

Name: Jessie Danielson

Office running for: Colorado Secretary of State

Political Affiliation: Democrat

Website: jessiedanielson.com

1. What action should the Secretary of State take to protect Coloradan's voting system and voter privacy at every level?

I was the State Director for America Votes, and helped pass the Voter Modernization Act that established vote centers and universal mail ballots. During my time in the legislature, I also passed landmark legislation like the Automatic Voter Registration law, and Ballot Access for Voters with Disabilities, and more. I don't just know the laws; I built them. I am the only candidate in this race that is experienced and ready to defend these systems against the attacks from Donald Trump. The Secretary of State is more than just elections administration. It is the first line of defense against federal attacks on our free and fair elections. Colorado has the gold standard of elections across the country, so we know that we will continue to be targeted by Donald Trump. As SOS, I will work closely with the county clerks to ensure they have the resources they need to administer elections. Also, working closely with the incoming AG, Governor, and the Legislature will be paramount. I have spent the last 20 years working on election law and voting rights with the Governor's office, the Secretary of State's office, the Attorney General, County Clerks and the County Clerks Association, elections administrators from all over the state, the Tribal Nations, and elected officials from all levels of government. I am the only candidate in this race that is ready to hit the ground running.

2. What is your position on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in Colorado and local cooperation with ICE? Please describe how you would use the authority of the office you are seeking to protect immigrant communities in Arvada, including your approach to information sharing, law enforcement cooperation, public facilities, and community trust.

I am the only candidate in this race with a proven record of standing up to ICE to protect our communities. During my time in the Senate, I have been an outspoken supporter of laws to protect our communities from ICE. We have passed laws to prohibit the collusion between law enforcement and ICE. This session alone, I am supporting legislation to create civil liability for the violation of constitutional rights, create more oversight of detention facilities, clear laws about ICE masking and IDs, training on immigration laws for law enforcement, and limits on local government resources being used for the transportation or deportation of our community members. Ensuring that voters feel safe at the polls will be a priority for me. ICE does not belong, nor is it allowed, near any place where voting is occurring. Communicating with the electorate about what their rights are is going to need to be constant and ongoing heading into election season. The Trump Administration will try to sow doubt and create chaos to intimidate

and confuse. The Secretary of State needs to stand up as that beacon of truth and reassurance that our elections are secure.

3. What is your position on campaign finance reform at the local and state level? How would you use the authority of the office you're seeking to promote transparency, limit the influence of wealthy donors or special interests, and ensure fair access to the political process in Colorado? Please describe specific actions or policies you support.

I have been working on elections and voter registration and voter turnout since long before Citizens United was a reality. I will always support strengthening disclosure requirements so voters can clearly see who is funding campaigns and political communications in real time. I will also work with community groups, municipalities, voting rights advocates and more, to support efforts to increase transparency in our systems.

4. How has TABOR affected Colorado's ability to plan, budget, and invest in long-term community needs? As an officeholder, would you support or oppose ballot measures, revenue adjustments, or policy changes to reduce TABOR's constraints on local services? Please explain your approach.

In my nearly 12 years in the state legislature, I have seen first hand the negative impacts TABOR has had on this state. I have worked hard to pass meaningful policies despite the stranglehold TABOR has on our budget. And, as a 4th generation Coloradan, I have experienced the crippling effects it has had on rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. TABOR is devastating to Colorado's ability to invest in social safety net programs. I would support any ballot measure that eliminates TABOR or makes adjustments to our tax code that will benefit workers and families in Colorado.

5. Would you consider the actions of the current federal administration to be a cause for concern with regards to the health of the United States' democracy? If so, how would you use the authority of your office to respond—whether through implementation, advocacy, or opposition—on behalf of Coloradans?

Yes, Donald Trump is actively attacking our democracy and the stakes have never been higher. His threats against our Colorado elections systems are severe. We need someone in this office who has a proven record of standing up against special interests and powerful opposition. I am the only candidate in this race with a proven record of fighting power to make progressive change in our state. Whether it was the Worker Protection Act, regulating assisted living facilities, establishing the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, the Child Sexual Abuse Accountability Act, or many other policies, I have had to work very publicly against the Governor and leaders in my own party to get things done. When Governor Polis vetoed my bills, I - along with Arvadans for progressive Action - held him very publicly accountable. We need someone we can depend on to fight back and protect our voting systems from Donald Trump. This is a big part of why our Colorado community urged me to run for this

position, and why we need someone who has proven themselves - time and time again - that they are experienced at fighting power to make a difference.

6. Do you consider yourself a progressive? Please give a few examples of progressive action you've taken.

Yes, I am a progressive. I started my career at NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, now known as Cobalt, where I ran their political and electoral programs. Then, I was the state director for America Votes, which is a progressive coalition. That is where I helped pass HB13-1303, the Voter Modernization Act which is now the gold standard of election law in this country. In my 11 years in the legislature, I have passed countless workers rights and Labor laws to protect and lift up the working people of this state. These include creating the Apprenticeship Directory, requiring prevailing wage in state contracts, raising the minimum wage at local governments, support for direct care and healthcare workers, the Teacher Pay Raise Act, licensure for trade workers, and many many more. I passed the Farmworker Bill of Rights, the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act, many policies to protect our wildlife and environment. I've passed many laws to support and protect Older Coloradans. I have worked with the Native community to pass bills that ban the use of Native mascots, create the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, establish Colorado protections in the Indian Child Welfare Act, protect regalia in graduations, prohibit land annexation of Tribal Lands, protect wild bison, and more. I passed the Marriage Equality Act, protecting LGBTQIA + people and their families. I've partnered closely with the disability rights community on many policies ranging from Parental Rights for Parents with Disabilities, to government access for people with disabilities. I've passed hundreds of progressive bills over the years.

I have always joined, spoke at, or led protests, rallies and marches. Whether it was boots on the Boulevard for the Jeffco Public Schools years ago, the Women's March, or the ICE OUT marches and protests we are currently leading - I have always been public about my progressive policies and the values that our Jefferson County community holds. I've spoken at No Kings rallies in Denver and in Eagle County. It is important to stand with the community in critical times.

I've also joined workers on the picket line: janitors, teachers, healthcare workers, public sector workers, auto workers, Teamsters, nurses, bakers, and many more. I've stood with workers in their contract negotiations, and at the bargaining table. I am the only candidate in this race that has a voting record at all on progressive issues. I am the only candidate in this race that has a lengthy, consistent, and reliable progressive voting record, and mine spans nearly 12 years. Whether it is immigrant rights, equality, workers' rights, the environment, reproductive justice, social justice, public education, disability rights, or any other issue critical to Coloradans, I have a solid record. Now, more than ever, we need a Secretary of State who truly represents the people and has a track record of doing so.

FINANCES AND TRANSPARENCY

As part of our evaluation, we will review your funding sources through public filings and publish them to our members and the public. Funding is a very important issue to APA, and we will likely be contacting you in the future regarding your campaign finances. We reserve the right to disqualify you from endorsement, revoke your endorsement, or take down your survey responses if the information you share here is inaccurate with public filings. We will contact you before using this right.

Please disclose if you accept, or are seeking funding from the following sources, who those entities are and why you accept campaign funds from these sources.

Answers in this portion are required for survey publication and endorsement.

1. Are you aware of any Super PACs or 527 organizations that are not directly coordinating with your campaign, but you consider helpful to your campaign or issues your campaign advocates? If so, please name those organizations.

No

2. How much money have you self-financed for your campaign at this point?

None

3. Do you accept money from Corporations, PACS, Party Committees, Real Estate Companies (not agents), Real Estate Developers, or Unions?

Yes

- If yes, please explain why you accept funding from any of the above sources.

I am very proud to have been endorsed by the AFL-CIO, SEIU, Teamsters, Firefighters, Carpenters, Steelworkers, Pipefitters, Plumbers, Colorado Wins, CEA, and the AFT, SMART Union, among others. I've worked alongside many of these organizations for over a decade to raise wages, protect workers' rights, strengthen public education, and support first responders.

When these groups endorse a candidate, they often provide financial support to help communicate shared priorities with voters. I accept their support because it reflects alignment on issues that matter to working families. My decisions are guided by my values and I remain committed to transparency and accountability in all campaign fundraising.

I have also been endorsed by more than 125 individuals - community leaders, elected officials, and former elected officials. Oftentimes, these trusted leaders have political committees, or leadership PACs, that give to candidate committees. I am proud to have earned the endorsement and support of so many community leaders from every level of government and all across the state.

4. Are there any other comments you have regarding your funding strategy?

In addition to the organizational and leadership contributions, I have earned the support of many individual donors who have - and continue to - power this grassroots team.