often someone from outside the home is more helpful.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

My clients at Innovage were getting Medicaid to pay for it and I think other programs should encourage this funding.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Medicaid would be a good model for revenue streams. I would look forward to briefings on this topic. The VA often provides assistance on this. Not just for veterans themselves but also for widowed spouses. As a State rep in Ohio, I held benefit analysis open houses in senior centers to check for these sources of revenue and assistance.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Public education is invaluable. Plus high profile prosecutions of offenders. The current AG seems open to this type of public service.

Colorado State Senate District 5

Candidate Name: Cole Buerger

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 5

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Parts or all of: Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, and Pitkin counties

Campaign Website: www.coleforcolorado.org

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Though these different ages group may struggle with different challenges, affordability and housing plague almost every Coloradan. I will work with municipalities who are taking the lead on supporting seniors. I live in Glenwood Springs where our community has worked to increase senior living centers and units for seniors. In Denver I will work to support more actions like this. And in seemingly unrelated policy areas, we have to be cognizant of how these policies impact seniors and their caregivers. We need to ensure the care economy has the necessary oversight to ensure seniors live good lives and placement or care providers

are able to do their jobs effectively.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

We need to be helping organizations that enable accessibility for seniors.

An example of this is “last mile” infrastructure. Whether its cost or other factors, we need to make sure our senior community members can access public transportation by

filling in gaps in the “last mile”. Battlement Mesa, which is a predominantly senior community in SD5, lacks public transportation, particularly “last mile” options. We have to make sure our seniors are still able to get around our communities. In Denver I will fight for policies that increase accessibility and associated services. I will work to support seniors in the state by expanding at home healthcare and nutrition services, and support increased outreach in our rural areas to identify potentially isolated, homebound members of our community to ensure they get the support they need. As a community volunteer with LiftUp I know how critical these services are for our seniors.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado’s economy?

Response:

One area of concern in my district is communities that are beginning their just transitions towards clean energy economies. We must ensure that someone who has been working in non renewable energy industries are retrained to work in clean energy, and needs to be included in a just transition plan. A steady salary cannot be replaced by a seasonal rafting job. I would work to make sure all sectors retain their older workers and if the industry shifts, the business is required to retrain their workers who do not want to retire.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

My campaign has been predicated on showing up everywhere and talking to everyone.

Several communities in SD5 have disproportionate numbers of seniors and retirees.

Compared to other State Senate districts we have an older average age. I have experienced my own grandmother aging in place and the stress it placed on her and our family. In the

State Capitol I would have an open door policy to learn from expert groups on how they believe we can best support family caregivers.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

An issue I see over and over again in my community is housing affordability for seniors. They have lived in their communities for years and worry about paying property taxes that may price them out of their homes. From sales tax to rising costs of services it is becoming harder for seniors to comfortably age in place. Having watched one of my grandmothers age at home and the cost burden placed on her, I am deeply familiar with the current shortcomings in services. I recently toured Senior Community Care of Colorado's PACE in Eckert. A program like this creates support for seniors, from transportation, to meals, to making friends and building a community. Programs like these must be expanded across the state, to help alleviate some of the burden on seniors.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

We must fully fund these programs, and attract workers with competitive benefit packages. Home care workers are necessary for many Americans. We must support collective bargaining rights and a path to unionization for all caregivers and home care workers so both they and the Coloradans they serve can prosper, have dignity and can pursue fulfilling lives.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

The Fraud and Scam Reduction Act passed almost unanimously in the US House of Representatives but did not advance beyond that. I will work to enact similar policies at the state level, and I would like to serve on the Business, Labor, and Technology Committee if

elected. I could play a pivotal role in strengthening protections against scams for the older Americans of SD5.

Colorado State Senate District 12

Candidate Name: Stan VanderWerf

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 12

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Fountain, Green Mountain Falls

Campaign Website: stanvanderwerfcoloradosenate.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

In reference to all the questions in this survey, there is a general theme about reducing the cost of living in Colorado and increasing resources (through jobs) for its citizens. Both are important to everyone including seniors and I support efforts to enhance both.

Inflation, housing costs, regulatory burdens, and safety are everyone's biggest concerns. Some company owners are telling me that state law is changing so much they feel it is no longer stable, that it is essentially impossible to keep up with let alone comply with. Inflation may force a senior to get back into the job market so they don't have to choose between paying for housing or paying for healthcare. I am very interested in filling the many unfilled jobs across the State. Seniors, with their expertise from many years in the job market, are often great employee candidates to help companies and themselves.

Some respondents to this survey will talk extensively about funding this or that kind of program but I caution the sponsors to think about these proposals carefully. They may be pandering to get your support and may have little hope in getting it funded because of the exceptionally tight state budgets that face us in the near future.

As such, I believe I have a different approach that will help. For everyone, but especially for seniors, we just need to make our lives simpler. The State of Colorado has been growing in budget and size and yet we still have trouble fixing our roads. What we have not done very well is build thoughtful legislation that is both simple and inexpensive to comply with and implement. This is a statement about process improvement and I am uniquely qualified as

an industrial engineer to deliver better outcomes in this area to make our lives simpler and less expensive. I've been doing this my whole professional career. For example, as a County Commissioner, in seven years, we doubled our road repair, added county parks, increased our emergency reserve funds, increased investment in our retirement fund (to ensure its long-term viability), increased services, and did all this without raising taxes. How? We innovated. My expertise was put to work to make El Paso County a low tax highly effective public agency and recently we received the highest bond rating a county can receive, a sure sign that the markets also like what we are doing.

I will bring these skills to the State Senate to reduce regulatory burdens. This will simplify our lives, reduce the time and money needed to comply with Colorado law, and also reduce the state's cost of implementation thus freeing up funds for citizens to live their lives and for the state to fund other priorities.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

This starts with Senior Homestead Property Tax Exemption portability. Once granted, when a senior wishes to downsize to a smaller home, current law requires that seniors re-start the 10 year waiting period for this tax exemption. This is not fair. It should travel with the senior as they downsize. This not only helps the senior, it also improves the efficiency of the housing market because it frees up larger homes for families. But even more, regarding efficiencies, eliminating the process to re-qualify for the exemption saves time and money for both the applicant and the state. And when a senior downsizes to a smaller home, the exemption cost to the state will also go down thus freeing up funds. This is a perfect example of process improvement. Supporting this not only helps seniors reduce their cost of living, it reduces state implementation costs.

Second, we need construction defect reform. Right now, multi-family housing in Colorado is well below a normal percentage of the housing market because builders cannot afford the liability (insurance cost) of the current process which was caused by a previous state law. Giving builders an opportunity to cure defects BEFORE this goes to litigation will substantially increase the stock of more affordable multi-family housing and this will help

everyone including seniors. Doing things to activate the builders to build more is the single most important thing we can do to address housing affordability.

Finally, we need to work on the cost of healthcare which today is so incredibly complicated. I am a Governor Polis appointee to the State Board of Health representing Congressional District 5 and healthcare costs are very difficult for everyone including seniors. As Senator, I will work towards increasing market options to force more competition. This will force innovation specifically towards the cost of healthcare. Our quality of healthcare is good. Our accessibility is not.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I sit on the board of the Pikes Peak Workforce Center and was Chair for two years. PPWFC just held a job fair for people 55 and older (on 22 Aug) and we had several employers there. In El Paso County, we have thousands of unfilled jobs and frankly, our bigger problem is convincing seniors to get back into the workforce. Being 63 myself, I find I have a lot of opportunities available. I most definitely support seniors getting back into the workforce and will work with employers to build job opportunities, perhaps part time jobs, or work from home, to attract more seniors to the job market.

As a Senator, I will do what I can with a tight state budget to fully fund our public workforce centers and ensure they have various robust programs for all potential employees including seniors. At PPWFC we actually spend more on upskilling than anything else and I would want to make sure all public workforce centers have robust upskilling programs for all citizens including seniors. Often a senior's skills are excellent but they just need updating because they may have been out of the job market for a few years.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I support families and it is their obligation to support their loved ones. It is exactly what my wife and I are doing today for my wife's Mom who is in her 90s. My wife is with her every day and this costs us time together and money, but it is, without question, the right thing to do.

It is VERY important for public agencies to NOT replace the family for care of loved ones. Sometimes all the senior needs is time and love from their family. Unfortunately, some legislators fail to see this as they drive towards wrong legislation that harms the cohesion that families and communities need to have. Family cohesion is a huge determinant in the mental health of the members of that family.

To help those families, Colorado and other public agencies need to be careful about their spending and keep taxes and regulatory burdens low so that families can have more resources to take care of themselves and their loved ones. There is nothing more frustrating than a process that should take minutes but takes hours or days. This is time and money taken away from people that need both to live their lives.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

This starts with senior homestead exemption portability and construction defect reform which I described in detail in a previous question.

Past this issue, I support grantmaking opportunities to help private non-profits help families to help their loved ones and seniors to stay in their homes. I do this now as an El Paso County Commissioner through our grant making programs. We have issued dozens of grants this year for just this kind of support. For example, we just issued a grant to a company that builds ramps so folks in wheelchairs can stay in their home. In-home options are often the most cost-effective approach. From an efficiency and productivity standpoint alone, I support in-home options.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

As for the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging, we do not have long waitlists for AAA services and I believe that is because of our strong partnerships with communities and non-profits.

As the former Chair of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and current voting member of PPACG, our PPAAA is doing great work in a variety of support programs. While every government agency always wants more money, every agency should be constantly working to make every dollar count the most. Our AAA partners with a lot of non-profits to deliver services to seniors. Our PPACG Senior Information and Assistance Directory (we call it the yellow book) lists a thousand resources for seniors in a senior friendly format from medical care, housing, disability, family education, safety, transportation, and much more.

In the Pikes Peak region, we have over 5,000 non-profits helping people including seniors with all kinds of challenges. Our state legislature needs to reduce the burdens it places on EVERY company so they can have more resources to do their job.

Having said all this, AAAs are important components of the support system for seniors and I will protect their freedom of action to deliver those services to their communities.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Unlike some other candidates, I support law endorsement and want those who commit crimes to be prosecuted. Our District Attorney in El Paso County prosecutes 95% of the crimes presented to him by law enforcement while that percentage in Denver is much lower. I would work on legislation that forces District Attorneys to do their job so that everyone, including seniors, can be more safe.

While there are laws in place to address financial fraud including fraud presented online, I feel these laws are not strong enough to be entirely effective. I will work with my fellow Senators to do what we can with state law and communicate with federal legislators to strengthen federal law. This is a complicated arena and the federal government, in many cases, has exclusive prosecution authority. Too many people get away with internet fraud and take advantage of those with less experience on the internet. While this can mean increased penalties for internet fraud, quite frankly, the better legislation would be to help find these criminals and bring them to justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this survey. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email. 719-640-8879. s.vanderwerf@comcast.net

Colorado State Senate District 14

Candidate Name: Phoebe McWilliams

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 14

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Fort Collins, Larimer

Campaign Website: phoebe4colorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I agree and have experienced age discrimination once I turned 65. There must be improvements made to encourage employers to keep and/or hire those who meet their job requirements. Possibly through education efforts for the employer and for the employees in order to keep up the skills needed, i.e. computer, IT skills. We need to increase the funds available for those needing in-home care. We need to increase opportunities to have more in-home services available that are affordable for those needing that type of in-home care.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

A look into the services that are available, possible audits of those services to make sure funds are spent properly and efficiently. With my background and my experience, I feel I have that intergenerational lens that's needed so all Coloradans benefit. One issue that impacts all of us is the amount of taxes we encounter. Those taxes must be lowered so that services and housing can become affordable. The higher the property taxes are the higher our house payments increase. To the point that house payments are no longer affordable!! Currently, Fort Collins has a bus service that runs many empty buses!! There must be

better monitoring of the busing needs for Coloradoans. Perhaps increasing smaller transportation to meet more individual needs and timing.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Perhaps writing up a bill that better reflects the needs of our senior population, like the Older Americans Act that better addresses employment opportunities and how to for employers to establish cross training, cross employment opportunities.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

We could institute respite care for the caregivers. Perhaps an allowance made to the caregiver through a program that has funding without raising taxes. Adult care tax credits.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Again, this goes back to reducing the amount of taxes charged to homeowners. A tax break for those senior homeowners, the older the more tax relief is given. I would seek accountability for the taxes already levied. Do mill levies really need to increase every year?

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Legislators should receive regular updates from their local AAAs to keep them informed of the needs of their senior population. Legislators should meet with their local AAAs at least on a quarterly if not monthly basis.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

What are our local District Attorneys and Law Enforcement agencies doing to keep us informed about those scams? Perhaps those agencies need to be more open to receiving complaints from seniors, a direct "Senior Line" so they can report complaints immediately and not have to shuffle through papers or agencies in order to speak to the people that take immediate action on reported scams!

Candidate Name: Cathy Kipp

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 14

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Fort Collins, Larimer County

Campaign Website: <https://cathykipp.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

On the younger side, age discrimination can play a role in preventing people from new job opportunities or promotions. To address this we need to start enforcing existing anti-discrimination laws and creating community-based resources to provide older adults with support in upskilling and preparing for new opportunities. I also believe we can do a better job in moving public perception from the assumption that our older community members "won't be in the workforce that much longer anyways", to valuing the experience and wisdom that they bring to the workforce.

On the older side, the home care workers that help people age in place in their homes, are underpaid and undervalued. We need to continue working to ensure the homecare workforce is economically stable enough to persist. Despite years of legislation to improve the wages of homecare workers, we have not yet reached the point where homecare workers are adequately compensated. Being a homecare worker is hard work, and if it pays better to work at a local fast food chain, there isn't an incentive for people to go get harder jobs for less pay.

Additional challenges on the older side of the spectrum include making sure older adults have companionship and intellectual stimulation. Financial stability is another concern, as well as ensuring older adults do not fall prey to scams or elder abuse.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

A couple of new laws the legislature passed this year that I voted for, were to eliminate occupancy limit caps in housing and allow homeowners to have accessory dwelling units (ADUs). These types of policies serve everyone because they help increase overall housing supply, and at the same time can allow a younger person to rent a room or an ADU, potentially from an older adult. This can lead to mutually beneficial arrangements where younger people get housing, and older persons get extra income or receiving help with yardwork, housework, or transportation depending on the arrangement.

Not all people who are aging want to stay in larger houses. Promoting policies such as the portability of the senior homestead exemption (which we now have for a couple of years) can free up larger houses for younger people and families while removing financial barriers for seniors who wish to downsize.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

In addition to the steps I mentioned above (enforcing existing anti-discrimination laws, providing opportunities for training and upskilling, and changing the messaging around older workers), we can also look to examples of success in other states. As an example, we could look at our own state level workforce shortage, create a win-win situation by attracting older workers into the workforce. Older workers have experience, are more seasoned and are likely to require less training and supervision. By promoting positions in state workforces that allow for flexible and remote work, we can help older workers get jobs that are a good fit for their requirements and address our state's workforce shortages.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Caring for an older loved one can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also bring many challenges, especially when it comes to balancing your own well-being with the needs of

those you care for. Support family caregivers can include policies that provide financial relief in the form of tax credits and access to resources like respite care, counseling, and support groups. It is important to ensure caregivers have the tools and support needed to manage the physical, emotional, and financial stresses that come with caregiving, so they can continue to provide the care that is so valuable to their loved ones and to the community.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Some of the options Colorado could implement to provide support to older adults who want to age in place in their homes include:

- * Tax credits or low interest loans for affordable home modification services, such as installing grab bars, ramps, or stairlifts, which can make homes safer and more accessible for older adults.
- * Support local senior centers which can be a hub to social activities, wellness programs, and support services which can help older adults stay engaged and connected with their communities.
- * Access to telehealth can be helpful for many older adults with transportation and mobility issues.
- * And, as mentioned above, continue to work on improving compensation for the homecare workforce as well as supporting family and friend caregivers.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

We could fund them. Last year we fought for and received the first funding increase AAA's in many years. I fear that the recent legislative special session which cut property tax rates will take away these recent gains. Colorado is expected to need to cut \$700 million from our state budget in 2025, this means many programs may be cut or discontinued. AAA programs help our seniors to age-in-place and are life-sustaining. We need to recognize the

value of AAA programs within our communities, try to at least maintain the funding they have, and look for additional sources to help provide these vital services.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Financial fraud targeting seniors is not only a significant economic problem, but also takes an emotional toll on victims and their families. Scammers are increasingly savvy and we need to do what we can to protect older adults.

Education and awareness is key. Local resources such as senior centers, libraries, and community organizations are likely best positioned to let seniors know about current scams. Preventing the fraud from happening is always going to be the best protection. This includes helping seniors secure their electronic devices and online accounts. We could potentially collaborate with local financial institutions to implement additional safeguards for older account holders, such as transaction alerts and extra verification steps for large withdrawals.

I would want to also check-in with our Colorado Attorney General's office to see what advice they have to offer. Their office has a lot of expertise in the area of consumer protection which would be important to take advantage of and learn from.

Candidate Name: Jeff Brosius

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 14

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Fort Collins

Campaign Website:

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

I see both groups struggle with the cost of living, although the reasons for that cost may vary. The older group faces a rising tax burden on their property and increased medical expenses while the younger group struggles to save enough in their prime earning years while trying to finance a child's education or housing. Reducing taxes, reducing costly government mandates and regulations, expanding options for medical care, and reducing the cost of education by eliminating expensive administrative bloat serves both groups well.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

There is one common factor in all the challenges that generations face, and that is an expanding and costly government getting involved in every day decisions. Coloradans are smart enough and resourceful enough to make their way through without government taking more of their money and forcing more mandates down our throats. Loosening regulations and restrictions and returning more control to the local level, where people are more connected, allows all generations to benefit. Having a open channel of communication for older Coloradans to discuss their concerns and needs is vital. Not just the appearance of an open door, but a real willingness to listen.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I would incentivize employers to provide upskill training and promotions by promoting tax breaks for those employers. Allowing businesses to reduce their operating costs by providing training and education benefits helps the employees as well as the business owners. Any good business owner knows that retaining experienced and talented employees is a huge part of business success. We should make it easier for businesses to train their people, and that starts by making it more affordable.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Expenses incurred while caring for a loved one should be tax deductible. Additionally, eliminating sales tax on medical goods and services will reduce the cost of those goods and services. Finally, redirecting state funds from less essential services to local healthcare providers will facilitate more options to ensure our older population has the care and help they require.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Once a mortgage is paid in full, all property tax on that property should be eliminated. As inflation continues to artificially increase the valuation of a house, and property tax rates rise because we eliminated the protections of the Gallagher Amendment, seniors are getting taxed right out of their homes that they worked hard for years to pay for.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and

in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Divert funds from other agencies that provide less vital services.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I have not considered this issue yet, and will need to give it some thought.

Colorado State Senate District 16

Candidate Name: Robyn Carnes

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 16

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: West Arapahoe County; East Jefferson County; Centennial, Littleton, Columbine Valley, Small Party of Bowmar

Campaign Website: www.carnesforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

As a Centennial City Councilwoman and from serving on our Senior Commission, the most pressing issues are affordability and the high cost of living - from gas to groceries, crime, healthcare, and taxes, our seniors are most vulnerable. Older adults represent the largest demographic group in Senate District 16. Those over the age of 65 outnumber those under the age of 16, yet resources continue to be cut for older adults which is a tremendous challenge.

I've also heard that placement services are incredibly expensive and limited. With my own parents / in-laws, they're saving every penny to afford this next phase of life.

The loneliness factor is also very serious, which leads to depression and even thoughts of ending one's life. In fact, we had this very thing take place a few weeks ago in Centennial. It's very real.

Finally, aging is difficult, moving from independence to dependence on others. In Centennial, we just had Morgan Jenkins with "Maintain Me" present on this issue.

Before launching into suggestions, I would like to better understand the current landscape by talking with subject matter experts. I'd use the following as a starting place:

Current State - how do things work today?

Future State - how would we like them to work?

Build a Plan - strategy for getting there

Implementation - make it happen with accountability from all parties

Cutting taxes and making Colorado more affordable for Seniors is key, but I'd also like to see some creative public-private partnerships around the transportation issue. Many entities appear to be tackling similar issues, so why not work together - working smarter not harder to make resources go further.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

For starters, we need to foster relationships with older adults, and I cherish those in my life. I have many friends who are older adults offering terrific nuggets of wisdom to me.

As for integrating an intergenerational lens, I'd start with an Older Adults Advisory Council (OAAC). We already do something similar in Centennial where I serve as Liaison to Centennial City Council Sr. Commission which keeps me extremely close to older adult needs. Centennial has partnered with the YMCA to create a Center of Generations for our youth and seniors. It's going marvelously, functioning as a community center with a variety of activities for all ages. Our only downside is not having a center on the east side of town, but it's in the works. (The older adults even taught my teenage sons to play poker!)

Nearly all my neighbors are older adults, and I've built relationships with each. They have my number, and if needs arise, we hope our family is the first called to help. After snow falls, my boys will go out and shovel driveways for many of them, not for pay (although they appreciate those who give), but because that's what community does.

On August 12, I led a Round-Table Discussion at Wolhurst Senior Living off Santa Fe, facilitating a conversation with older adults around the most pressing issues facing them. In other words, "what keeps them up at night? "

Finally, I was a Chaplain / Pastor for 7 years, and older adults were some of my greatest volunteers!

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace

age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Let's utilize the Older Adult Advisory Council (OAAC) and partner with a Community College or existing older adult program that could encompass developing partnerships with employers / organizations in the community, recruitment, re-skilling, resources, and job training, etc. Then, let's incentivize and celebrate businesses / organizations that will hire them.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

The African Proverb, "It takes a village, comes to mind, and we need to expand the village. Resources will run out, but the human spirit won't. I'd like to explore creative private-public partnerships to help 'lighten the load' for these caregivers. We need to create intentional experiences for communities and neighborhoods to come together, getting to know each other and then helping supporting one another in tangible ways where needed. The City of Centennial championed this after the pandemic by offering neighborhood grants to communities so they could have the funding to throw a party and simply gather. This has led to developing lasting relationships for many which eventually led to serving one another in meaningful ways.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

In many non-western countries, living intergenerationally is celebrated. I would like to see more of that here in Colorado. This could also alleviate some of our housing, loneliness and isolation issues. Perhaps older adults could share their home with a young person or

family as a win-win for both parties, from helping to pay rent to helping with housing projects in exchange for a place to reside. A carrot vs. stick mentality seems to go far.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

The easy answer would be to allocate more funding, yet resources are limited, and this year's budget is going to be tighter than last year's.

I'd like to explore more public-private partnerships with this issue. For example, every place of worship has a focus on missions. To me, missions is seeing a need and meeting it. Perhaps we could partner with communities of faith "like Centennial is already doing with their Faith Council" to solve some of these tough issues.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Let's get subject matter experts on this issue to offer awareness training for older adults. For example, D.A. Kellner's office offered a Senior Law and Safety Summit earlier this summer, and it was a tremendous success. Recruit sponsors to help off-set the cost for attendees. Make it educational with resources on fraud prevention, crime prevention, safety & health, and elder law so as to minimize the threat of physical and financial exploitation of older adults. Since community outreach, education, and open conversations are key lines of defense regarding prevention, offer it annually, or even quarterly. We need to take a proactive approach vs. a defensive approach, protecting our most vulnerable residents.

Candidate Name: Chris Kolker

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 16

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Arapahoe and Jefferson County

Campaign Website: <https://www.kolkerforcolorado.com>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For younger older adults (50-65), challenges often revolve around maintaining employment, building retirement savings, and accessing affordable housing. Many in this group may still want or need to work but face age discrimination or limited job opportunities. Policies like expanding the Senior Housing Income Tax Credit, which helps lower-income seniors afford rent, and easing employment barriers through measures like PERA waivers for retired teachers, can help this demographic. Additional job training programs or tax incentives for employers to hire older workers would also be beneficial.

For the oldest adults (80-85+), challenges shift to health care access, in-home services, and social isolation. Many in this group require assistance with daily living but prefer to age in place rather than move into nursing facilities. To address this, expanding the availability of geriatric care providers through programs like the Colorado Health Services Corps, along with stronger support for home care services, could provide critical help. Policies like SB22-185, which expands grants for aging-related services, and SB24-040, which reviews the adequacy of senior services funding, would ensure resources are directed effectively.

Both groups need tailored support, from employment and housing solutions for younger seniors to health and in-home care for the oldest.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

First, I advocate for expanding housing assistance programs. The legislature worked hard this session to reduce the property tax burden for homeowners, but we must also consider seniors who are renting. Many seniors on fixed incomes don't have property assets, and they need additional help to afford their rent. Expanding the Senior Housing Income Tax Credit can provide essential financial relief to seniors struggling with rental costs while also promoting affordable housing initiatives for younger families and individuals.

Second, I support improvements to public transportation that cater to both older adults and younger generations. Enhancing access to medical appointment transportation for seniors will alleviate their mobility challenges, while also ensuring that services meet the needs of young workers and students.

Lastly, I promote intergenerational programs, such as community centers that foster interaction and collaboration between younger and older residents. By taking these steps, I will ensure that our policies address the needs of all Coloradans, creating a more inclusive and supportive community for everyone.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

To support older workers and enhance their financial security, a multifaceted approach is necessary. First, addressing age discrimination in the workplace is crucial. Strengthening anti-discrimination laws and implementing policies that incentivize businesses to hire and retain older workers, such as tax credits for hiring older employees, would help combat workplace bias.

Upskilling and reskilling are also vital. Expanding access to job training programs tailored to older adults, such as through partnerships with community colleges or workforce development centers, can ensure they stay competitive in the evolving job market. Leveraging programs like the Colorado Health Services Corps, which addresses workforce shortages in critical sectors, could serve as a model for other industries.

Additionally, supporting flexible work arrangements, including part-time or freelance work, allows older workers to balance employment with other life demands, increasing workforce

participation. Temporary waivers like those seen in PERA for substitute teachers (HB22-1057) should be explored for other sectors to address shortages while providing older adults with meaningful employment opportunities.

Finally, ensuring access to affordable housing through measures like the Senior Housing Income Tax Credit (HB24-1052) and boosting retirement savings options would give older workers greater financial stability as they approach retirement. Together, these steps would empower older Coloradans to contribute to the economy while securing their financial futures.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Supporting family caregivers, who play a crucial role in caring for older loved ones, requires comprehensive policy solutions that address both their financial and emotional challenges. One important step is expanding access to respite care programs, giving caregivers temporary relief from their duties. By increasing funding for programs like the Strategic Investments in Aging Grant Program (SB22-185), we can provide resources to support community-based respite services and in-home care options.

Additionally, financial support for caregivers is critical. Offering tax credits or direct financial assistance to family caregivers would help offset the costs of caregiving, which can otherwise strain household budgets. Expanding the Senior Housing Income Tax Credit (HB24-1052) to include caregivers who house older adults could provide further relief.

Workplace flexibility is another key area. Expanding family leave policies to include caregiving for older adults would ensure that caregivers don’t have to choose between their jobs and caring for their loved ones. Promoting employer-sponsored caregiver support programs and flexible work arrangements would allow caregivers to balance their responsibilities more effectively.

Finally, providing caregivers with access to mental health resources and caregiver support groups is essential to addressing emotional stress. Integrating caregiver education into existing senior services, including dementia care training (SB22-079), would help caregivers feel more equipped for their role.

By addressing these needs, we can ensure caregivers receive the support they deserve while continuing their essential work for older Coloradans.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

To help older Coloradans remain in their homes and communities, we need policies that provide both financial support and access to critical in-home services. Expanding affordable housing options is key. Strengthening programs like the Senior Housing Income Tax Credit (HB24-1052), which helps low-income seniors afford rent, is crucial for those who wish to age in place but face financial constraints.

Another vital step is increasing access to in-home care services. Expanding grants like those in the Strategic Investments in Aging Grant Program (SB22-185) to fund home modifications, transportation, and caregiving support would enable more seniors to stay in their homes. Additionally, the expansion of geriatric care providers through programs like the Colorado Health Services Corps (SB21-158) ensures that seniors can access health care in their own communities.

Policies that support family caregivers, such as tax credits or flexible work arrangements, also play a role, as family members often assist with care, allowing seniors to remain at home. Supporting respite care and expanding home health care services through adequate senior services funding reviews (SB24-040) would ensure sufficient resources are available to meet growing demand.

Finally, strengthening community-based services, such as transportation for medical appointments or social programs, would help older Coloradans maintain independence and social connections. By addressing housing, health, and caregiving needs, we can ensure more seniors can age comfortably in their homes and communities.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

As a legislator, I am prioritizing increased state funding to better support Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and address service waitlists. Expanding programs like the Strategic Investments in Aging Grant Program (SB22-185) and establishing a contingency reserve fund, modeled after the State Funding for Senior Services Contingency Reserve Fund (HB24-1211), will ensure critical resources for services such as meal delivery, transportation, and in-home caregiving.

I will continue to push for comprehensive reviews of senior services funding, as outlined in SB24-040, to pinpoint where resources are most needed and ensure efficient use of funds. Collaborating with nonprofits and private organizations to expand volunteer networks for key services will help reduce strain on AAAs.

Streamlining administrative processes and simplifying eligibility criteria will allow seniors to access services faster, minimizing the impact of waitlists. Through increased funding, public-private partnerships, and process improvements, I am committed to ensuring Colorado's AAAs have the support they need to meet the growing demands of our aging population.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

As a legislator, I am dedicated to addressing financial fraud targeting older adults, especially in light of the alarming \$3.4 billion in losses reported nationwide in 2023. In collaboration with initiatives like the Joint Task Force for Financial Security for Older Coloradans, launched by Attorney General Phil Weiser, we can create a comprehensive approach to combat financial scams. This task force focuses on consumer protection, financial literacy, and preventing elder abuse, which is critical as Colorado's senior population is expected to double by 2030.

I will advocate for public awareness campaigns that educate seniors about recognizing common scams and fraud tactics. Partnering with organizations like the AARP and local law enforcement, we can provide workshops and resources tailored to older adults.

Additionally, I will support legislation that strengthens protections against financial exploitation, requiring financial institutions to train employees in identifying and reporting suspected fraud involving older customers.

Promoting collaboration among government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and community organizations through the task force will enhance our ability to protect older

Coloradans. By providing better reporting mechanisms for victims of fraud and access to recovery resources, I am committed to ensuring that older adults can achieve financial security and age with dignity in Colorado.

Colorado State Senate District 18

Candidate Name: Judy Amabile

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 18

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Boulder County: City of Boulder, Louisville, Superior, Gunbarrel, Niwot

Campaign Website: judyforcolorado.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

For the younger demographic, the state can take many actions to ensure people have the ability to age and retire with dignity. For example, I support policies that enable and encourage secure savings, increased financial literacy from a young age, and home ownership. For the older group, the state has an important role to play in growing our health care and home care workforces, and ensuring these industries are safe and well regulated. These are just two focus areas. Things like transportation, food security, and housing impact all. Robust social connections for all seniors provide critical quality of life benefits for everyone in our society.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

First and foremost, I am a senior! Additionally, I seek the advice and counsel of advocacy organizations like Colorado Center for Aging, AARP, Bell Policy Center, etc. when considering legislation.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace

age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskillling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I have and will continue to support inclusive workforce policies for all.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

We must incentivize more people to go into home health care and the state can help by providing paid training, tuition reimbursement, and tax incentives, while ensuring these jobs provide a fair wage. In the interest of all concerned - workers, families, and adults receiving care- home health care workers must have the ability to collectively bargain. Insurance companies will primarily reimburse their services, and it is critical that workers have the protections they need to work safely and earn a fair wage.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

In Colorado, affordability is the main concern. I co-sponsored HB22-1205 Senior Housing Income Tax Credit and voted yes on SB24-111 Senior Primary Residence Prop Tax Reduction.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I am interested in your ideas on this. My record of support for vulnerable citizens is unequivocal.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

We have to support Colorado's Attorney General, local district attorneys, and advocacy organizations in their work to prevent fraud and financial scams. Artificial intelligence is creating even greater challenges.

Candidate Name: Gary Swing

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 18

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Boulder, Gunbarrel, Niwot, Louisville, Superior

Campaign Website: <https://theswingvote.wixsite.com/unity>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Colorado State Senate District 19

Candidate Name: Lindsey Daugherty

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 19

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Arvada, Westminster, and parts of Golden and Wheat Ridge

Campaign Website: <https://www.lindseyforcolorado.com/>

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

The challenges for younger older adults (ages 50-64+) often revolve around employment stability, career transitions, and building sufficient retirement savings. Age discrimination in the workplace can limit their opportunities, making it difficult to secure meaningful employment or advance in their careers. On the other hand, the oldest adults (80+) may face physical and cognitive decline, necessitating increased access to in-home care, healthcare, and daily living assistance. Social isolation is also a significant concern for this group.

To address these challenges, policies should be implemented that encourage continued employment for younger older adults. This could include strengthening anti-age discrimination laws, providing incentives for businesses to hire and retain older workers, and offering retraining programs to help them transition into new careers. For the oldest adults, expanding in-home care services and increasing funding for programs that assist with daily living and healthcare are essential.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Integrating an intergenerational lens involves promoting policies that address issues common across generations, such as affordable housing, transportation, and healthcare, while ensuring these policies are adaptable to the specific needs of different age groups. Currently in Colorado, the cost of healthcare can be insurmountable for some patients of all ages. The Colorado Option, Medicaid, and Medicare are good starting points to expand healthcare coverage to Coloradans, but many people are still left out of this program or don't qualify for certain benefits. In the past, I voted 'yes' for SB21-158 Increase Medical Providers For Senior Citizens which expanded the availability of geriatric care providers by modifying the Colorado Health Service Corps program in the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to include geriatric advanced practice providers. Additionally, nearly 1 in 3 Coloradans don't take their medications as prescribed due to high costs, and prescription drugs are the largest driver of rising health care costs. That is why I am proud to have successfully passed my bill HB23-1201: Prescription Drug Benefits which helps lower the cost of prescription drugs by making it an unfair business practice for Pharmacy Benefit Managers to charge employers more for a drug than what they pay pharmacies for the same drug.

Going forward, I want to make sure that at the capitol we identify who is being left out of our healthcare system and try to find an innovative solution and practical solution so that every Coloradan can get the health care that they need.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

To support older workers, it is essential to combat age discrimination by strengthening and enforcing age discrimination laws, ensuring that older workers have equal opportunities in the workplace. We also need to invest in initiatives that offer older workers upskilling and reskilling opportunities. This can include subsidized training programs, partnerships with local colleges, and online courses designed for older adults. Additionally, encouraging businesses to offer flexible work arrangements, such as part-time positions, telecommuting options, and phased retirement plans, can help older workers balance their work and personal lives while remaining active contributors to the economy.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their

estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Supporting family caregivers requires a multi-faceted approach. Financial support, such as tax credits or direct financial assistance, can help alleviate the economic burden of caregiving. Also, with Paid Family Medical Leave that was implemented through Proposition 118 in 2020, this allows caregivers to take time off work without losing income. I support this law, and we need to make sure we protect and strengthen it at the capitol. Offering training programs that equip caregivers with the skills needed to care for their loved ones effectively is also crucial. These programs can include instruction on managing medical conditions, navigating the healthcare system, and self-care techniques for caregivers themselves.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Supporting older Coloradans in staying in their homes and communities requires expanding access to home modification programs and expanding initiatives like HB22-1205 Senior Housing Income Tax Credit, which provided a refundable income tax credit for qualifying seniors. By implementing home modification programs, such as installing ramps and accessible bathrooms, we can help seniors age safely and securely in their homes. Additionally, increasing funding for community-based services like transportation, meal delivery, and in-home care and promoting aging-friendly community infrastructure are vital. Encouraging local governments to include aging considerations in urban planning further ensures that older adults can remain connected and supported in their communities.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I supported SB21-290 Security For Colorado Seniors where \$15 million in General Fund dollars were allocated to establish an area Agency on Aging grant program. This financial grant money is directed to develop and implement various programs providing physical,

mental, and emotional assistance to older Coloradans. Legislators can better support Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) by advocating for increased state and federal funding to reduce waitlists and ensure that AAAs can meet the growing demand for services. This might involve reallocating budget priorities or exploring new revenue sources, such as grants or public-private partnerships. Public awareness campaigns about the importance of AAAs and the critical services they provide could also generate support for funding increases and encourage more community involvement in AAA initiatives.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Addressing financial fraud targeting older adults involves strengthening regulations to protect them from scams. This could include stricter penalties for offenders, improved reporting mechanisms, and enhanced consumer protections. Launching public education campaigns aimed at older adults and their families to raise awareness about common scams and how to avoid them is also essential. These campaigns could involve partnerships with financial institutions, community organizations, and local media outlets. Additionally, providing resources and support for older adults who have been victims of financial fraud, such as legal assistance, financial counseling, and mental health services, can help them recover from the financial and emotional impact of being scammed.

Candidate Name: Ryan VanGundy

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 19

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Arvada, Westminister, Jefferson County

Campaign Website:

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Increased cost of living effects everyone on that spectrum. Increase in property taxes, increase in insurance premiums, increase in medical cost. Lowering taxes, rolling back regulations that hinder medical treatments, personal options for healthcare, and HSA's / FSA's can go along way to assisting our aging population.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

When we lower the costs for all citizens it will assist with lowering the cost for our older Coloradans.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Once again the cost of living increasing is one of the number one reasons our aging population needs to work. Property taxes and being one of the few states that taxes social security needs to change.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I need to do more research on this issue.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Lowering or exempting property taxes and removing the SS taxation will assist in that.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

By budgeting better to ensure funds go to where they are most needed.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Increasing penalties for these scams and educating the aging population on the risk in technology.

Colorado State Senate District 26

Candidate Name: Meredith Ryan

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 26

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Englewood, Aurora, Denver, Greenwood Village, Lakewood, Arapahoe County...

Campaign Website: unityparty.us (currently no personal one for my own candidacy)

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Often these two groups live together, the adult child caring for the parent or grandparent (or vice-versa). Support the employed "breadwinner" or young grandparent with programs to enrich lives of the ones doing the caregiving. Provide remote work database. Offer a level of debt forgiveness to these caregivers. Those having specialized in social service areas and counseling could benefit while households benefit from their expertise. Explore incentives for those needing the care as well folks that provide ancillary services -- transportation, etc.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Work with RTD and other transport providers on new/improved initiatives to make sure transportation is offered where it is most needed. Hold developers accountable for understanding need of transportation for their likely residents. Monitor the situation by holding semi-annual (ex, Spring-Fall) brunch for intergenerational audiences and, alternately, breakout audiences by age cohort to be held at a public event site or conference site to get advice and give feedback.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Work with public educators in secondary and college level to equip those elders interested in reskilling. "Sell" employers on working against age discrimination by setting a positive tone within their own workplaces and spaces. Rank by stars or some such thing for employers most benefitted by elder workers.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Since there is such value in this work to the state, offer unpaid caregivers stipend to positively impact their situations. Reallocate (?) some transportation, meals funding and the like depending on likely amounts saved by unpaid caregivers. (I was in such a position and lost my job to care for my dad -- and it WAS very meaningful but difficult financially.)

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

While employed, do not cut their social security until a much higher income threshold (than \$22,000) before full retirement age, or lower that age by 10 months for current boomers. Give them a tax credit if they work to help other seniors with home care. (I stopped working for an eldercare agency when I was impacted for making too much income. Sometimes we take social security in order to afford housing thinking that we will retire before we actually do.)

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I will need more clarification on AAAs and examples of them. Generally, work more closely with such agencies, forming a sort of advisory board composed of individuals and agencies.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Banks are beginning to educate people online on their sites more now, and that should continue. Some elders need representatives (familial or otherwise) to transact finances above a certain daily level of need if they are more susceptible to these scams and cons. Highlight the need of more guardianship or power-of-attorney in certain circumstances. I know folks whose parent(s) have fallen for such scams, and the situation is heart-wrenching. Scams are scams for everyone, but financial scams should receive harshest fines and sentencing for scamming older adults.

Colorado State Senate District 28

Candidate Name: Mike Weissman

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 28

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Aurora / Adams / Arapahoe

Campaign Website: mikeweissman.com

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

As noted below, 50 year-olds may be working (or trying to) for 10-20 more years, so questions of skill sufficiency, age discrimination, fairness of earnings & overall work conditions are important here as for younger workers. Dealing with health situations early and effectively at this age can hopefully head off worse outcomes later, so this goes to a range of issues in healthcare from provider sufficiency to quality of insurance coverage. At the older end of older adult status I know having enough care workers is a major issue especially when those jobs tend to be not well paid and thus not sustainable for those doing them. As noted below I have worked or tried to work in consumer protection laws (because when things are already marginal you can't afford to get ripped off); anti-discrimination law, including age discrimination; and tax policy as ways to try to address these issues.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

I am used to working with senior advocacy organizations at the capitol in at least some issue spaces, for example tax policy and consumer protection and will continue to do so.

The challenge for all of us is to remember to be proactive in our outreach when we are working on legislation where we think there might be a nexus of interest.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

I was a co-prime sponsor of SB23-172 to modernize our anti-discrimination laws and particularly as the Baby Boom generation ages we need to continue to be on guard against age discrimination. We can continue to build on 'secure savings' work in past years so that even people without employer-provided options have some pathway to try to put money away and earn a return on that investment for retirement stability. Policy conversations about educational pathways tend to focus on younger workers or would-be workers but we can make sure that policies about micro-credentials, certificates, etc embrace the realities of mid- or later-career workers wanting to make a change as well.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado's adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

I will often think about how tax policy can support broader policy goals. For example HB24-1312 was the caring economy tax credit, which I supported. As written 1312 probably doesn't capture everything this question is talking about but it provides a template for expansion toward that end, when overall state fiscal conditions allow.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

One issue is property taxes. The generally-applicable property tax legislation in recent years has addressed this somewhat. SB24-111 is a pilot to assess the fiscal cost of portability of the senior homestead exemption. Another issue is metro district taxation. Sadly there is a lot of work to do there. Another issue is HOA dues. There is a lot of work to

do there, particularly as to the role of HOA common elements insurance in driving dues increases. For seniors who rent, there are other issues entirely. This year Rep. Ortiz and I passed HB24-1268 to convert the cumbersome PTC for people with disabilities, including seniors, from a grant to a tax credit, so that it can be claimed more readily (we estimate an 8-10x increase in utilization). Longer term I hope to make this change for the rest of the PTC (i.e. for low-income seniors regardless of disability as well). At a macro / community level, transit services would help seniors who are less comfortable driving.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

I know there is a funding gap with AAAs and talked about this with advocates in the last session or two. One idea is that recoveries in elder fraud cases (see below) could be specifically programmed (legislatively) to AAAs; however this would be an uncertain type of funding stream. The ideal here I know is some kind of general fund commitment. I fear we are looking at a \$1BN+ deficit for the general fund in FY26. I am always here for fiscal policy brainstorming.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

I believe I have been one of the leading legislators in terms of consumer protection legislation for years and I am not done trying. Unfortunately Colorado has some of the weakest consumer protection laws in the country and there is more work to do to get them just to average, never mind good. With HB19-1289 we made it more possible for the state AG to bring suit for deceptive trade practices, e.g. against seniors. Unfortunately a judicially-created barrier to access to justice still exists for anyone who wants to hire a private attorney, i.e. for every other potential case brought by an attorney who is not the AG or a Colorado DA. I am going to keep working on this in 2025.

Colorado State Senate District 31

Candidate Name: David Aitken

District Number: Colorado State Senate District 31

Cities/Towns/Counties in your District: Denver

Campaign Website: aitkenforcolorado.org

Question 1: The term older adult refers to a wide range of Coloradans who are 50 and older, and each stage of the aging journey could be improved with different solutions. For example, those on the younger side of the older adult age spectrum may benefit from income and employment policies, while those who are oldest (80 - 85+) may need in-home services and assistance. What challenges do you see for these two different groups of older adults (those older adults who are on the younger side of the spectrum and those who are oldest) and what policy solutions would you offer?

Response:

Reduce regulatory barriers to innovative solutions. Solutions offered by bureaucrats and politicians are generally not effective because they do not have all the necessary information to make it work.

Question 2: We know that many of the issues impacting Coloradans are shared across generations. For example, Coloradans of all ages cite affordable and accessible transportation and housing as challenges. What steps would you take to integrate an intergenerational lens into your work so that Coloradans of all ages benefit? How would you make sure that the needs of older Coloradans are accounted for?

Response:

Reduce regulatory barriers to innovative solutions. Solutions offered by bureaucrats and politicians are generally not effective because they do not have all the necessary information to make it work.

Question 3: Older Coloradans comprise the fastest growing segment of our workforce. Yet, many face challenges finding meaningful employment due to issues such as workplace age discrimination and a lack of opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. What steps would you take to ensure older workers have the opportunities and resources to enhance their financial security for retirement and contribute to Colorado's economy?

Response:

Reduce regulatory barriers to innovative solutions. Solutions offered by bureaucrats and politicians are generally not effective because they do not have all the necessary information to make it work.

Question 4: Research by the Bell Policy Center finds nearly 20 percent of Colorado’s adult population is providing unpaid care to an older loved one. According to the AARP, their estimated value to the state is approximately \$11.2 billion. Though meaningful to many, this work is often accompanied by physical, financial, and emotional stress. How do you plan to support these family caregivers?

Response:

Reduce regulatory barriers to innovative solutions. Solutions offered by bureaucrats and politicians are generally not effective because they do not have all the necessary information to make it work.

Question 5: The majority of older Coloradans want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. How would you help Coloradans stay in their homes and communities?

Response:

Reduce regulatory barriers to innovative solutions. Solutions offered by bureaucrats and politicians are generally not effective because they do not have all the necessary information to make it work.

Question 6: Currently all of Colorado’s Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are experiencing waitlists for vital services, such as meal delivery, medical appointment transportation, and in-home caregiving support. How can legislators better support our community-based AAAs?

Response:

Reduce regulatory barriers to innovative solutions. Solutions offered by bureaucrats and politicians are generally not effective because they do not have all the necessary information to make it work.

Question 7: As technology advances and progresses, older adults nationwide reported \$3.4 billion in losses due to financial scams in 2023. How do you plan to address financial fraud that specifically targets your older constituents?

Response:

Ask the phone companies to provide a code (eg *scam) that could be entered during a phone call that would connect the call to a Scam Help Center to monitor the call and assist the elderly. This code could be used for email and junk mail as well.