

State House District 44	What makes you the best choice for this office?	If you're elected, what single issue will be at the top of your agenda?
 <p>Kim Ransom Party: Republican Residence: Lone Tree Campaign website: www.kimransom.org</p>	<p>My experience in the state House, serving on multiple committees, on the Joint Budget Committee, my working relationship with locally elected Douglas County officials and board members, and my 34 years living in Douglas County, a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.</p>	<p>We are facing an unprecedented budget crisis in the state, one that will require a complete understanding of the budget process and the multiple conflicts that brought us to this point. As one of the six members of the Joint Budget Committee, I'm familiar with the process and can make sure Douglas County views are taken into account. The JBC is a year-round committee and receives quarterly economic forecasts, so I'm already getting prepared for the upcoming session.</p>
 <p>Kyra Storjev Party: Democrat Residence: Parker Campaign website: www.kyra4colorado.com</p>	<p>I represent the balanced moderate voice for our community. The demographics have changed here tremendously due to the growth of our population in HD-44. There are now far more Independents and Democrats than Republican conservatives. I listen to all sides and will work with colleagues irrespective of their party affiliation to pass common-sense legislation that is in the best interest of our constituents.</p>	<p>Helping Colorado citizens rebound from the economic and social pressures placed on both our state and our people due to COVID-19. The state now has budget deficits of over \$3 billion. This impacts our programs that relate to education, transportation, health care, public safety and the environment. Everything has been impacted. We will have to make hard decisions on how to balance spending to meet the needs of our citizens, our schools and our local businesses in a way that is fiscally responsible.</p>
State House District 45	What makes you the best choice for this office?	If you're elected, what single issue will be at the top of your agenda?
 <p>Katie Barrett Party: Democrat Residence: Castle Rock Campaign website: votekatieforcolorado.com</p>	<p>I am a scientist and will make data-driven decisions. I will include voices that have not been heard. For example: the rights of LGBTQ+ community members, teachers asking for support and help with salary and working conditions, listening to community members concerns about our transportation shortcomings. I am a representative who will endeavor to be a "voice for ALL."</p>	<p>Most pressing is addressing COVID-19 and ensuring we have safety protocols to protect and test all Coloradans, as well as monitor any COVID-19 vaccines. Second is dismantling TABOR so we can adequately fund education and transportation.</p>
 <p>Caryn Harlos Party: Libertarian Residence: Castle Rock Contact: carynharlos@gmail.com</p>	<p>I am not a politician. We have had enough of politicians. I am a mature woman who has been through many typical struggles of the middle class that is representative of my district. I do not believe in preferential treatment on the basis of race or gender but the reality is, representation matters. During my time in public life, I realize that not only are there not enough women in politics, there are not enough women who are not replicas of the men in politics — stuffed shirts. As an autistic woman, I also bring a timely perspective as our autistic children mature.</p>	<p>Reducing the size and scope of government. Everyone has already had parents. They don't need the government to be another parent, and a bad one at that.</p>
Douglas County commissioner, District 3	What makes you the best choice for this office?	If you're elected, what single issue will be at the top of your agenda?
 <p>Lora Thomas Party: Republican Residence: Highlands Ranch Campaign website: LoraThomas.org</p>	<p>I am the better choice for commissioner because of my proven leadership and trusted experience. I have delivered more funding for roads without increasing taxes, provided a mill levy credit on 2019 property taxes, allocated \$13 million for school safety and mental health services, obtained 13 variances to the COVID shutdown — opening DougCo sooner than most others, created a new DougCo-anchored judicial district that starts in 2025, and resolved a long-standing logjam with the feds that allows more drinking water to be stored in Chatfield. My record clearly establishes that I don't need any on the job training.</p>	<p>While addressing county needs re COVID will likely continue after my reelection, many of our nimble and innovative businesses have continued to thrive — sales tax revenue for the county from January through June is actually up 7.9% this year over last. So aside from the continuing COVID situation, the focus of my second term will be working with residents and businesses to plan for central water and wastewater for the northwest corner of Douglas County. My work with Chatfield Watershed Authority and Denver Water since 2017 has made it clear opportunities for improved water quality and service delivery are needed.</p>
 <p>Darien Wilson Party: Democrat Residence: Highlands Ranch Campaign website: www.darien4commish.com</p>	<p>I am an entrepreneur and small business owner, mom, and leader in my community. I will listen to hardworking families and small businesses, and put their concerns first. Science, data, and facts drive my decisions — not politics or ideology. I have started two corporations and built them from the ground up to award-winning businesses, and the skills I've sharpened over those two decades, and the relationships I've built as an active community member, will be helpful in local government.</p>	<p>Public health. Health was my top priority when I entered this race, and it remains my top priority. We must crush the virus in order to get back to work and school, and public health experts know best how to do that.</p>

ELECTIONS 2020

If you're elected, what must you accomplish in order for you to consider your term a success?	If elected, how would you continue work to help small local businesses recover from COVID-19?	What do you believe is the best way for Castle Rock to manage growth and development in coming years?
<p>The next town council will have success if we can make decisions that keep our town moving towards our goal of being a world-class community with small-town character. There are not many places like Castle Rock and we need to keep moving forward with well-planned growth while protecting our character, history, open spaces, and safe neighborhoods. We need to continue to hire and retain the best town employees as they truly do the work for the town.</p>	<p>The town needs to balance keeping people healthy and supporting our local business by removing unnecessary barriers and supporting their creative ideas to stay open and make money. Our local small businesses want to be open and stand on their own if possible. If the state, county, or town limits their ability to do this because of health reasons, we need to find ways to provide support to keep them from closing their doors. Being able to make decisions quickly and being flexible to requests will be crucial for this to happen.</p>	<p>We need to continue to support all efforts to keep the small-town feeling alive in Castle Rock through a vibrant downtown, strong community events, and partnerships with local businesses and community organizations. We also need to embrace the fact that we are now a town big enough to stand on our own. We are more than just a bedroom community to Denver and we should seek to attract development and employers that keep our residents in town. I believe the town is on the right track with the 2030 Master Plan as a guide.</p>
<p>If the residents of Castle Rock feel that I was transparent, responsive to their questions and concerns about town issues, and helped keep Castle Rock on a positive path, I would call that an achievement!</p>	<p>I will help small local business owners by not only listening to their needs but to also ensure they are connected to all resources (national, state and local) that are available. I will partner with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage local spending. Finally, I will meet with the town manager and town boards to find temporary and permanent business solutions to pave the pathway for local business success.</p>	<p>The housing market and available retail space should dictate the pace of new construction. We all want retail spaces to be full and home prices to stay high. Moving forward, it is important to create dependable revenue sources that allow us to continually provide the quality services our town is known for and enjoys today. Ensuring we keep Castle Rock's aesthetic within new construction is very important to the people of our town. Balancing open space amongst structures and incorporating Colorado's identity is key.</p>
<p>If you're elected, what must you accomplish in order for you to consider your term a success?</p>	<p>If elected, how would you continue work to help small local businesses recover from COVID-19?</p>	<p>What do you believe is the best way for Castle Rock to manage growth and development in coming years?</p>
<p>My goal for a successful term would be to ensure that my constituents are educated and involved in all critical decisions facing our community. I believe it is of paramount importance to have an informed, knowledgeable community as they are the ones who live and work here. I will want to see a stronger collaboration and direct input from the residents on what they want their town to be, not just the wishes of developers and others of high influence. I want to lay a solid foundation based on a shared vision that preserves Castle Rock not only for our current community but our children as well.</p>	<p>I would first direct them to the current Douglas County COVID-19 Relief Grants for immediate assistance. The current town council also just authorized another round of small business grants specific to Castle Rock. I would organize several roundtable and/or virtual meetings with the small business owners for them to share their concerns. Additionally, I would conduct several surveys of our small businesses, as defined by Douglas County, to determine what else the Town of Castle Rock can do to assist. We need to ensure that they can stay afloat in these exceedingly difficult times. They are backbone of our local economy and represent the essence of small-town community.</p>	<p>A key factor is to expand our tax base from being 74% dependent on sales tax. Relying so heavily on sales tax dollars drives the perpetual need to grow. We need quality economic development that brings higher-paying jobs to the community (e.g., insurance, financial, engineering, technological, medical, etc.) so people can live and work in the community. We can be so much more than a bedroom community, and obtaining additional industries besides retail can expand our tax base. Additionally, we need to gain more participation from the broader community in the planning and decision-making process to attract a broad range of primary employment opportunities across various industries.</p>
<p>Not even Castle Rock was immune from the destruction created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our unemployment rate hit 8.4%. While that number is lower than the national average, it still is devastating to our local economy. If elected, not only do I want to get use-back to our amazingly low 2.5% pre-COVID-19 number, I want to see it even lower. Ending a term with more local businesses employing Castle Rock citizens would be the ultimate goal.</p>	<p>Our local businesses and industries are the heartbeat of our community. The only reason Castle Rock can keep its "small town feel" is because of our small local business owners. Our current grant program works great as a temporary fix to get businesses get back on their feet. As Colorado comes out of the COVID-19 slump, we need to take advantage of our neighbors wanting to get out and back into society. We should push for promotion of our businesses not only to Castle Rock but to our neighbors around us.</p>	<p>I come from a once very small town. I saw that town face rapid growth just as Castle Rock is. The best way to manage the growth and development we are going to undoubtedly see is to make sure we keep the Castle Rock citizens, new and old, not only connected to their local officials but connected to each other. Castle Rock is one community and should be kept that way. Growth and development can create wedges between new and old members but by keeping a sense of community, we can avoid those wedges.</p>
<p>Still, The Promenade. In addition, to know I have made the best choices for our communities, downtown businesses, and outlying small businesses and residents concerning future developments. To know I have served my district community with honesty and integrity, having developed the trust of my town and constituents.</p>	<p>I already support small businesses in several ways, as many know. Developments designed to keep the money here, and campaigns to always support local will do much. People follow leadership. I do and will lead out in supporting local as much as economically possible. Express positivity and hope and overcome the fear.</p>	<p>The 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan, as directed by town council in accordance to our governing Home Rule Charter, is the guide to hold high. Focus in keeping balance of developments in all areas relevant to responsible growth include public works, public safety, Castle Rock water, and historical preservation. The town cannot allow developments to establish a foothold prior to knowing that the town's resources and infrastructure are adequate to serve the area. True economic development is achieved only with proper, even questionable planning.</p>
<p>The creation or adaptation of a framework that citizens, business, and developers can all agree on. If we can get shoulder to shoulder, the town can grow while keeping an atmosphere of neighbors being there for each other.</p>	<p>I will support the Small Business Support Grant Program that the Town Council with Castle Rock Economic Development recently continued.</p>	<p>The town needs people to move here from different industries to grow. This has to be balanced with those that live and own business here already so they can expand and grow. Through communication and collaboration with all parties we can plan out a suitable path forward for the town.</p>

BALLOT

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ballot). Colorado Coming Together, which registered as an issue committee on July 23, also backs the measure.
Who's against: Protect Our Homes

Colorado and Keep Property Taxes Low.

AMENDMENT C/HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20-1001 New bingo licenses

What it does: Allows those with bingo-affle licenses to "hire managers and operators of games" as well as reduce the requirement that a charity

be in operation for five years before obtaining a charitable gaming license.

Who's in favor: Colorado Charitable Bingo Association.

Who's opposed: None so far.

PROPOSITION EE/HOUSE BILL 1427 Taxing nicotine products

What it does: Increases the taxes on

nicotine and vaping products, to raise \$294 million annually. The money would go to public education.

Who's in favor: A Brighter, Healthier Future for Colorado's Kids.

Who's against: None so far.

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