

Top-notch education—Strong schools create strong communities and successful individuals. We must continue to prioritize what our kids need to succeed in the classroom and after graduation.

Accountable to you—Stakeholders should have a say and know how their money is spent. We should focus our dollars on teachers and classrooms, not bureaucracy and administration. We've balanced the budget for four years and paid off all operational debt. We must invest in the future by focusing on high student achievement with available resources.

Support our teachers—Teachers are central to student achievement and growth. Our kids must be the focus of district policies, decisions, and programs. Teacher compensation should be a continued top priority.

Retain local control—Increased local control ensures citizens in our community decide what our students are taught, not someone from outside our district. Our curriculum should be based on the values of our community, not those of another jurisdiction.

Seek community and parent input—My goal is the continued success of LPSD38! This requires listening to parent, student, teacher/administrative, and taxpayer communities. An ongoing engagement process ensures these community voices are reflected in policy-level deliberations.

As board director, I bring my business, technology, and legal expertise to bear in the policy development process. It would be my honor to continue to serve this community.

Matthew Clawson

Listen to our teachers

With the continued growth in our area, we are now at a crossroads where we must decide how to support our school district with bond measure 4A. By voting yes for the bond, we can fund the building of a much-needed elementary school in Jackson Creek, allowing the current Bear Creek Elementary to be reconverted back to a middle school.

This letter is a plea to the community to take advantage of efforts by our local leaders to educate us about 4A. After reviewing growth data from experts, our school board voted 5-0 to put this bond on the ballot. Two of our duly elected board members have organized sessions where community members can learn and ask questions about the bond and its financing. Strong D38 Community, which consists of named volunteers, runs a website which provides additional information (www.strongd38.com). Our teachers are speaking out on how the growth impacts their classrooms. Check out tltalks.com/lp-educators/ to hear podcasts from them, or even better ask a teacher directly. If you look to these sources, you will receive accurate data that has been sourced and reviewed, and where authorship is known.

In contrast, you may find information from those opposed to easing the overcrowding in our schools that is unsourced, anonymous, and written to create a strong emotional reaction—in other words, propaganda. One example is the misleading ad that came out in last month's OCN. There were various statements presented as facts without acknowledgement of where the data came from or who wrote or funded the ad. Our community encountered similar tactics last year when anonymous signs, websites, and handouts were distributed.

As a community, we need to ignore these divisive tactics that sow doubt and discord. Let's listen to the experts—most importantly, our teachers—and vote yes on 4A.

Karin De Angelis

The right man for the job

I first want to establish my credentials as a School District 38 stakeholder! I have had eight kids graduate from District 38 schools, and still have five currently enrolled. My kids attended all D-38 schools, except for Prairie Winds, to include Monument Academy, some home schooling, and SPED programs. I taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy, was a soccer coach, and have lived in our community since 1988. I know that throughout the years school board members were instrumental in guiding D-38 towards academic excellence.

I also believe that this tradition of achieving the best for our kids would be continued with Adam Cupp as a school board member! Like a ship being steered through stormy seas and crashing waves, we need someone steady and calm at the helm. Adam is the father of three young children and is a devoted husband. He is an aerospace engineer who has done the logistics and long-term cost planning for multi-million-dollar projects impacting our country's secu-

ity. He is cool, calm, and focused. More importantly, he knows how to work as a member of a team, building consensus and striving for positive outcomes in challenging situations. He sees the best in people and his bottle is always half full and never half empty. He's a great listener. As the man who married my daughter, I know Adam to make good life choices! He is punctual, reliable, patient, and honest. Best of all—in these times of serious faces and negative political dialogue—he has a wonderful sense of humor that keeps a consistent smile on his face. Adam Cupp is right for the D-38 school board and our academic community.

Robin Glaser

Matt Clawson for re-election

I am writing to encourage our community to vote for Matthew Clawson for re-election to the school board. I served with Mr. Clawson for two years. In our time together, I found Mr. Clawson to be genuine, honest, and thorough. Before making decisions, Mr. Clawson would seek input from the community as well as from those who the decision would impact the most. He recognizes the challenges we face and, after having been on the board for four years, he understands the board's role in tackling these challenges. With the unfunded requirements that come from the state to the growth our community is seeing, Mr. Clawson is a proven leader and has strategies he can use with the board to meet these demands.

Sherri Hawkins

Moms for Matt Clawson

As a mom of four current students in D38, I stand behind Matt Clawson for the D38 Board of Education. I am deeply concerned with policies that are passed that now do or can affect our kids. I am very grateful that D38 is one of the districts, if not the only district, that has passed a resolution opposing House Bill 19-1032 Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education, as it violates the Colorado Constitution by usurping local control over curriculum. Whether you agree with this bill or not, the point is we, as members of D38, should have control over our kids' curriculum instead of the state forcing us to adopt their vision. I know that Matt Clawson is dedicated, invested, and willing to continue to protect and fight for the interests and values of our community, and I believe every mom wants that!

Valerie Housley

Why does my education tax rate keep decreasing?

D38's tax rate has decreased annually since 2012, including this year's reduction of 0.624 to 43.985 (23.164 operating mills + 7.789 MLO rate + 13.032 bond redemption). For comparison, Cheyenne Mountain D12's rate was 55.0 (25% higher than ours). During this same period local metro districts, water districts, and towns have increased or maintained constant rates (resources 1 and 2 below).

The rate we pay has decreased because D38's operating mills are set by the state and constant at 23.164, but as the Tri-Lakes population grows, more residents pay toward the MLO and bond redemption, reducing the rate we each pay individually. The result is that our rate decreases and we pay toward education at a much lower rate than comparable districts. Maybe that's surprising. It amazed me given the rhetoric often directed at the district.

Understanding the context of these numbers matters because our area is growing. A bond vote this fall proposes to build a school while keeping the D38 tax rate virtually the same next year (projected at 44.289), after which the rate again decreases in following years (resource 3).

If you're wondering about property taxes, estimate next year's tax by multiplying: 2019 property value by 0.0715 residential assessment rate by 0.044289. The rate effectively is unchanged due to the residential assessment rate decrease to 7.15%. (For commercial property, use 29% assessment rate—no change from this year.)

This fall's bond vote is our opportunity to support students, educators, and our community with minimal impact to each of us individually. As a community we can do this by supporting the bond when we get our ballots this month.

Paul Howe

Resources

1. County Mill Rates 2015-2019: <https://bit.ly/2m7pTm4>
2. D38 Mill Certification 2019 (slide 23): <https://bit.ly/2m5qk0A>
3. D38 Bond Payoff <https://bit.ly/2krb9hy>

Why this teacher supports Matt Clawson
We have known Matthew Clawson for almost 10 years. He has been wonderful member of the school board who has watched out for our students and teachers. I feel like he is well-connected to the community and strives to build positive relationships with people. He listens and cares about what stakeholders have to say about the school system. He is truly present in each conversation that he has with each person. He makes sacrifices on a consistent basis to ensure that he is giving the school district the time and energy it needs to be successful. He is open-minded and willing to listen to new ideas. He wants to see each student succeed. Our community would greatly benefit from his continued dedicated service on the school board.

Lynda Jensen

"Yes" on 4A for a strong community

I don't have any children attending Lewis-Palmer District 38 schools, but I strongly support 4A as a taxpayer, homeowner, community member, and retired educator. The proposed bond won't substantially increase our taxes but will build a much-needed new elementary school. This will reduce overcrowding in our existing schools, allowing for low student-teacher ratios and creating safer school environments. Strong, safe, quality schools mean higher property values. And, of course, quality education is the foundation for engaged and productive citizens. Voting "yes" on 4A is a vote for a strong community!

Fonda Ketcham

D38 still not listening: Vote "no" on school bond

D38 once again is attempting to waste taxpayer dollars by passing a school bond that was soundly rejected only last year. It's not that the language was confusing or you didn't provide an explanation, taxpaying homeowners simply don't believe it's necessary.

How about forcing local builders to pay more of the eventual costs (new schools) of their continued homebuilding? Their current minimal fees leave longtime residents the burden of paying for any increased infrastructure. In addition to community growth, the other reason accounting for student growth is the Colorado law allowing open enrollment.

D38 can close enrollment to children outside the

New Listing!



4905 Alberta Falls Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80924

Splendid inside/outside living in a great location in Cordera on a big lot! 5,052 sq. ft. 5 bd, 4 ba. Designer touches everywhere with attention to design and detail! Gourmet kitchen with island, two sinks, stainless steel appliances, gas cooktop, granite counters and eating nook with walkout to a deck showcasing amazing views of Pikes Peak. Kitchen and breakfast bar opens to fantastic great room with fireplace! Year-round front patio with fireplace, room for seating and privacy wall with gate. Study or second main-level bedroom with fireplace, beams, and walk-in closet. Sumptuous master suite with two-sided fireplace and television overhead. Fireplace and television in master bathroom for soaking luxury. Large master walk-in closet with door to laundry. Formal dining room with beautiful built-in wall of cabinetry and counter. Awesome wet bar downstairs—great for those big parties! Decked out theater room with reclining theater seating that stays with the home. Could not be built again for the price! Entire main level has surround sound, including the outside living spaces. **\$850,000**

Under Contract!



1043 Longspur Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Stunning, renewed two story in the Pines! 3,547 sq ft. on 0.50 beautiful acres. 4bd, 4ba, 3-car. Fox Pines off of Baptist Rd. D38 Schools. Magical forest living. Easy access to I-25 and Hwy 83. Rich dark wood flooring. Extensive stone work in many rooms. Gourmet kitchen with white cabinets, granite slab and stainless steel appliances. Cool flagstone patio. Beautiful waterfall in front. Wet bar with full-size refrigerator. Less expensive than a new build with all the bells and whistles! **Low \$600,000's!**



Shields

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