



Kilgore For School Board

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News and Views: Personal Transparency and Accountability

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Dear Voter,

One of my characteristics that my wife, family, and friends know quite well is that I am honest and accountable. I mean what I say and I do what I say I am going to do. As your elected school board representative, I will work to make our Denver Public Schools administration transparent and accountable to our parents, students, and community.

Given the frustration and helplessness that voters feel today about the increasing and unmitigated role of money and outside influences in our elections today, I have decided to make my campaign financial information available to you in advance of when law requires us to do so. And I am not making the hollow claim that I will do it if my opponent also does it (knowing full well that my opponent would likely not and, therefore, I would not.) I am doing it because it is the right thing to do for our democracy.

Under the “News and Views” tab of my website www.RogerKilgore.com you will find a link to a document with my voluntary reporting information. I will summarize the highlights for you here.

So far we have welcomed the support of 125 unique donors who have given a total of \$38,434. I hope to top 300 donors before Election Day! Ninety percent of the donations come from Denver. Only seven percent comes from outside Colorado, including a donation from my mother in California.

78 of the 125 donors gave between \$10 and \$99. Only 4 donors gave \$1,000 or more. All but one of my donors is an individual or family. That one is the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, which represents over 3,000 teachers in our schools. They have provided \$10,000 directly to our campaign and an estimated \$15,000 in door to door canvassing (in-kind donation).

Our network of volunteers has also given hours and hours of time. I can't thank our volunteers enough for what they have already given and what they, along with new recruits, are yet to give. You all make a tremendous difference that cannot be measured in monetary terms!

I will be criticized by some for accepting so much from one source. I am very thankful for the support from the DCTA and I am very thankful for the hard and creative work our teachers must do every day. I will listen to and represent all of our education stakeholders.

In the school board elections two years ago, the corporate reform candidates ended up reporting individual donors writing checks in the \$10,000 to \$26,000 range and various groups such as the

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voucher-sympathetic Stand for Children (based in Portland, Oregon) providing tens of thousands of dollars of support. I expect the same will be true again this time. But there is also a new development for school board races in Denver: the rise of independent expenditures. A new group, Great Schools Denver, was just created this year and has been distributing literature for my opponent. Reporting requirements are such that we will not know anything about the money involved until November 1, four days before ballots are due.

We are far from ideal in our relationship between politics and money today. And I think being open and transparent is the best way to begin to reclaim our democracy. Have the other candidates in this election exhibited the same level of transparency?

My campaign manager will chastise me if I don't ask you for your support! Can you help with \$10, \$25, \$50, or any amount? Remember, I have a goal of 300 donors by the end of this campaign. It all helps! If you can volunteer, please go to my website and let us know.