

## Memorandum

Date: September 17, 2020  
To: Interested Parties  
From: Lauren Spangler

### Opportunity for Democratic Pick Up in Douglas County Commission Seat

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According to the results of our recent survey<sup>1</sup>, Democrat Darien Wilson has a clear path to defeating Republican incumbent Lora Thomas in the contest for Douglas County Commission. The combination of Trump's collapse of popularity in this county and the Mountain West generally, combined with Thomas' political attacks on the public health system during a global pandemic, create a dead heat race once contrast messages are introduced.

Wilson has the real opportunity to grow her support thanks to Donald Trump at the top of the ticket. Trump and Joe Biden are locked in a tight race, with neither candidate reaching majority at the outset: **48 percent of Douglas County voters support Biden today while 49 percent support Trump.**

Initially, Thomas sits just above the majority threshold, capturing 52 percent to Wilson's 42 percent. Once voters are introduced to contrast messages on both candidates, the race moves to a dead heat, with 48 percent of voters backing Democrat Darien Wilson and an equal 48 percent supporting Republican Lora Thomas. This race has the potential to go down to the wire come Election Day.

Additionally, key elements of Wilson's personal story resonate far more deeply than Thomas' do in the current political environment. Wilson's profile as a local small business owner and her platform focused on addressing the threat of COVID create a strong contrast with a Trump-aligned career politician.

As a result, it will be absolutely essential for Wilson to have the resources she needs to communicate her positive message, while drawing a sharp contrast with Thomas, especially in light of the current health care and economic crisis.

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<sup>1</sup> These findings are based on a survey of 350 November 2020 likely voters. Calling took place from August 30<sup>th</sup>-September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, and interviews were conducted by professional interviewers supervised by Myers Research | Strategic Services staff. The data were stratified to reflect the projected geographical contribution to the total expected vote. Sixty-eight percent of voters were reached on cell phones, and 32 percent on landlines. The margin of error associated with these data at a 95 in 100 percent confidence level is +/- 5.2 percent. The margin of error for subgroups is greater and varies.