

Kids Voting Mesa County

Teacher Training - 2014

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Kids Voting Mesa County is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civics education program encouraging youth to become knowledgeable and engaged citizens.

Welcome

Directions for Voting Online

Identification Numbers

Kids Voting Mesa County Lesson Plans Online

Governor Candidate Information

House District 54 Candidate Information

House District 55 Candidate Information

What's new with Kids Voting Mesa County:

- **Kids Voting Mesa County Name Change Contest**
 - Leadership trip to the capital
 - Scholarships



How to Vote Online

YOUR STUDENTS ARE USING UNIQUE ID NUMBERS GENERATED BY KIDS VOTING.

1. Go to the Kids Voting Mesa County website www.kidsvotingmc.org and click on the "Vote" post-it note.
2. Students can then key in their unique 7-digit number and click "Sign in."
Their ballot appears.
3. Students then make their selections and click CONFIRM. Here, they can "Go Back" to make changes or can click "VOTE!"
4. Students will see this screen for 10 seconds before it goes back to the VOTER ID sign in and the computer is ready for the next voter to log in.

Any student can use any computer to vote by following the instructions above and entering the unique Voter Id they are given.



Colorado House of Representatives House District Race 54/55

Today you will be learning about the State House of Representatives and this year’s candidates.

- If you live inside Grand Junction, you are a part of District 55.
- If you live in the surrounding areas from Collbran to Fruita, even out to parts of Delta County, you are a part of House District 54.

Opening: KWL

1. How much do you **KNOW**? Please list what you know in the K column.
2. What do you **WANT** to Know? Fill in the W column with what you want to learn.
3. You will fill in the L column at the end of the lesson with what you **LEARNED**.

K	W	L

Background Information on House of Representatives:

The House of Representatives and the Senate make up the Legislative Branch. Members of the House of Representatives are elected for 2 year terms. Both the House and the Senate have term limits and can serve a total of 8 years. This means, a House Representative can be re-elected up to 4 times.

Our state legislature, or Congress, meets in the spring from January to May at the State Capital Building in Denver. The Congress is responsible for creating and then passing laws for the state of Colorado. The House of Representatives is responsible for representing the needs of the people in their area. They are available by phone, email, or mail. It is important for citizens to communicate with their representatives so that their voices are heard.

Reading: As you read the following Background Information sheets, please mark the text with the following.

- Put a (*) next to statements that are important to you or you agree with.
- Put a (-) next to statements that you disagree with.
- Put a (?) next to statements that you have a question about or do not understand.

Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 54 High School

Question	Brad Webb	J.J. Fletcher
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	I have lived in Mesa County for 5 years. My wife, Brooke and my daughter Olivia and I live on a vineyard in Palisade.	My family homesteaded here, 1888. My father was in the service, I was born at Camp Pendleton, Calif. We moved back to Mesa County in 1977.
If you are currently working, identify where and explain your present job. If you are retired, please share your most relevant job experience.	I work full time at my small business in Palisade. We operate an 8 acre vineyard and winery. So I spend my days taking care of plants and when I am not in the vineyard I am in the winery taking care of operations.	I am the President of Jay-Max Sales in Palisade. We are in the Mining, drilling and industrial supply business. I have worked here since, 1979
Where did you attend college and what was your major?	I attended Southern Illinois University where I earned a degree in Business Management and Finance.	I attended Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely, Colorado. General education and business classes.
Why did you decide to run for the House of Representatives?	Last year I was touring the capital in Denver and was on the floor of the house as a guest during the gun bill debates. I saw government in action and decided I would love to help make a difference for the people of Mesa County.	We need to expand our economy in Mesa County, the economy and job growth are key issues for our area. I understand the need to continue to invest in education and training and emphasis will be focused in this area.
Candidates were asked to rank a list of very broad, common issues and then explain their reasoning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help for low-income people and project. - Job growth/programs on the Western Slope. - Limited government intervention in the economy. - Reduction of government spending. - Social welfare programs. - Greater government regulation of business. - Less government regulation of business. 	I am a fiscal conservative, my viewpoint as a business man is it falls in place if we have a healthy vibrant economy. Again education is an investment not an added expense.



Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 54 High School

Question	Yeulin Willett	Kyle Davis
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	28 years.	I moved to Mesa County from Northern California when I was 10 years old. I remained here until I turned 18, at which time I joined the Army. When I got out, I quickly returned to Grand Junction, and have remained here since.
If you are currently working, identify where and explain your present job. If you are retired, please share your most relevant job experience.	I am an attorney, but semi-retired (which we often call "of counsel"). I am at Younge and Hockensmith, PC, which has been a West Slope law firm for over 120 years, one of the oldest. I spent my career defending individuals and businesses against litigation, much of which would be commonly called "frivolous lawsuits").	I am currently employed at a residential treatment facility for at-risk boys as a counselor. I work closely with the boys and other staff members to ensure that their treatment is successful. The staff is made up of many people, each with their own unique experiences and different personalities. This ensures that the boys get the best treatment as possible. My unique life experiences and perspectives make me a valuable addition to this team.
Where did you attend college and what was your major?	CU/Boulder – Business/finance CU/Boulder - Law	Colorado Mesa University cum laude in 2013 with a BA in Mass Communication and a minor in History.
Why did you decide to run for the House of Representatives?	After I sold my law practice to my partners and became semi-retired, I started looking for some way to "give back"; a number of people approached me after learning of my availability and I decided (with my wife Rose) that this was indeed the best opportunity to serve and help our region and the state;	I decided to run for the Colorado State House of Representatives because I was tired of never being given a choice that I could actually get behind. Rarely, if ever, has there been a candidate for local political office that has the same or even similar perspective on government that I do. Instead, we have always been given the a choice between Big Government candidate A and Slightly Bigger Government candidate B, each of whom have more of an allegiance to their party and special interests than to their constituents or any sort of actual philosophy. So, being fed up with corrupt politicians, I decided to jump in the race. I represent an alternative to the status quo. I represent the type of person I have always wanted to see in office. I am NOT your typical political candidate.

Candidates were asked to rank a list of very broad, common issues and then explain their reasoning.

Willet Continued: I am a firm believer that the best solution for all the great people of Mesa and Delta counties is to: fully develop our energy; increase STEM education and high-tech and manufacturing; protect our ag and water; and to see recreation and tourism continue to blossom along w/ these other economic drivers. Then, people will have higher paying jobs (and/or get re-employed) and more and more opportunities will develop for all--to work for a good company or start up their own business. The best way to do this is to minimize the role of government. I am in favor of the government playing a role in infrastructure and education and other matters that drive economic development (such as increased 'enterprise zones' and/or 'tax free' zones--where pre-existing business is not harmed and when the new company makes a longer term investment in our community and its workers)--other than that we need to get the State, and even more so, the Federal government out of our business as much as possible. Over spending and mortgaging our kids' and grandkids' futures has got to stop. K-12 education and Medicaid eat our State budget--we have to figure out a way to generate more revenue without debt or higher taxes...a strong economy is the key.

Davis Continued: In order of importance, I see the issues presented to me as such: Limited government intervention in the economy; Less government regulation of business; Reduction of government spending; Job growth; Help for low income people; Social welfare programs. I actually see the first 4 topics as extremely interlinked, with the 5th being a byproduct of the successful execution of the previous issues. The job market here in Mesa County is very weak. What are some things the government could do to help? Allowing businesses to conduct business in Colorado without penalty would sure help. We should be encouraging industries to come to Colorado, not by offering special incentives, but by making our state friendly to the idea of running business. A simple understanding of economics leads us to believe that people prosper when they are allowed to keep the fruits of their labor. They donate more to charity, they grow their businesses, hire more people, go on vacation, buy goods and services, etc. When the government forces its way into the pockets of individuals and businesses, STEALING money (after all, taxes are not voluntary), it is stealing a chance at prosperity. Therefore, getting the government out of the way of business and removed from the economy (government thinks it knows best how to run an economy. History and common sense tells us something different) will provide more opportunity for job growth, something that this area desperately needs. As an adherent to the philosophy of the Non-Aggression Principle, I have concluded that forcing your will on someone is immoral and unethical. Since the only way that the government can function is through applying force to otherwise peaceful people, the government cannot be an ethical institution. Stealing from Paul to help Peter is still stealing. There are better ways to help Peter, and I am a firm believer that getting government out of the equation rather than relying on it to solve every problem is the best way to do this.



Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 55 High School

Question	Chris Kennedy	Daniel Thurlow
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	I have lived in Mesa County since 2006	NO INFORMATION RECEIVED
If you are currently working, identify where and explain your present job. If you are retired, please share your most relevant job experience.	I am a former United States Marine and an IT professional and owner of Kennedy Telecom LLC in Grand Junction.	CPC Solutions, formerly Colorado Printing Company 1969 - 2014 Co-Owner, Chairman Commercial printing and packaging solutions for businesses in the Rocky Mountain region. Established in 1947 85 Employees
Where did you attend college and what was your major?	Berklee College of Music, Boston MA: Jazz Composition and Arrangement Nichols College, Dudley MA: Business Administration Colorado Mesa University: Computer Information Systems	Colorado State University - 1969 Bachelor Degree, Business Administration
Why did you decide to run for the House of Representatives?	I was and still am very disillusioned by the representation we have sent to advocate for West Slope interests in Denver over the last decade. I also believe in responsible government that acts in the interests of all constituents, not just those of special interests.	NO INFORMATION RECEIVED
Candidates were asked to rank a list of very broad, common issues and then explain their reasoning.	It is very difficult to rank these choices in order of importance, and some of the choices need much more elaboration than just a ranking. So... Job Growth and Programs: This includes investment in public education (surprised that was not on the list), targeted tax incentives to help grow business opportunities and development of social programs that equip low-income/educated adults with the education and tools they need to compete for 21 st century jobs. The rest are encompassed above and are all interrelated.	NO INFORMATION RECEIVED

Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 54 Middle School

Question	Brad Webb	J.J. Fletcher
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	I have lived in Mesa County for 5 years. My wife, Brooke and my daughter Olivia and I live on a vineyard in Palisade.	My family homesteaded here, 1888. My father was in the service, I was born at Camp Pendleton, Calif. We moved back to Mesa County in 1977.
If you are currently working, identify where and explain your present job. If you are retired, please share your most relevant job experience.	I work full time at my small business in Palisade. We operate an 8 acre vineyard and winery. So I spend my days taking care of plants and when I am not in the vineyard I am in the winery taking care of operations.	I am the President of Jay-Max Sales in Palisade. We are in the Mining, drilling and industrial supply business. I have worked here since, 1979
Where did you attend school (kindergarten through 12 th grade)?	I attended school in my hometown of Harrisburg, Illinois.	I graduated from Palisade high school in 1978.
Why did you decide to run for the House of Representatives?	Last year I was touring the capital in Denver and was on the floor of the house as a guest during the gun bill debates. I saw government in action and decided I would love to help make a difference for the people of Mesa County.	We need to expand our economy in Mesa County, the economy and job growth are key issues for our area. I understand the need to continue to invest in education and training and emphasis will be focused in this area.
What have you been involved with in Mesa County?	We are involved with the Palisade Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Association of Viticulture and Enology	I am currently on the Board of Directors at RSVP and I volunteer as need at my church, prayer ministry and mentoring.

Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 54 Middle School

Question	Yeulin Willett	Kyle Davis
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	28 years.	I moved to Mesa County from Northern California when I was 10 years old. I remained here until I turned 18, at which time I joined the Army. When I got out, I quickly returned to Grand Junction, and have remained here since.
If you are currently working, identify where and explain your present job. If you are retired, please share your most relevant job experience.	I am an attorney, but semi-retired (which we often call "of counsel"). I am at Younge and Hockensmith, PC, which has been a West Slope law firm for over 120 years, one of the oldest. I spent my career defending individuals and businesses against litigation, much of which would be commonly called "frivolous lawsuits")	I am currently employed at a residential treatment facility for at-risk boys as a counselor. I work closely with the boys and other staff members to ensure that their treatment is successful.
Where did you attend school (kindergarten through 12 th grade)?	Delta, Colorado	I attended kindergarden-4th grade in Yuba City, California. I finished up in Grand Junction. I got my GED at the age of 17, then joined the Army.
Where did you attend college and what was your major?	CU/Boulder – Business/finance CU/Boulder - Law	Colorado Mesa University cum laude in 2013 with a BA in Mass Communication and a minor in History.
What have you been involved with in Mesa County?	Fruita Little, Mesa County Junior Football coach, City of Grand Junction Traffic Safety Council, Urban Trails Committee; Riverfront Commission committee; Powderhorn Ski Racing Club; mountain bike	I had previously been involved with the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). For the last year or so, I have been heavily involved in building up an all ages "underground" music venue, called "4th Door Art and Music Collective" .



Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 55 Middle School

Question	Chris Kennedy	Daniel Thurlow
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	I have lived in Mesa County since 2006	NO INFORMATION RECEIVED
If you are currently working, identify where and explain your present job. If you are retired, please share your most relevant job experience.	I am a former United States Marine and an IT professional and owner of Kennedy Telecom LLC in Grand Junction.	CPC Solutions, formerly Colorado Printing Company 1969 - 2014 Co-Owner, Chairman Commercial printing and packaging solutions for businesses in the Rocky Mountain region. Established in 1947 85 Employees
Where did you attend school (kindergarten through 12 th grade)?	My K-12 education was in what is now the Longwood School District in Suffolk County NY (Long Island)	Grand Junction High School -1965
What have you been involved with in Mesa County?	I coach and ref hockey games and have been involved in mentoring at risk youth in the past	Past Board Member, Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce Past President, Grand Junction Quarterback Club Past member, Grand Junction Lions Club Mesa County Republican Chairman, 1981-1984 Past Board Member, Western Colo. Council, Boys Scouts of American Past Board Member, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry Heidelberg Druckmachin North American Concept Customers Reading Tutor – Tope Elementary School

Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 54 Elementary School 3rd – 5th grade

Question	Brad Webb	J.J. Fletcher
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	I have lived in Mesa County for 5 years. My wife, Brooke and my daughter Olivia and I live on a vineyard in Palisade.	We moved back to Mesa County in 1977.
Where do you work?	I work full time at my small business in Palisade. We operate an 8 acre vineyard and winery. So I spend my days taking care of plants and when I am not in the vineyard I am in the winery taking care of operations.	I am the President of Jay-Max Sales in Palisade. We are in the Mining, drilling and industrial supply business. I have worked here since, 1979.
Where did you attend school (kindergarten through 12 th grade)?	I attended school in my hometown of Harrisburg, Illinois.	I graduated from Palisade high school in 1978.
What have you been involved with in Mesa County?	We are involved with the Palisade Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Association of Viticulture and Enology	I am currently on the Board of Directors at RSVP and I volunteer as need at my church, prayer ministry and mentoring.

Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 54 Elementary School 3rd – 5th grade

Question	Yeulin Willett	Kyle Davis
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	28 years.	I moved to Mesa County from Northern California when I was 10 years old. I joined the Army. I quickly returned to Grand Junction, and have remained here since.
Where do you work?	I am an attorney, at Younge and Hockensmith, PC, which has been a West Slope law firm for over 120 years, one of the oldest	I am currently employed at a residential treatment facility for at-risk boys as a counselor. I work closely with the boys and other staff members to ensure that their treatment is successful.
Where did you attend school (kindergarten through 12 th grade)?	Delta, Colorado	I attended kindergarden-4th grade in Yuba City, California. I finished up in Grand Junction. I got my GED at the age of 17, then joined the Army.
What have you been involved with in Mesa County?	Fruita Little, Mesa County Junior Football coach, City of Grand Junction Traffic Safety Council, Urban Trails Committee; Riverfront Commission committee; Powderhorn Ski Racing Club; mountain bike trails; BLM Resource Advisory Committee; Chambers of Commerce; CMU's Mav Club; Warrior at Heart men's ministry	Veterans of Foreign Wars 4th Door Art and Music Collective, helping the music scene in Grand Junction.



**Background Information for CANDIDATES in House District 55
Elementary School 3rd – 5th grade**

Question	Chris Kennedy	Daniel Thurlow
How long have you lived in Mesa County?	I have lived in Mesa County since 2006	NO INFORMATION RECEIVED
Where do you work?	I am a former United States Marine and an IT professional and owner of Kennedy Telecom LLC in Grand Junction.	CPC Solutions, Co-Owner, Chairman Commercial printing and packaging solutions
Where did you attend school (kindergarten through 12 th grade)?	Longwood School District in Suffolk County NY (Long Island)	Grand Junction High School -1965
What have you been involved with in Mesa County?	I coach and ref hockey games and have been involved in mentoring at risk youth in the past	Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce Grand Junction Quarterback Club Grand Junction Lions Club Mesa County Republican Chairman Western Colo. Council, Boys Scouts of American Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry Heidelberg Druckmachin North American Concept Customers Reading Tutor – Tope Elementary School