



"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Dear friends,

As we honor the great Martin Luther King, Jr. this month, we invite you to join us in our work. We have projects going on all the time – not just at election time – in order to reach our goal of electing open-minded, forward-thinking, compassionate leaders. We're working year-round to hold our elected leaders accountable; to illustrate the connections between our daily lives and the decisions of leaders who were elected to serve us; and to show people what Democrats stand for. There are lots of ways to [get involved with the GarCo Dems](#), and in the words of MLK, "anyone can serve."

This week marks the beginning of the 2023 Colorado State Legislative session and we're excited to see a new face representing the Western Slope: Representative Elizabeth Velasco! Read more about Rep. Velasco and the Legislature's priorities in these pieces: [Western Slope representatives talk legislative priorities in first town hall of 2023](#); [2023 Colorado legislative session opens with Velasco and Will representing the Roaring Fork Valley](#); [From a gig worker to educators and retired military, there are a ton of new lawmakers in the state legislature. Let's meet 9 of them.](#)

Congratulations to all of the great Colorado leaders that were sworn in this month, including US Senator Michael Bennet, Governor Jared Polis, Secretary of State Jena Griswold, State Treasurer Dave Young, Attorney General Phil Weiser, Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera, State Senator Dylan Roberts, and State Representative Elizabeth Velasco.

We also want to extend a big THANK YOU to Jean Alberico for her 40 years of service to Garfield County, serving as Clerk and Recorder since 2006. Thanks to Jean, elections in our county have been safe, secure, and accessible to all eligible voters. Jean was instrumental in bringing 24/7 Ballot Drop Boxes to every town in our county. We'll be honoring Jean and her steadfast commitment to fair and transparent election processes at our County Party Reorganization meeting on February 11 (see details below).

I hope everyone's 2023 is off to a great start!

Yours,
Debbie

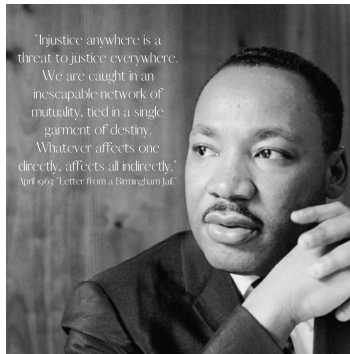


HAPPY MLK DAY!

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly"

- MLK, Jr. 1963 Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Read Debbie's column on Honoring MLK from 2022: [Honoring MLK through action](#)



Join us for our biennial Reorganization Meeting!

Saturday, Feb. 11 @ 11:00 a.m.

New Castle Library
402 W. Main Street, New Castle, CO

Every other year, on odd-numbered years, county parties in Colorado must hold a "Reorganizational Meeting," or Reorg, as it is often called. This meeting includes elections for Party Officers, Bonus Members for multi-county committees, and open positions for Precinct Organizers. Everyone is welcome to attend; those eligible to vote are party officers, executive committee members, precinct organizers (or PCPs), and elected officials at the county, state, or national level who are members of the County Party.

If you are interested in running for any of the above positions, please let us know by emailing us at info@garcodems.org by February 1 so that we can add your name to the ballot.



The Glenwood Springs City Council election is on April 4. Read this [update on candidates](#) in the Post Independent. The deadline to turn in petitions and a signed affidavit to run for City Council is Jan. 23.

Recent News and Columns

Did you miss any of our recent Op Eds and other publications? Check them out by clicking below:

- [Scrooges, heroes, and Social Security](#) (Post Independent, December 15, 2022)
 - [Reflections on the elections](#) (Post Independent, November 18, 2022)
 - [Vote for integrity this November](#) (Post Independent, October 21, 2022)
 - [How powerful are County Commissioners?](#) (Post Independent, September 15, 2022)
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