
2022 Election Cycle

Root For Citizen Congressman

Root Routledge, PhD

Dear Voters of Western Colorado's 3rd Congressional District —
[this is an essay style letter, 1740 words]

An Offering: My candidacy for U.S. Congress from Colorado's 3rd District has never been about money; nor has it been about "who is best able to beat the Republican". Please understand it as a mere offering to be considered amongst all the other offerings. It is an offering I initiated with a brief trial run toward the end of the 2018 primary election cycle, where I earned 2% (7 votes) of the 350 CD3 delegates' Assembly votes; and continued on in full with the 2020 cycle, where I earned 3% (11 votes). The Democrats and their county party officials of this district have all had a chance to meet me and hear me in person; and they know who I am and what my offering is about.

While the other two CD3 Dem candidates spent hundreds of thousands of dollars competing to beat each other in order to become the nominee in 2020, my expenditures totaled \$10,000 for both 2018 and 2020, with only \$3,000 in small donations and \$7,000 on my personal credit card for which my campaign was never able to pay me back. For 2022, I have spent virtually nothing and do not even have an active ActBlue account; yet they are now gone and I'm still here with all my website and Facebook presence and message still as current and relevant for this election cycle as it was two years ago. In 2022 we have at least seven candidates; but I am the only one who has personally visited all the 29 CD3 counties, twice even, met people, listened and learned. It's about the future and what I have to offer my country and our Colorado district. It is not about money.

Misdiagnosing the Problem: In both the 2018 and 2020 cycle the CD3 Dems chose the same candidate for nominee, who focused on differentiating herself by her party political experience at the county and state level and how well she could work with Republicans. In my talks, I pointed out how that was a complete

misdiagnosis of the problem; stating, “If elected, I’m not going to Washington to ‘reach across the goddamn aisle’; Republicans in Congress don’t need to be coddled or appeased, they need to be defeated!”

Each time, in the general election against two different Republican candidates the 3rd District rejected her by a large margin of about 6%. In fact, she raised \$5 million dollars in 2020, had fancy national DNC/DCCC consultants help her; and yet lost to the Republican trash candidate. It’s not about the money.

Meanwhile the Republican Party has been morphing into a Republican authoritarian cult — there’s no other way to describe it. For our country — and Colorado’s 3rd District — it is not about Democrats vs Republicans, or even Left vs Right; it’s about our future and whether it will be a “democracy” of, by and for the people; or an “autocracy” of, by and for corporations and oligarchs, while serving red meat to a fringe of deluded ignorant insecure freaks in order to keep holding their votes. The corporatocracy doesn’t have enough voting populace to win; their strategy is and always has been to get close enough to steal the election.

The National Democratic Party: Although I am running to represent our 3rd District; I have only jumped in as a candidate for Congress with virtually no money in order to fight for our county’s future, which affects all of us in this district. The DNC and national Democratic Party, with its own donor-class control by the neoliberal corporatist faction, has been failing us. They have failed to yet protect our precious and precarious democracy and the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr and John R Lewis, the real heroes who have blazed this trail for decades on behalf of a democracy for all with their own blood and lives, only to be blocked once again by the self-serving employment of the racist filibuster Senate rule of yesteryear by corporate shills “posing” as genuine ‘Senate representatives’ for the people — a procedural rule that serves as a “corporate kill switch” to our ability to govern on behalf of the people the Senate is ostensibly intended to serve. Our paper-thin majorities in both the Senate and the House are precarious, and without significant action soon we will lose even that.

Further, although 2022 is a midterm election typically with low turnout and losses to the other side because of what’s happening at the National level; the Democratic Party must heed the poignant truth of *this* warning, which carries over to midterm elections. If the neoliberal corporate donor class of the national

Democratic Party elite steals another presidential primary in 2024 away from the people's choice yet again, like it did in 2016 and 2020, *that* will be the death nail of our future for which THEY will be forever accountable and receive the ultimate opprobrium of disgrace and loss. 2024 is indeed bearing down on us and we must be thinking about it *now*, in this 2022 election. It is about the soul of the Democratic Party itself.

Are Primary Elections about the people's democratic choice? Let us hope so for this midterm primary, as we have a superb Secretary of State overseeing it. But it is not so at the national level. The Democratic Party cannot get away with putting on a charade of a presidential primary election over and over, drawing in millions to participate, where regardless of the people's wishes expressed by their democratic primary vote, the people's majority choice for the nominee is stolen at the end with underhanded manipulation by Democratic Party operatives. To undermine and sabotage the campaign of the leading candidate, or any candidate, is corruption of democracy to its core. We've twice been blessed with a progressive candidate stepping forward, whose very being and life's work has exhibited the "light" of highest integrity with decades of consistent service fighting the good fight for the needs all ordinary working class people of America. But each time when it was clear this man Bernie Sanders was winning, the party elite has stolen it at the end. Once in a lifetime does such a man as an FDR or a Bernie Sanders grace the stage of American politics. It is a crime against the soul of America to steal that from us.

Spirit of the Democratic Party: It is *not* Joe Biden, but Bernie's presence itself and what he represented for *all of us*, that inspired and brought forth the crescendo of the greatest political enthusiasm in ages! A youthful generation of millions in spirit and life showed up to support their progressive candidate and a real future we all could believe in. Then, when progressives led by Bernie were actually winning, to have this massive enthusiasm snuffed out by party elites — the likes of Clinton's DNC in 2016 and Obama himself with a few phone calls of collusion in 2020 — steal these primary elections away from the people is like the dagger of betrayal stabbed into the soul of democracy itself.

And yet to expect them — *us* — to still show up as "ordered" by the party elites because what the other side offers is such a "nightmare to behold" ... in order to

be shafted again and again is the height of arrogant hypocrisy. Why would they show up to participate once more, for a meaningless exercise of betrayal when they know their enthusiasm will be snuffed out every time at the end by the very neoliberal corporate forces that are destroying our society? Why *should* they show up yet again, when the party has demonstrated by its very actions that in order for it to hold on to the levers of power, it is willing to risk losing the greatest political enthusiasm in ages? *That* is merely a “fake” primary election; and its mark of betrayal is killing the Democratic Party and our future.

The possibility to recover and rebuild the necessary enthusiasm from such severely earned mistrust and betrayal, in order to rebuild enough trust in our “democracy” to carry us through to the must wins in the 2022 midterms and the 2024 presidential, is surely a tall, if not impossible order. So, there must be a better reason to show up. And *that* must be for true progressives to take control of the Democratic Party apparatus away from these old guard elites, who have so betrayed our trust in democracy itself. We are at the precipice of losing it once and for all. So, this primary election has much deeper significance than just beating the rightwing cult freak in Western Colorado; it is about saving our country.

The Future: I am a progressive who is fighting this war for a progressive future for all of us. That means a primary focus on people, community and climate. In fact, there is a nation-wide published list, titled “[REAL Progressive Candidates Directory](#)” that includes “Democrats, Greens, and Independents who believe in universal human rights, support a single-payer universal healthcare (meaning Medicare For All, *not public-option*) AND reject corporate PAC money,” last updated February 24, 2022. Root Routledge is one of only two candidates chosen from Colorado’s 3rd District to make the list.

It is irrelevant whether or not I personally win the nomination with a strategic focus on climate and a well-developed “[Strategic Vision for a Viable American Future](#)” (links below in this website). Such a strategic vision with a [focus on climate](#), so far have not been a big sell in Colorado’s 3rd District. What’s more strategically important is for true progressives to kick out the old guard and take control of this party before it’s too late.

Videos: I am not making any more videos for this primary campaign; there are several videos of me speaking in my website below. However, if you wish to view a video of me (still with Covid-hermit beard) and the other seven candidates for this 2022 cycle (now there are nine, I've been told) introducing ourselves for 5 or 6 minutes each, here is the link and password to the [July 9, 2021 "CD3 Candidate Meet & Greet" video](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/gccFoUvA4HEJsH-uh0I7Y7HHPV4UtDUbuoVnxKBjHCZExAhOdF7PmP0pEaldNk97.XpSgmM4mtD-2vY8p?startTime=1625616184000), put on by the Colorado Democratic Party, Morgan Carroll, Chair, and 3rd District Chair, James Iacino.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/gccFoUvA4HEJsH-uh0I7Y7HHPV4UtDUbuoVnxKBjHCZExAhOdF7PmP0pEaldNk97.XpSgmM4mtD-2vY8p?startTime=1625616184000>

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Root's part goes from **18:34** to **24:34** minutes, if you wish to scroll directly to my introductory comments.

With sincere best wishes to everyone,

Root Routledge, PhD
Durango, Colorado
February 25, 2022
