



ABOUT THE CANDIDATES



2016 CANDIDATE SURVEYS DISTRICT 3



CHRISTINA PACHECO-KOVELESKI

I am a 5th generation Coloradoan, mother of twin sons, and wife of retired Air Force veteran(served 21 years) for 24 years. I am graduate of The Colorado College '77 & CU School of Law '81. Prior municipal court judge in 5 towns/cities & worked for 18 years for legal services of which 12 which were in Colorado rural communities, working the poorest of the poor. I have prior been elected to the local board of education 2 times and served from 1999 to 2005, including 2 years at the president to that board. Additionally, I have served on many non-profit boards in the Pueblo community ranging from the Boys & Girls Club, Eastside Day Care, Senior Resource, Colorado Blue Sky (service agency for disabled), Latino Chamber. I sing in my church choir at Christ the King Catholic Church and prior taught religious education & Junior Achievement. I have had my own law office for 18 years. I believe all of this prior experience gives me the ability to work well with others and show my dedication to serving the public and having a dedication to children including those that are low-income, or minority or disabled.

JOYCE RANKIN

Joyce Rankin was appointed in August 2015 by the Third Congressional District Republican Central Committee to fill a mid-term vacancy in the 3rd Congressional District seat on the State Board of Education. Her term will expire in January 2017. Rankin grew up in Allen Park, a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. Inspired by her 5th grade teacher, she told her parents she wanted to be a teacher. Following graduation with a degree in Elementary Education from Michigan State University, she traveled to California where she began her teaching career in the fifth grade. She received her master's degree and administrative credential from California State University at San Jose and served as an elementary school principal. An advocate for school choice, she supports allowing parents to direct education funds to the school that best fits their child's needs, whether public or private. She is also a supporter of charter schools, magnet schools, online schools, schools with blended learning opportunities, and homeschooling. America's national security and economic future depend on a well-educated citizenry and she supports all forms of innovation that produce positive returns on our educational investment.



PART 1: THE STATE OF COLORADO EDUCATION

What is your vision for Colorado Education?

Christine Pacheco-Koveleski: My vision for Colorado education is to be the best it can be for ALL children in our state. This includes having smaller class sizes to enable teachers to teach, not to be baby sitters. I also want a emphasis on early childhood education programs, as children need to come to school, day one, prepared with the proper language and social skills. I am also an advocate for parental choice in many instances, such as charter schools as not all students have the same learning styles or interests. I support parents being able to choose if they want their students to participate in sex education classes as there are parents who believe in abstinence only educational programs. I also believe that the arts are not a frill, but they are vital to be available to students as they engage students and this includes the visual, and performing arts. I am also envisioning technology for both staff and students in all schools and grade levels. I envision the access to quality education not being based upon your zip code or your economic situation.

Joyce Rankin: No answer (n/a)

What are some specific challenges in the education system in your congressional district?

Pacheco-Koveleski: The challenges in the educational system in the third CD are the same issues across the country & the state. They include funding issues as the poorest counties in the state are in the San Luis Valley, in the congressional district. The funding issues affect everything in the schools, from the buildings, class sizes, salaries to attract quality staff and classes that can be offered.

Joyce Rankin: n/a

What is the greatest issue facing Colorado schools today and how are you going to address it?

Pacheco-Koveleski: The greatest issue facing Colorado schools today is to provide quality public education to ALL the students in a safe environment. I will address it by listening and advocating for the issues that will move us in the correct direction with an open mind and thorough research in making those decisions.

Rankin: n/a

Additional comments on the state of Colorado education

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Rankin: n/a

PART 2: GOOD GOVERNANCE

What is the primary role of a State Board member?

Pacheco-Koveleski: To represent the parents, students and staff in the congressional district your voted to represent. This role includes staying in contact with your constituents and to stay informed on the issues you will making decisions on.

Joyce Rankin: n/a

What will be your two primary goals as a board member and how will the public know you are working towards these goals?

Pacheco-Koveleski: My number one goal is to represent the students and parents of ALL those in the 3rd CD. The public will know that I working towards this goal because I will be visible and travel regularly to my service are and be available by phone and email to my constituents. I will seek the opinions of the staff and parents and students that will be affected in any decisions that will be made before making them. I think that the opinions need to include the under-served communities as well, such as the disabled, special needs students, gifted and talented students, and minority students. If more people are engaged after I have serve on the board will be a way to know it was successful. My second goal is to have more students graduating after I have served on the Board then when I started in the position. You will see it in the statistics to know that this goal is being successful.

Rankin: n/a

What will guide your decision-making when faced with appeals of local school board decisions?

Pacheco-Koveleski: The guide for decision-making is to thoroughly, and thoughtfully research, review and listen to all sides in the appeals with an open mind. To look at the decisions from all view points and to decide based on all the facts and how the decision you make will affect the lives of the children involved.

Rankin: n/a

What were the one or two best decisions the Colorado board has made in the last four years?

Pacheco-Koveleski: I do not believe there is one stand out best decision in the last 4 years.

Rankin: n/a

What were the one or two worst decisions that the Colorado board made in the last four years? And how would you work to change these policies?

Pacheco-Koveleski: I do not believe there is one stand out worst decision in the last 4 years.

Rankin: n/a

Additional comments on good governance

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Rankin: n/a

PART 3: DATA AND DATA ACCESS

Rate the following statements on a scale of 1-4, where 1=strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3=agree, and 4= strongly agree.

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Joyce Rankin
The Department of Education has appropriately protected personally identifiable student information in the past.	3	n/a
Stakeholders in the education system, including students, families, communities, policy makers, advocacy and grassroots organizations, researchers, and professional organizations, have adequate access to information about school and district outcomes.	3	n/a

It is important to have district-level and school-level data disaggregated based on students' race and ethnicity, eligibility for free or reduced price lunch, English language learners, special education students for which of the following?

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Joyce Rankin
PARCC results	X	n/a
AP completion and test results	X	n/a
SAT/ACT results	X	n/a
Discipline practices (suspensions/expulsions of students)	X	n/a
Concurrent Enrollment	X	n/a
Other		

Additional comments on data and data access

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Rankin: n/a

PART 4: STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

Rate the following statements on a scale of 1-4, where 1=strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3=agree, and 4= strongly agree.

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Joyce Rankin
The current Colorado Academic Standards adopted in 2010 reflect what I believe Colorado students should be learning.	2	n/a
Students should take annual summative assessments in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.	2	n/a

Additional comments on data and data access

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Rankin: n/a

PART 5: SCHOOL AND DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY

Rate the following statements on a scale of 1-4, where 1=strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3=agree, and 4= strongly agree.

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Joyce Rankin
The school and district performance frameworks include the right measures.	2	n/a
Charter, innovation, and traditional district-run schools should be held to the same performance standards.	3	n/a

At the end of the school accountability clock, check all of the improvement options below that you believe can be effective.

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Joyce Rankin
Replacing district-run school with a charter school	X	n/a
Restructuring a district-run school as an innovation school	X	n/a
Hiring a lead turnaround partner	X	n/a
Closing a school		n/a
Other		

At the end of the district accountability clock, check all of the improvement options below that you believe can be effective.

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Joyce Rankin
Converting one or more of a district's school into charter schools	X	X
Designating one or more of a district's schools as innovation schools	X	X
Closing one or more of a district's schools		X
Reorganizing or consolidating a district		X
Having a public or private entity take over the district and/or one or more district schools		X
Removing a district's accreditation		X
Other		Changing staff, providing professional development, changing curriculum

Additional comments on school and district accountability

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Rankin: n/a

PART 6: FEDERAL LEGISLATION

What changes do you hope to see as Colorado implements the new federal legislation Every Student Succeeds Act?

Pacheco-Koveleski: Less teaching to a test.

Rankin: n/a

Additional comments on federal legislation

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Rankin: n/a

PART 7: TALENT PIPELINE

Rate the following statements on a scale of 1-4, where 1=strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3=agree, and 4= strongly agree.

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Deb Scheffel
Colorado is doing a good job of recruiting, compensating and supporting great teachers, particularly in hardest to staff school	2	n/a
Teachers should be evaluated and held accountable to student outcomes	3	n/a
School leaders should be evaluated and held accountable to student outcomes.	3	n/a
District leaders should be evaluated and held accountable to student outcomes.	3	n/a

What do you believe is the greatest challenge Colorado faces in recruiting and retaining great talent in the education system? How do you suggest the state enhance or change its approach to this challenge?

Pacheco-Koveleski: Providing quality training and good wages and benefits.

Rankin: n/a

Additional comments on talent pipeline

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Rankin: n/a

PART 8: RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Rate the following statements on a scale of 1-4, where 1=strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3=agree, and 4= strongly agree.

	Christine Pacheco-Koveleski	Joyce Rankin
The Colorado education system has adequate funding to provide an effective education for all kids	2	n/a
The Colorado school funding formula is equitable	1	n/a
The Colorado Department of Education has the capacity to fulfill its mission	3	n/a
There should be equitable sharing of locally raised Mill and Bond funds with charter schools	4	n/a

In terms of resources allocation (people/time/money), what is working and not working in Colorado Education?

Pacheco-Koveleski: The method by which we fund public education is not working, it leaves the haves and have not's in very different schools. The funding method then affects the people you can attract and keep long term.

Rankin: n/a

Additional comments on resource allocation

Pacheco-Koveleski: n/a

Joyce Rankin: n/a

PART 9: COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

A likely task for the State Board in the coming years will be selecting a new Commissioner of Education. What qualifications would you want in the ideal candidate?

Pacheco-Koveleski: I would want to see some one who has a proven record of success in a similar job who has worked with similar ethnic and economic students who they will serve in Colorado. I would want some one who has ideas on how to improve educational opportunities for ALL our staff and students.

Rankin: n/a