

# Vail Valley Partnership Candidate Questionnaire 2018 Election

*Completed questionnaires are due back to Vail Valley Partnership (97 Main Street, Suite E201, Edwards, CO 81632) or via email [cromer@visitvailvalley.com](mailto:cromer@visitvailvalley.com) by 5pm on Friday, August 31, 2018*

*Please note all questionnaires will be shared with the business community through Vail Valley Partnership newsletter, website, social media, and other communication channels.*

## Office Sought:

Colorado State Senate, District 5

## Name:

Kerry Donovan

## Phone:

970-279-1876 c.

## Email:

[kerry.donovan.sd5@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.donovan.sd5@gmail.com)

*Please limit responses to 200 words per section.*

## 1. Please list past and present community service:

Commission on Special Events

Vail Town Council

American Ski Classic

Minturn Community Fund

Birds of Prey - Talon Crew

Vail Valley Foundation

Community/River/Highway Clean-ups

## 2. Why are you running for office?

I learned the value of hard work and public service from my parents. Every family has their way of paying it forward. Growing-up, I saw my parents contribute back to the community by serving on community boards. It is a family value and legacy I am proud to continue.

## 3. If you are elected, what are three accomplishments you would like completed by the end of your term, and how will you work to get them done?

I value listening to the concerns of my constituents and working toward real solutions to the problems facing Senate District 5. That means working to ensure hardworking Coloradans have a fair shot at economic security, protecting our public lands, and addressing health care costs.

Economic security is a large topic and includes different challenges in different areas. Affordable

housing, equal pay for equal work, and efficient and safe transportation are just a few examples of policy that the state can impact. I will continue to seek creative solutions to make sure all areas of Senate District 5 are supported and have the resources they need, like broadband, to plan for their vision.

Our public lands are the soul and the economic engine of our communities. I will continue to lead the effort at the state legislature to protect our public lands from being cut apart or sold off to the highest bidder. In the upcoming years we not only need to protect our public lands but also be proactive in making sure we use the best practices to manage and play in our forests, prairies, canyons, and rivers. With the surge in usage also comes a need to educate and support the public lands we love.

The high cost of health care is a significant issue across Senate District 5. For those who buy insurance on the individual market, they are seeing their cost of health care match the price of a mortgage. This is unsustainable. Over the past four years I have carried multiple bills on this topic but unfortunately, they have all failed in the CO Senate. I'll continue to work on this issue by looking at out-of-the box ideas will pushing the Department of Insurance and my colleagues to agree to a solution.

### **5. How will you make the business community a priority in the budget & legislative process?**

Over the past four years I have looked at every bill through the lens of how it will impact Senate District 5 and what may be the unforeseen impacts in the details of the bill language. I have also carried and written legislation specifically for the seven counties I represent. Funding for rural broadband, for example, should be very helpful for entrepreneurs across Senate District 5. I secured that through a budget amendment. I passed a bill to help beginning ranchers and farmers learn the trade through apprenticeship programs. I also try to make sure we don't over regulate our business community.

### **6. Will you support and sponsor legislation to support the creation of Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements ("association group") health care plans?**

I am already a supporter of the concept.

### **7. How will you work to make Eagle County a more business friendly environment? Please explain how you would work to engage business leaders.**

I engage by having an open door policy, forwarding my office phone to my cell phone when I am not in session, and reaching out to folks for their thoughts on bills or amendments. My cell phone is 970.279.1876. I also try to meet with groups such as Rotary or engage with other business leaders.

### **8. Colorado is forecast to continue to grow, including our region. How should we plan for growth, if at all?**

We must plan for growth as a state and as communities. The state has a major role to play in address our transportation. I am supportive of new funding and now bonding for transportation project as bonding risk our other programs such as education. The state also needs to lead on addressing the limited supply of water and an ever thirstier state. I will push the state to honor the good work of the Colorado Water Plan and protect our rivers from being diverted to the front range.

### **9. What role should the county (or state) have in is addressing (workforce)**

**housing?**

The state can pass tax credits to incentivise local housing projects and be a partner in looking for solutions.

**10. What role should the county (or state) have in addressing regional transportation (including traffic on the I-70 corridor and increasing flight service to Eagle County Regional Airport) solutions?**

Ensuring that I-70 is a safe and efficient travel corridor is absolutely the state's role. The solution will have to be multi-pronged and include public outreach, technology, and safety improvements, and policy work. Our pathway forward on I-70 will be much clearer after the November election addressing funding.

**Candidates have been invited to participate in the Vail Board of Realtors/Vail Valley Partnership sponsored Candidate Debate (date TBD). Do you plan to participate? If no, please explain why.**

Yes.

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