



Jonathan Godes

Mayor of Glenwood Springs
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WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

Affordable housing. I took steps to limit vacation rentals in Glenwood to 85 units and supported wide-ranging inclusionary zoning changes to support affordable housing. We have a lodging tax question on the ballot this November that would dedicate public funds for the first time to workforce housing acquisition. While there is no silver bullet to solve this housing crisis, we are taking an "all of the above" approach and continue to be aggressive and creative to keep families and workers in our community.

I am proud of the public health and environmental measures I have championed. This includes a vape flavor ban and a large tax increase on all nicotine products, being one of the first municipalities in the country to enact an indoor mask ban early in the COVID-19 pandemic, becoming the seventh community in the country to have its electric grid 100% renewable, and fighting a massive strip mine on the mountainside directly adjacent to our downtown.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?

Climate change impacts and the aridification of the West. Glenwood Springs is the poster child for climate change in Colorado. We have had three massive wildfires in the past 30 years that have threatened our community. The Storm King fire of 1994 cost 14 lives, and the Coal Seam fire of 2002 took 29 homes. The Grizzly Creek fire of 2020 closed I-70 for more than two weeks, torched 30,000 acres in the beautiful Glenwood Canyon, and decimated our watershed, which cost \$10 million to mitigate our raw water intake and treatment plant.

Last year, we had a 500-year rain event over the Grizzly Creek burn scar that washed out large sections of the interstate. The moral imperative we face to fight climate change has never been more pressing. On the local level, we have to re-examine all of our infrastructure, evacuation plans, and even building codes. It is costly and complicated to build a robust, resilient, and redundant community to withstand these climate events, but we have no choice. While the lack of affordable housing is a threat to our economy and the character of our community, if we cannot slow the ravages of climate change, there will be no community character to preserve.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Don't run for office because you are frustrated by the national political direction. At the local level, partisan politics is always a distraction to accomplishing solid wins for your community. Run for office because you want to bring attention to issues that have not been championed yet. Understand that these issues will probably represent about 2% of the issues and problems facing your community and that you will need to dig in and get up to speed quick on the other 98%. Don't ever feel that you are not deserving of running for office. Just because you may not be a visible leader with city boards or the chamber of commerce does not mean that you're not ready. If you have participated with your child's PTA, your church, or a nonprofit, you have served your community and deserve to throw your hat in the ring. If you haven't volunteered or contributed to something in your community yet, then you should ask yourself why you feel drawn to jump into an elected position as your first foray.

IS THERE A CONSERVATION-RELATED POLICY, RULE OR IDEA YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

A carbon tax would be the single biggest policy change that would move us away from our carbon-dependent economy by disincentivizing carbon production. The rest of the world is waiting for the U.S. to lead on this, so they are not disproportionately disadvantaged in the world's economy. At the state level, vehicle emissions are Colorado's No. 1 source of carbon production. Raising the gas tax and using those funds to dramatically support mass transit ridership is one way of changing the paradigm for this major pollution source. I would also like to see a tax on beef production and subsidies for plant-based diet alternatives. It takes 1,800 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. We should disincentivize undesirable uses by making them more expensive, while simultaneously making the preferable alternatives more affordable.

THERE IS AN EFFORT UNDERWAY TO DESIGNATE THE CAMP HALE-CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL MONUMENT. CAN YOU DISCUSS FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AREA WHY THIS LAND, INCLUDING THE THOMPSON DIVIDE, IS SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT TO PROTECT WITH A MONUMENT DESIGNATION?

Camp Hale is the birthplace of American skiing and was a vital training ground for our soldiers in World War II to prepare them for warfare in the Alps. The Thompson Divide is a largely roadless area that has been jointly utilized by ranchers, hunters, and recreationists. Much of the Thompson Divide is similar to what ranchers in the 1800s would have experienced. There is deep and widespread support from all the communities, counties, and users to withdraw gas leases and to preserve this special place for the same uses it has always enjoyed.



ARE THERE WAYS OTHER LOCAL AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN COLORADO AND ELSEWHERE CAN GET INVOLVED, LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS ISSUE, AND ADVOCATE FOR THE MONUMENT?

Call your federal elected representatives, and express your support. Write op-eds in local papers, and pass formal resolutions of support.

