

Campaign bio

Thank you for being here tonight and participating in the process of having a representative form of Government. I would hope that more people understood how important this night is and the power that we have been given as a citizenry to dictate how we are governed. That being said, let me introduce myself to those of you who do not know me.

My name is Shane Prentice. I am a 4th generation farmer and rancher from eastern Colorado. I moved to the west slope to be closer to my best friend and soon to be wife in 2004. In 2009 I moved to Montezuma county and spent the next few year working on a ranch down McElmo canyon where I raised my kids and fell in love with the people of Montezuma County. I currently live outside of Dolores where my wife and I have a few milk cows and for the past 9 years I have served as pastor of Mesa trails Cowboy Church in Mancos. And For the past 6 years I have also served as president of the Montezuma ministerial alliance. Serving in this compacity has given me a unique understanding of the people and the needs here in Montezuma county.

I am not running for commissioner because I am upset with the current board of commissioners or because I believe they have done a poor job. I have a great deal of respect and appreciation for the work they have done in serving Montezuma county. We enjoy life here, and this is a great place to live, in part, because of them. That does not mean that I do not believe that some things need to change. As commissioner I will work with the new sheriff to improve relations between the BOCC and the Sheriffs office.

I will advocate to use reserve funds to provide the Sheriffs department with the equipment and training necessary to provide the men and women who serve us with the necessary means to have an advantage in keeping our county safe. That means updating and installing new license plate reader cameras county wide so our officers know who is in our county in real time. That means acquiring k9 units, purchasing patrol vehicles and personal equipment in order to give out law enforcement officers an upper hand.

I will also work with the other commissioners to develop funding within the budget to provide room for additional deputies, so that we have the personnel to maintain safety and security within Montezuma county.

On a local level I will also work to improve our roads, and upgrade our local fairgrounds and racetrack in order to bring in more events, providing greater exposure to this amazing place we live and supporting the businesses that exist here. While we are on the topic of things I would like to change....I would like to see county offices open 5 days a week instead of 4. I realize this is not that big of a deal, but government should serve the people and not being open on Fridays is a burden on we the people. I would also like to see how business meetings are conducted, modified. I believe more room should be given to the people to participate allowing room for questions, concerns and input.

Now lets step back and take a wider view of what is affecting us on a county level. It is my belief that the state of Colorado is the greatest detriment to the quality of life we enjoy here in Montezuma County. From unconstitutional laws to burdensome regulations our way of life is being threatened.

As county commissioner I will fight to preserve our way of life and work toward a solution of maintaining local control. Right now in this legislative session Democrats are working to remove zoning control from counties and consolidate it under state control. This is not only a public safety concern allowing an outside power to dictate local policy, but it also runs the risk of making it more unaffordable to live here. Not only do I believe that zoning fees will be enacted, but I also believe that this will be an avenue for building codes to be enforced in counties such as ours. Making it more expensive and difficult to build and live here, which will force our children to look to other places, to establish their lives. This is personal to me as my daughter recently moved to Texas, because its more affordable to live there, than it is here.

As I see it, the only avenue we have to defend ourselves against this is to become a Home Rule county, which gives us the legal precedence to maintain local control over zoning rights and building codes. And Gives us greater control over property assessments, Elections, and setting elected officials salaries. Home rule would require a massive information campaign so that the people of this county would understand the need for such an action, because, it would have to be on the ballot, and the county commissioners would necessarily need to be involved and supporting this.

There are other actions the state is taking that compromise our way of life here in Montezuma county. There are over 200,000 regulations in Colorado, and that does not include the laws that have been passed. There is a state statute that states, any unfunded mandate.... Meaning that any law the State imposes but doesn't fund, counties can opt out of. Out of over 200,000 ordinances and a broke state government, There are, a few of those unfunded mandates the state is wanting to enforce, and I plan to expose every one of them and tell the state "no". I am not afraid to poke a bear. And when it comes to unconstitutional Laws such as red flag gun laws, Im willing to fight the state and let them sue us, leaving the Burdon of proof of constitutionality on them...I am not afraid to poke the bear.

I also believe we need to work hard to bring industry into the county. The State is phasing us out of natural gas usage over the next 10 years. That will force us into using electric only. At current, this policy would increase the strain on our electric grid and increase demand of electricity, driving up our rates and making it more expensive to live here. We need to be proactive in bringing industry such as small scale or micro nuclear energy to Montezuma county. Not only would it provide extra revenue, but without it we will be facing elevated living costs.

In conclusion, I hope that you can see that I have a plan to move us into the future and maintain the quality of life we have all grown to love here in Montezuma county. And I would appreciate your support, and your vote.