



**EDWARDS**  
COLORADO

## May 5, 2020 Director Election Candidate Forum Questions

### **MIKE TRUEBLOOD: Bio & Questionnaire**

Mike lives in Edwards with wife Heidi and daughter Josephine, a senior at VSSA. Oldest daughter Gabrielle is a sophomore at CU Boulder. He graduated from CU with a BS in Business and Accounting and was on the Alpine Ski Team.

Mike began his career as a CPA with Price Waterhouse in Los Angeles and Denver. After four years, he joined Comcast Communications where he spent fourteen years in finance and operational roles, overseeing teams across Colorado.

From 2013 to 2016, Mike worked as General Manager of Ski & Snowboard Club Vail. He managed administration for the club including planning and operational support.

Mike joined Vail Resorts in 2016 as Sr. Director of Finance at Vail, leading finance, budgeting and business operations. He transitioned to Beaver Creek in 2018 as Sr. Director of Village Operations. He works with Base Operations, Transportation, Public Safety, Mountain Services, Metro and Design Review.

- 1. Why do you want to be a member of the Edwards Metropolitan District? What qualifications and experience will help you contribute in that role? Please describe your recent leadership positions, strategies employed, and results achieved; be specific.**

*I care very much about the long term viability and quality of life in Edwards and I have shown that I can bring about good solutions that consider the viewpoints of everyone involved. My experience in my volunteer and professional roles lend themselves well to contributing positively to the District. On the volunteer side since 2012 I have been a member of the Edwards Rotary Club, I served on the Rotary Board from 2012 to 2016 and as President in 2015-2016. The club contributes over \$30,000 to community organizations annually and partners with other philanthropic and professional organizations across the county.*

*I also served as Board Member and Treasurer of the Millers Creek HOA from 2010-2018 helping to lead a previously contentious group, with multiple viewpoints, to one that experienced much less rancor in deliberations and stabilized the financial position of the Association, while meeting critical infrastructure requirements. Professionally I work for Vail Resorts, currently serving as Sr. Director of Village Operations in Beaver Creek. This position is involved in Resort Operations along with management of and board participation with several Associations and Metro Districts. This requires an appreciation of and consideration for multiple viewpoints much like we see with the Edwards Metro District. Particular to Metro Board service, a financial acumen is a must to deliver fiscal responsibility to respective constituents and this is what I can bring to the Board.*

**2. What is your vision for Edwards? Discuss population, economic base, demographics and tie to current situation and explain the path the District would follow to obtain your vision.**

*Everything related to my vision assumes that we resume a historically normal level of economic and social activity once the immediate pressure of the Covid-19 crisis has passed. That said, we may be facing different priorities and action depending on the resolution of the situation.*

*My vision for Edwards is to be a community that keeps a high quality of life for residents and guests while promoting proactive management of economic development and growth. These two key concepts- quality of life vs. economic development/growth don't have to be mutually exclusive. I think setting both concepts as a priority will spur creative ideas and mutually beneficial solutions.*

*The current population of Edwards has stayed around 10,000 since 2010 (towncharts.com) which I found somewhat surprising. Although population has not increased, traffic volume on Hwy 6 and other activity certainly has. Additionally, Edwards has a median income of approximately \$100,000 (2017 data, city-data.com) which indicates a favorable measure against the state of CO average of approximately \$69,000.*

*Finally, the median age in Edwards is nearly 38 years (towncharts.com), compared to the Colorado average of around 35 years. The averages or median don't always point out the areas of need or the opportunities, however. We know that we have a significant population that are below the median in terms of income and accessibility to housing, especially those that work in guest facing or other front-line occupations. The path the District can take to obtain this vision is to leverage economic vitality- as shown by healthy median area income and relatively young median age- and invest in future infrastructure wisely to integrate growth and development. This requires successful relationships and partnerships. Wise and financially sound future investments must leverage other private/public funding opportunities.*

**3. There have been some controversial developments proposed for the Edwards area. What are your views on the local housing crisis, particularly workforce housing? How would you address this issue? What is your view on the county's approval of higher density residential projects and mixed-use communities?**

*The local housing situation or crisis is the most important and challenging long term issue facing the Edwards area. (I say most challenging long-term issue because the current Covid crisis is the most challenging immediate issue). In my professional experience working in Eagle County, it is an ongoing struggle to fill both front line and leadership positions, primarily due to the scarcity of housing. In order to effectively address the issue, I believe Edwards and other communities must promote sensible development and related policies to increase the number of available and reasonably affordable units. The role of the Edwards Metro District Board is not land use regulation, however. What the board can do is ensure that new development is paying appropriately into the Metro District so that we can keep up with infrastructure demands, in conjunction with the county.*

**4. Some community members say that our traffic problems have not been solved with the current installation of the roundabout at Highway 6 and Edwards Access Rd. What solutions do you propose to address their concerns? What are your feelings about further expanding Highway 6 throughout the Edwards Corridor?**

*My experience with the installation of the roundabout at Highway 6 is very positive. I found that the process to construct the roundabout went amazingly well considering the complexity of the project and despite some challenges along the way the schedule largely met or exceeded expectations. While the traffic volume is still high, especially around 7:45 AM going Eastbound, it is significantly better than before the project. Additionally, I find both as a driver and bike commuter, the area feels safer and that vehicles move at a slower speed through the intersections. With that, I see unresolved items on Hwy 6 that need to be addressed. For example, the intersection at Lake Creek and Hwy 6 can be very inconvenient during morning and evening rush and could be a good candidate for infrastructure updates. It is important to continue seeking private public funding opportunities with CDOT or the county. Proposed new development could be advantageous to the ability to continue to make infrastructure improvements.*

- 5. There has been a focus on the West Edwards Community, especially the Eagle River Mobile Home Park. What is your vision for that area? What role do you see the Edwards Metro District taking in the discussion and action plans?**

*My vision for the area, consistent with my vision for Edwards as a whole, is to promote a high quality of life for ALL residents and guests while promoting proactive management of economic development and growth. Certain aspects of West Edwards don't always seem to support a high quality of life, including questions about water quality in certain locations and increasing levels of traffic volume. The District should be able to take a leading role in finding solutions for improvements in roads, traffic signalization and transportation and perhaps serve as a participant or advocate for solutions in other areas.*

- 6. What do you think the Edwards Metro District's role should be with respect to Climate Action and the environment?**

*The Edwards Metro District can be effective with respect to Climate Action and the Environment by promoting environmentally sound practices and activities. For example, the recent construction project at the Hwy 6 – Edwards Access Rd. roundabout included much improved pedestrian and bicycle crossing lanes. This encourages more walking and bike riding, and as someone who has logged nearly 330 bicycle commuting miles to and from Avon since the middle of October, it makes the trip faster and safer than before, and much more fun than driving. On the board I would look to promote future activities that enhance the infrastructure to make alternate forms of transportation more appealing.*