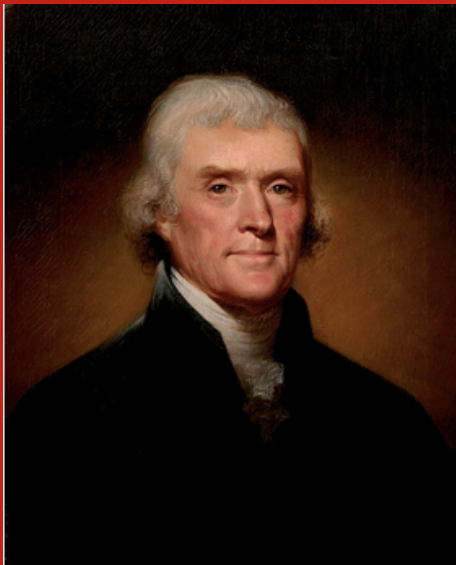




# CONSERVATIVES CARING FOR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY



**"Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights."**

**Thomas Jefferson**

# SUMMIT UP

OCT  
2023

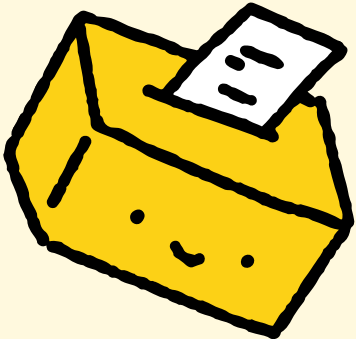
Join Us

[info@summitGOPwomen.org](mailto:info@summitGOPwomen.org) 

[ColoradoCaringConservatives Instagram](#) 

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# Casting Your Vote in Colorado

## – Registration and Voting Procedures –



If you are new to Colorado, a first-time voter, or just need information about the elections, there are a number of resources available to help you through the process of voting.

In Summit County, the Clerk & Recorder's Office administers elections, voter registration, mail ballots and voter service polling centers. It is regulated by the Colorado Secretary of State's Office. The clerk's office is located at 208 Lincoln Avenue in Breckenridge, and the phone number is 970-453-3475. Election information is available on the county clerk's website at <https://www.summitcountyco.gov/126/Elections> and includes numerous helpful links. Be sure to review the FAQ tab. Many of your questions may be answered there. The Summit County Clerk and Recorder's Office will post a sample election ballot soon.

The State of Colorado also has a website that contains a wealth of information at [www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov). Clicking on that link will take you directly to the Colorado Secretary of State's election pages. There you can register online, or, if you are not eligible to register online, you can download a pdf form, fill it out, and return the completed form as directed. The [GoVoteColorado.gov](http://GoVoteColorado.gov) link also has information about acceptable forms of ID, military ballots, and other important topics. You can also check your registration and ensure that it is active and accurate.

There are three types of elections in Colorado: general, primary, and coordinated elections. This year, 2023, a coordinated election will be held on November 7. It will include local school board elections and two state propositions, Proposition HH and Proposition II.

Ballots will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters in Colorado the week of October 17 who are registered by October 30th. Those Summit County voters registered after October 30 need to go to the county clerk's office in Breckenridge and pick up a ballot in person. Voters changing their primary residence MUST make those changes at least 22 days BEFORE the election in order to vote. That means no later than October 15th. If you don't receive a ballot in the mail (perhaps mail doesn't get delivered to your home and you don't have a post office box), then you can vote in person. The [GoVoteColorado.gov](http://GoVoteColorado.gov) link provides a list of acceptable forms of ID.

Ballots can be returned by mail or placed in one of the drop boxes around the county. They must be in the possession of election officials by 7 PM on November 7.

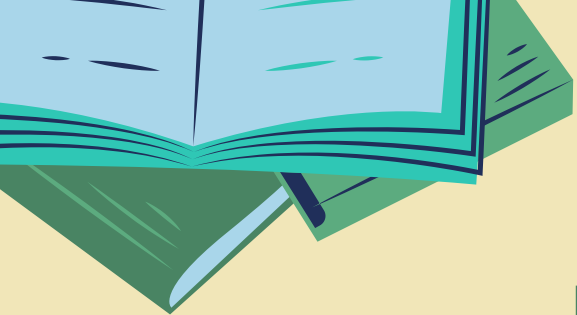
In-person voting will be available from 7 AM to 7 PM on November 7 at the following locations:

- Silverthorne at the Pavilion, 400 Blue River Parkway, Silverthorne
- Frisco at the Summit County Community and Senior Center, 83 Nancy's Place
- Breckenridge in the Summit County South Branch Library, 103 South Harris Street
- Additional in-person voting will also be available at the Breckenridge location only beginning October 30, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM; Saturday, 8 AM to noon, and Monday, November 6, 8 AM to 5 PM.

Please double-check the drop box and in-person voting locations after you receive your ballot. The locations will be listed with the instruction sheet that accompanies your ballot. They are also listed on the Summit County Clerk's election website.

**Be sure to vote in this and other elections. Your vote and your voice are important!**





## Why Your Vote is Critical in the November 7th School Board Election

The election of Summit School District (SSD) Board of Education Directors will be held on November 7, determining the direction of our local school system. Four positions are open, and eight candidates are vying for those positions. **YOU CAN VOTE FOR FOUR.** Your vote is absolutely imperative, regardless of whether or not you have children in the school district; you are a taxpayer and a concerned member of the community.

Under the current school board, the Summit School District is failing. Student performance is well below state averages in all subjects, including English, math, and science. According to 2023 data from the Colorado Department of Education, 71.9% of SSD 3rd to 8th graders do NOT meet math expectations, and 59.1% of them do NOT meet English language arts expectations. Check out the attached Summit School District Report Card to see how much our local schools are struggling.

Because the primary functions of the school board are to hire the superintendent, approve curriculum, make policy, set priorities, and approve the budget, board directors play a critical role in the quality of our children's education. It is important for us to learn about each candidate and understand the strengths, weaknesses, and values they would bring to our local schools.

The teacher's union will soon endorse four candidates and call them the "Teacher's Choice Candidates." Unfortunately, these candidates, two of whom are incumbents, will push the same policies that have hamstrung teachers and students for a decade. The union will strongly encourage all teachers/district employees to vote union. We need every single conservative vote we can get in the county to give Summit kids a chance to excel academically. We will soon make recommendations about which candidates to support and provide links to their websites. We will be backing candidates who want to simplify, eliminate all ideology (left and right), and get back to basic academics.

Please learn about the candidates and support those who believe in academic excellence and who welcome parental participation. Support them by sharing their information with your friends, by volunteering, by donating to their campaigns, and by voting for them. Encourage your friends to register and vote in this election. Turnout for school board elections is usually light, so your votes can make a difference. If you want to get involved, please contact 303-898-7736.

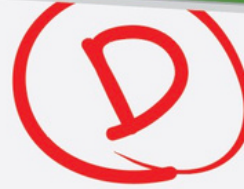
Our children deserve an excellent education that will offer them a successful future. It is up to us to provide them with the opportunity to succeed in life.







## SSD School Board REPORT CARD:



### Academic Performance

- ✘ 2014-2022: SSD's Dept of Education accreditation scores fell every year and reached the lowest score ever last year - they rose just slightly this year despite no improvement in test scores.
- ✘ Two Elementary schools, the High School and Middle School are now on state mandated improvement plans - this is the most SSD schools (4) ever placed on improvement plans.
- ✘ Last year, SSD Hispanic students rated in the bottom 2% of all students in Colorado.

### Academics vs Social Justice

- ✘ All 3 academic officers were eliminated and replaced by Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) positions.
- ✘ Eliminated advanced 8th grade science because of "equity."

### Controversial Initiatives

- ✘ Adopted Equity Policy which divisively attributes differences in achievement to systemic racism.
- ✘ Passed resolution to include LGBTQ+ curriculum in kindergarten through 3rd grade while ignoring hundreds of parents' concerns and public outcry.
- ✘ Students were told parents will not find out if they attend Elementary School LGBTQ+ club.

### Irresponsible and Unethical Financial Management

- ✘ \$528K of Covid relief funds were awarded to a board member and his Theater Company for after school theater lessons - no other after school providers were given the opportunity to bid.
- ✘ \$11.8M emergency budget reserve squandered in 3 years, \$3.6M gone this year alone, now at state minimum; hiring freezes and land sales being considered: Will SSD ask for more tax money?

### Lack of Transparency

- ✘ Superintendent Byrd failed to obtain the required admin license. Instead, the board eliminated this requirement, gave him a raise, a car allowance, and hired his wife. SSD now pays the Byrds over \$300K annually.
- ✘ Byrd hired a communications consultant to "own the narrative" instead of giving parents facts.

What grade would you give our School Board?

Vote for  
**4**

## CANDIDATES FOR SUMMIT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The following candidates are running for Summit County School Board in the November 7, 2023 coordinated election. In alphabetical order, they are:

- Vanessa Agee
- Michael Atkinson
- Jenniffer González
- Gayle Jones Westerberg
- Consuelo Redhorse (incumbent)
- Leigh Sargent
- Julie Shapiro (incumbent)
- Danielle Surette

Be sure to learn about the candidates and the strengths or weaknesses they would bring to the school board.

# An Explanation and History of the Propositions on the November 7 Ballot

*By Debra Irvine*

## PROPOSITION HH

Proposition HH is complicated. It would reduce tax rates and exemptions for multiple types of property while also increasing taxes by allowing the state to keep more tax revenue.

Eighty percent of excess revenue would be distributed to school districts without spending guidelines or accountability measures. Up to 20% of the excess would go to reimburse counties for lost property tax revenue. Rental assistance could be up to \$20 million annually.

Proposition HH gives voters a choice. If we take some property tax relief, we will get a long-term increase in state taxes.

Example: The average homeowner would see a net tax increase of \$478 through 2032. During that period, their property tax savings would be \$4,641, but they would lose \$5,119 in Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) refunds.

The State of Colorado would be able to collect and spend an additional \$9 billion, funded by the significant increase in taxes allowed by Proposition HH.

If Proposition HH passes, the increase in property taxes would be slightly less than under a current law (passed by the Colorado General Assembly in 2022). It would drop residential assessment rates slightly, from 6.76% to 6.7%. The commercial assessment rate would drop from 27.9% to 27.85%.

Additionally, Proposition HH authorizes a 25% increase in the annual growth rate in the state spending limit. (Colorado has its largest budget on record.)

Proposition HH could also be extended by the state legislature through 2040. They could do so because it doesn't require voter approval. If that happened, it could result in a \$21 billion net tax increase. Property taxes would be reduced by \$21.49 billion. State taxes would increase by \$42.38 billion.

Full tax impacts are dependent on revenue growth. Colorado's historic revenue trends show that revenue would continue to outpace the spending cap proposed by Proposition HH.

If Proposition HH passes, it will change TABOR. It will raise the TABOR cap by 1% beyond inflation + population growth every year. If voters approve Proposition HH, the state can keep and spend \$10 billion of TABOR refunds over the next decade.

***Propositions continued on next page***

## PROPOSITION II

TABOR, our Colorado Taxpayers Bill of Rights, requires that any excess revenue has to be refunded if it is in excess of a tax's projected revenue.

The only way the state can retain the excess revenue is by putting it to a vote of Coloradans, as a ballot measure.

For example, in 2012, Coloradans approved recreational marijuana. In 2015, voters approved Proposition BB that allowed the state to keep recreational marijuana sales tax revenue collected above what was estimated. That extra money was earmarked mostly for school construction.

In 2020, voters passed Proposition EE which created a tax on nicotine products, set minimum cigarette prices, and also dedicated revenues for health and education programs. Instead of an expected decrease in tobacco sales (through education of the harms of tobacco products), revenue actually increased.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, an excess of \$24 million was collected. (It was about \$22 million but, after accruing interest, the amount increased to about \$24 million.) That was \$24 million more than the projected revenue. (Projections are made by non-partisan analysts.)

Proposition EE 2020 increased the taxes on a pack of cigarettes in July 2021 to \$1.94 from 84 cents. Note that on July 1, 2024, the tax will increase to \$2.24 per pack and then rise to \$2.64 in July 2027.

Because of TABOR's requirement, that voters approve excess revenue to be kept by the state, Proposition II is asking voters whether or not the excess tax revenue from tobacco sales is to be used for education, predominately schools.

If Proposition II does not pass, then the excess revenue will be returned to the nicotine/tobacco industry.



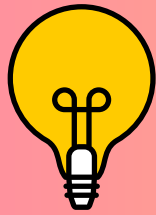
### ***Debra's Opinion on the Propositions***

*"I will be voting No on Prop HH. In fact, we, the Club 20 Board of Directors, rarely take a stand on ballot measures, but we voted a unanimous No on Prop HH at our fall meeting. I will also be voting No on Prop II. When actual revenue is higher than the projected revenue, the excess should go back to the industry in question.*

*"The State of Colorado always wants more money to spend and thank goodness it is required to have a balanced budget.*

*"Just because there is extra revenue, we shouldn't, unconditionally, give the state license to spend it. Return it to the voters and industry, and put it back into the economy."*


# DID YOU KNOW?



- 1** According to the *Washington Examiner* (September 21, 2023), “The Biden administration has unleashed a new program to boost illegal immigration that allows immigrants to fly directly from their hometowns into a U.S. city of their choice. . . . According to the Center for Immigration Studies, which sued the Department of Homeland Security for the documents on the program, over 210,000 have been processed since January.
- 2** Newsmax (September 19, 2023) has reported that George Soros’ Open Society Foundation and Swiss billionaire Hansjorg Wyss helped Soros-backed National Trust acquire five daily newspapers and 17 weekly publications in Maine. Media Research Center learned that Soros has donated \$52 million to media organizations since 2003. And we wonder why media outlets are biased and censor conservative news!
- 3** On September 11, Biden informed Congress that his administration had arranged for the release of five American prisoners held in Iran in exchange for five Iranian prisoners held in the United States. As part of the deal, the U.S. waived sanctions on \$6 billion in frozen Iranian funds. The deal was labeled “blackmail” and “ransom” by senators who claimed that the deal would help finance terrorism and encourage international kidnappings.
- 4** On September 16, an armed man attempted to approach Democrat presidential candidate Robert Kennedy, Jr. at a Los Angeles event. Kennedy stated, “The man, wearing two shoulder holsters with loaded pistols and spare ammunition magazines, was carrying a U.S. Marshal badge on a lanyard and belt clip federal ID.” Luckily, Kennedy’s private security firm was suspicious and stopped him. Kennedy has repeatedly asked the Biden administration for Secret Service protection – something that is routinely given to presidential candidates – but his request has been denied. Kennedy’s father, Senator Robert Kennedy, and uncle, President John Kennedy, were both assassinated in the 1960s.







*It's that time of year again. Yes, the leaves are falling, but it's also time to think of your SCRW membership renewal (or joining).*

In November and December we will be accepting dues for 2024. Details about how to renew your membership or join for the first time are provided on our website. We'd love for you to consider joining a great bunch of like-minded ladies (and our associate member men) in a great organization. You might even want to consider serving as an officer or helping out on a committee.

For more information, just go to our website at [www.SummitGOPWomen.org](http://www.SummitGOPWomen.org).

# CALENDAR

## OCT 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM - SCHOOL BOARD PRAYER TEAM

A school board prayer team has been established, and all are welcome to attend. The group meets every Tuesday in the Summit County Prayer Room, 252 Warren Avenue, Silverthorne. Please contact Cindy Meinders at [cmeinders1@gmail.com](mailto:cmeinders1@gmail.com) or 706-218-0083 for information or prayer requests.

## OCT 9 | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM - JOINT SUMMIT COUNTY GOP WOMEN AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Ruthie Hardee's home

For more information, contact [ruthie@deepfeet.com](mailto:ruthie@deepfeet.com) or 720-837-4570.

Agenda- Meet the Summit School District Board candidates, Proposition HH  
Please bring an appetizer/dessert & beverage.

Invite a friend/neighbor!

## OCT 16 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM - CONSERVATIVE COCKTAILS/VOTING ISSUES UPDATE

PLACE: TBA - Watch for an email notification.

## OCT 18 | 6 - 8 PM - SUMMIT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES FORUM

Join us at Dillon Community Church, 371 La Bonte Street, Dillon, to hear from the candidates running for Summit County School Board.

## OCT | SCHOOL BOARD LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Watch for email notices about upcoming events.

The School Board Leadership Team has made great progress in identifying candidates. It will soon be announced which candidates we will support. Many volunteers are needed for successful campaigns. Please volunteer! We need people to submit letters to the editor (our team can assist), help with events, fundraising, and church outreach. The candidates have websites up and running. All include "donate" buttons. Please help in any way you can. Contact 303-898-7736 to volunteer or for information.

# CALENDAR

# OCT 2023