

**Vail Valley Partnership**  
**Candidate Questionnaire 2018 Election**

**NICKI MILLS**

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**Office Sought:** State Representative - House District 26  
**Name:** Nicki Mills  
**Phone:** 970-367-7290  
**Email:** [Vote@NickiMills.com](mailto:Vote@NickiMills.com)

**1. Please list past and present community service:**

- **Vail Valley Medical Center** - Family Dinner Dance Committee
- **Vail Valley Foundation** - Girl PowHER Fashion Show
- **Battle Mountain High School** - Huskies & Hero's Annual Football Fundraiser
- **The Vail Church** - Sunday School & Vacation Bible School Teacher
- **Vail Mountain School** - Annual Gala Committee Member & Audience Development Chair, Home Base Parent, Welcome family host and garage sale volunteer.
- **MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)** - Mentor Mom
- **WECMRD** - Flag Football Coach
- **Discovery Woods Montessori School**, Brainerd, MN - Founder, Grant Writer and school board member

**2. Why are you running for office?**

People in Routt & Eagle counties deserve a voice that understands the needs of our friends and families. I am not a career politician. I love Colorado and the people that live here. I want to make the lives of my friends and neighbors better. My family has a tradition of community service and volunteerism that inspires me. The time is now to step up and serve my community. **We must reduce the cost of healthcare, improve education for all kids, make living in the Colorado mountains more affordable, and, protect constitutional rights.** My lifelong experience enables me to use common sense and judgment on matters to represent the voters in Eagle & Routt County.

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**3. If you are elected, what are three accomplishments you would like completed by the end of your term, and how will you work to get them done?**

**1. Reduce Cost of Health Care** - We must reduce the cost of Healthcare in the Colorado mountains. There are at least three ways to reduce healthcare costs: 1 - Full and complete transparency of health costs, 2 - Allowing interstate marketing of health plans, and, 3 - Encourage innovation of lower cost delivery of health care like direct primary care. I also support the initiatives of the Vail Valley Partnership to create a Multi-employer Health Plan in Eagle County.

**2 - Improve Education and School Safety** - We must do better in education achievement. High quality education is critical to the future of Colorado. I will support legislative efforts to improve schools and promote alternative education. I will advocate for measures to improve and protect our kids in school like what is being done right now in other states.

**3 - Preserve Rights of Taxpayers** - I will defend the rights of taxpayers to vote on any tax increases. We must keep Colorado affordable. The legislature must set priorities and be accountable for balanced budgets.

**4. What do you think are the top three economic priorities for Eagle County the next three years?**

The state's economic priorities are similar to the important priorities for Eagle County. These include:

- Affordable Health Care
- Better education achievement
- Affordable housing
- Jobs and economic prosperity

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**5. How will you make the business community a priority in the budget & legislative process?**

The health of the small business community is very important to me. The creation of jobs and prosperity oftentimes comes from the efforts and success of small business. We must be vigilant and resist the overreach of regulation and bureaucracy. Tax burdens should be modest so that Colorado businesses are competitive with businesses in other states. I will organize a Small Business Advisory Council to advise me on matters important to the success of small business in Eagle and Routt Counties. Colorado policies must also encourage innovation to support entrepreneurs. The voices like the Vail Valley Partnership can be very important in setting legislative priorities.

**6. Will you support and sponsor legislation to support the creation of Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (“association group”) health care plans?**

YES.

**7. How will you work to make Eagle County a more business friendly environment? Please explain how you would work to engage business leaders.**

As mentioned previously, I would organize a Small Business Advisory Council to gather input from small businesses on Colorado legislative issues. We can learn much more by listening than talking. It is also important that we keep regulation to a minimum and not overburden business taxpayers. The high cost of healthcare and housing is a significant burden on small businesses. Reducing the cost of healthcare and increased development of affordable and employee housing will be a major focus in my first term.

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**8. Colorado is forecast to continue to grow, including our region. How should we plan for growth, if at all?**

Colorado is fortunate to have experienced economic growth and prosperity over the last several years. Colorado should adopt policies that enhance the quality of life and economic opportunity. It would be a mistake to attempt to control or limit population or economic growth. Instead, we must maintain a tax and regulatory environment that removes barriers to growth for the residents of Colorado, and the residents of Eagle and Routt County.

**9. What role should the county (or state) have in addressing affordable (workforce) housing?**

All too often the best intentions of government interfere with the effectiveness of the private sector to meet the housing needs of communities. The state has a modest role in promoting affordable housing at a local level. Local communities should be encouraged to accelerate affordable housing. As an elected representative, I would provide leadership to align the interest of developers and local government for infrastructure and approval of viable projects. If we can minimize the time the government spends approving projects, it will increase affordability and bring more housing online promptly.

**10. What role should the county (or state) have in addressing regional transportation (including traffic on the I-70 corridor and increasing flight service to Eagle County Regional Airport) solutions?**

We should evaluate the transportation priorities in the state budget. Taxes collected for roads should be used for roads. I will also advocate for Federal officials to use Federal gas tax dollars only to maintain our roads. Too often taxes are paid and not used for the purpose they are intended. We also need to understand and correct the reasons for highway closures in District 26. There are likely common sense remedies to this recurring problem.

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**11. All candidates have been invited to participate in the Vail Board of Realtors/Vail Valley Partnership sponsored Candidate Debate (date TBD). Do you plan to participate? If no, please explain why.**

YES