

## Where We Are On 3 Key Issues in Elbert County

### Budget

The Elbert County Budget is \$29 million with an estimated shortfall of \$1.5 million. That is a 263% increase in the 8 years since Commissioner John Dunn left office with an \$11 million budget and a \$1.6 million surplus.



### Roads

Elbert County has two Road & Bridge departments. In 2007 citizens approved a 1% sales tax to help augment funds for Road and Bridge. There has been little discernible improvement in Elbert County roads. We now purchase much of our gravel from outside the county.

### Development

Elbert County is not currently bringing in the compatible commercial development needed to improve the county's tax base and provide jobs for local citizens.



## How Elbert County Government Got To This Point

The Elbert County Board of County Commissioners has not accurately balanced the budget in the county since 2001. It has not retained the services of a budget officer. Commissioners do not meet regularly in public meetings with department heads to review the budget status within each department.

Due to the size and traffic requirements of Elbert County, it once made sense to operate two divisions. This is no longer the case, and the two departments end up competing for the same resources. We are buying much of our gravel from Pioneer Sand Company in Colorado Springs instead of mining in the county, and what we do mine needs less clay content. Crushed asphalt paving without adequate subsurface preparation will end up failing within a few years.

Our BOCC has spent little time, if any, actively participating with its own Economic Development Council. The largest employer in the county is the Elbert County Government. What business and manufacturing we do have is virtually ignored by the county. Most people do not realize, for instance, that the Sofa Mart Factory in Simla is our largest non-governmental employer.

## What Patty Sward & Robert Thomasson Will Do To Fix It

Until we establish an accurate accounting of where the county stands financially, all nonessential work and projects should be curtailed. A bipartisan citizens' oversight committee should be established to oversee the formation of an amended budget to bring us into alignment with the State of Colorado's demand for balanced budgets. Assets should be liquidated to cure any shortfall.

There needs to be a single Road & Bridge Department with two offices under one director. Gravel mining must be resumed in the county with a qualified expert grading the quality of the road base we produce. Crushed asphalt paving has its place, but not as we are currently utilizing it. Our blade drivers need to be allowed to make our roads better. Given better road base and the permission to create proper drainage our roads will improve. Roads should be kept ready for paving at all times. Developers must be held to agreements to pay for transportation infrastructure.

The BOCC needs to recruit small business in the county, veteran-based businesses, and an agricultural-based local farmers' market. We need to seek grant money from the State of Colorado for developing cellulosic ethanol from indigenous switchgrasses and set up small distillation coop facilities. We need to utilize the dry and windy eastern half of the county to bring in the production of clean electricity via wind and solar technologies. We also need to develop our historical sites within the county, and sponsor a vibrant day tourism industry.



## Patty Sward

Candidate Elbert County  
Board of County Commissioners  
District 1

303-532-7252  
303-646-5110  
sward@mho.com  
www.pattysward.com

PO Box 61  
Franktown, CO 80116

## Robert Thomasson

Candidate Elbert County  
Board of County Commissioners  
District 3

720-530-1025  
303-648-3098  
rvtr8@prairienetworks.com  
www.abe21.net

20503 Eagle Feather Lane  
Elbert, Colorado 80106



*Vote for  
Sward & Thomasson -  
the best choices for  
Elbert County  
commissioners!*

Both Patty Sward and Robert Thomasson have deep ties to Elbert County. As permanent residents, they are committed to playing an active role in increasing the quality of life for all residents of the county. They have both worked extensively to preserve Elbert County's rural lifestyle, while being open to responsible growth which respects individuals' property and the resources we count on daily.

To find out about the candidates and their experience, please visit their websites.

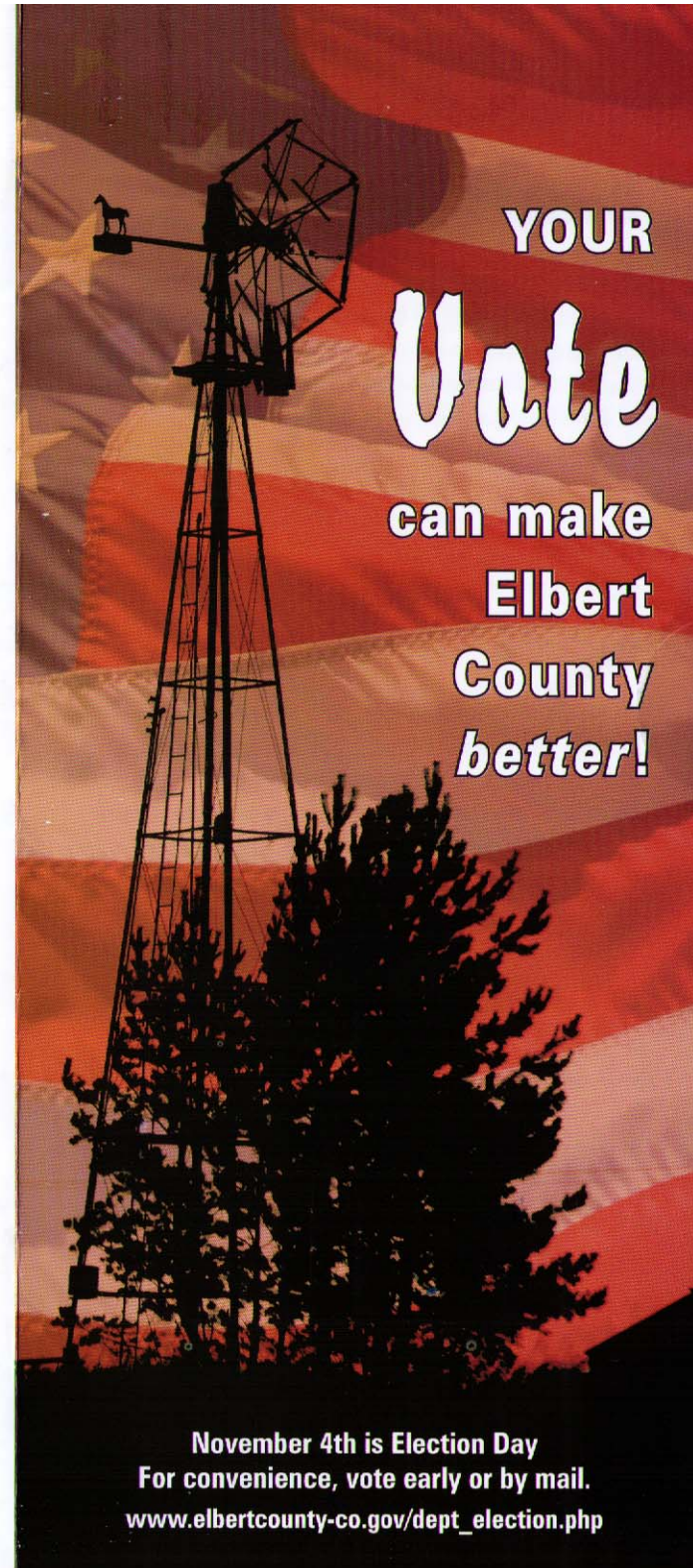


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**YOUR  
Vote  
can make  
Elbert  
County  
better!**

November 4th is Election Day  
For convenience, vote early or by mail.  
[www.elbertcounty-co.gov/dept\\_election.php](http://www.elbertcounty-co.gov/dept_election.php)