

My name is Don Dezellem and I would like to introduce myself to you. I was born in New York state, lived in Mississippi, Wyoming, and Santa Maria, California where I lived for 28 years before moving to Colorado. As a youth I played violin in the school orchestra, became an Eagle Scout, and was active in high school sports. After high school, I attended Allan Hancock Community College graduating with an AA in Liberal Arts and attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo for a year studying Recreation Administration.

I have worked in management for McDonald's franchisees for 30 years, 7-Eleven for 8 years, the storage industry for 7 years, the insurance industry for 5 years, and currently Walmart for the last 11 years. My civic involvement has included serving on the school board of Christian Life School in California, past membership in the Pikes Peak Rotary Club, chairing a subcommittee on the 2030 Comprehensive Plan for Woodland Park, graduate of WP Citizens Academy, served on the 2022 Charter Review Committee, and currently serve on the Woodland Park Planning Commission and the Woodland Park Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. I also serve as a director on the board of the Dayspring Christian Foundation and currently attend Boulder Street Church.

Why am I running for City council? Because it is vital to have candidates who are concerned and knowledgeable to represent the citizens and shareholders of Woodland Park. I have lived in the Woodland Park area for most of the last 35 years, attending council meetings and work sessions for the last 7 years on a regular basis giving me knowledge of council history and procedures. When elected I will work at fostering an environment of transparency, respectfulness, cooperation, and integrity. I will treat citizens, stake holders, council members, and city staff with respect and listen to their point of view. My decisions will be based on the information provided to all council by staff, public comment, and whether it is the proper role of government. I will strive to avoid any conflict of interest and will disclose potential conflicts.

I will support future reviews and revisions to city zoning and planning regulations to allow the city to transition into the future especially with water use. I am committed to eliminating governmental barriers so local business owners can prosper and help Woodland Park become a shopping, recreational, cultural, and event destination. Ensuring a budget that meets the needs not the desires of city departments, provides for an adequate reserve, services existing debt as quickly as possible, and allows for a properly maintained infrastructure is essential. Building mutually beneficial working relationships with Teller County, El Paso County, surrounding towns and agencies along with state and federal entities is important for Woodland Park's future as a home rule municipality.

I ask for your vote this April as I have served our community in the past, now, and in the future. Please contact me, I will be happy to sit down for coffee and discussion.