

2017, an Elbert County Blessing!

2017 has been a fantastic year for Elbert County! The Elbert County Republicans have been an important part of this wonderful year. We've faced challenges to be sure, but with the confidence of a team of happy warriors our 40 plus member Elbert County Central Committee has taken its performance to a whole new level! Examples of a fantastic year started in 2016 with the election of three amazing county commissioners. Danny Willcox won his election last November as District 2 Commissioner. He joined Elbert County Government fresh from service on the Elbert County Republican Central Committee as our former Secretary and after over 28 years of service in the Aurora Fire Department (including duty as Deputy Fire Chief); Commissioner District 1, Chris Richardson, won his second elected office, having formerly served in the Elizabeth C-1 School District School Board. Chris has brought the lessons he learned in his nearly thirty plus years of US Army service to Kiowa. New Commissioner, Grant Thayer, owner of the "Jumping Cow Ranch" registered Gelbviegh cattle, as well as, over 40 years as an oil and gas engineer, rounds out our team of all-star County Commissioners!

These Commissioners have overseen the transformation of our county government at nearly every level. They have tightened up the county budget, they got a great buy on a new building to expand county services in Kiowa, they have hired a great team leader, Sam Albrecht, County Manager, and we have a \$4,000,000.00 reserve for the first time in many years! Way to go Commissioners!

The Commissioners aren't the only Elbert County GOP member elected officials who have helped make 2017 a big success! Our Elbert County Treasurer & Public Trustee, Rick Pettit, Elbert County Clerk, Dallas Schroeder, Elbert County Assessor Billie Mills, Elbert County Sheriff Shayne Heap, Elbert County Coroner Mike Graeff, and our Elbert County Surveyor Keith Westfall, all worked diligently to bring service and dedication to county government.

House District 64, Representative Republican Kimmi Lewis, has her first full year under her saddle and she serves on the Colorado House Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources Committee and the Colorado House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee. Congratulations Kimmi! Welcome to the team.

United States Congressman, Colorado House District 4, Ken Buck wrote his first book in 2017, "Drain the Swamp!" In it, our Congressman tells the true stories about what really happens behind closed doors in Congress during legislative battles and provides the picture of just what goes on deep inside the swamp. Thank you, Congressman Buck, for shining a light on a bloated Federal bureaucracy.

Some other notable 2017 events include:

- A well-planned Lincoln Day Dinner was attended by 210 conservatives, liberty loving Republicans. A record fundraising amount of over \$8,000 was garnered for our efforts.
- A well-attended Republican Candidate Meet & Greet was held on October 8 and prior to the November 2017 election.
- The ECR supported a slate of conservative, pro-student and pro-parent candidates for the Elizabeth C-1 School Board in a contested race against the current Democrat Vice Chairman. The slate of three "Conservatives for Kids" were handily elected!
- Elbert County Republican Chairman's Club now has more than 60 members who are committed to helping the Elbert County GOP grow with Republican values and support. Thank you to Tom Peterson, Elbert County Chairman for his remarkable leadership.

- Two of our Central Committee members graduated from Leadership Program of the Rockies in 2017. Paula Wilderman, Central Committee Precinct 7 Committee Person and Bob Lewis, Vice Chair Elbert County GOP. Way to go Paula and Bob!
- The Elbert County Young Republicans have been joined by a newly formed Elizabeth High School Republican Club to double the size and involvement of young Republicans in Elbert County.
- Scott Wills, former County Chairman and current Commander of the American Legion Elizabeth Post, was inducted into the first class of the Colorado Republican Hall of Fame. What an amazing accomplishment, Scott! Thank you for your service.
- The ECR had a strong presence at a number of community events including the Elizabeth Rodeo “Elizabash” in June; and Elbert Days and the Elbert County Fair in July/August.
- Under Chairman Tom Peterson’s direction, the ECR Central Committee now meets bi-monthly on off election years with more regular meetings scheduled as our workload requires.
- We conducted a series of Candidate & Campaign Team Training Seminars in 2017 and already have several great Republicans who have filed as candidates.
- Congratulations to Andrea Richardson, Chairwoman, and Denise Reeves, Vice-Chair, for being elected to these Elbert County Republican Women’s offices. The Republican Women are in great hands!
- We start the year with a tremendous amount of pre-planning completed for the 2018 election cycle. This includes Precinct Caucus on March 6, a Candidate Forum hosted by the ECR Women planned for March 15 and County Assembly planned for March 24.
- We are debt free and have a strong reserve to support the election of Republicans in 2018.

We are the People that lead Elbert County. We do not serve because it is easy, we do not serve because we seek any accolades or payment, and certainly not because it is always popular. We serve Elbert County because our county needs leadership. We have seen what happens when good people allow county governance to wane. It creates an environment where poor results follow weak direction. We have had challenges in the last year and we know we will see challenges in the years ahead. Like everywhere in Colorado, there are national sponsored groups who seek to disrupt positive leadership and force their big state answers on our community. They seek to regulate our homes, schools, jobs, and everything we hold dear. The Elbert County GOP will stand in the breach to prevent this. Our values are well known. As stated in the Republican Party Platform:

“We are the party of independent individuals and the institutions they create together — families, schools, congregations, neighborhoods — to advance their ideals and make real their dreams. Those institutions, standing between the citizen and the power of government, are the pillars of a free society. They create spaces where the power of government should not intrude. They allow Americans to work together to solve most of the problems facing their communities. They thus reduce the need for intervention by government in the form of more and bigger programs or a larger public workforce. They minimize decision-making by those who hold or are appointed to office. That is precisely why today’s progressives distrust and seek to control them — because this is more than a conflict of ideas. It is a struggle for power.”

God Bless the Elbert County GOP. I love you all!

Bob Lewis
Vice Chairman