

Ouray County Commissioner Lynn Padgett announced her intent to run for re-election on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024.

"Four years ago, I stepped up to run for County Commissioner because of the needs and challenges faced by Ouray County during the pandemic and my experience of leading through challenges and uncertainty. The county government lacked transparency, with multiple cases being negotiated with land owners and water interests in the courts, and the public was excluded."

"Since I've been on the BOCC, we have been able to bring details of the County Road 5 Settlement Agreement deal and the proposed Rams Horn Reservoir and Cow Creek Pipeline -- both initiated as court cases by the previous BOCC -- to open meetings for citizens to learn about and discuss."

"A lot of thought and conversations have led to my decision to run again to help the county adapt to the new normal without losing our county character or quality of life. The County and BOCC need someone to pay attention to how the land use code is applied, especially in our high alpine areas. Since nearly half of Ouray County is federal public lands, we need someone to understand the details of the GMUG Forest Plan Revision process and contents."

Padgett served two terms as the District 1, Ouray County Commissioner from 2009-2016. She started her current term in 2021 and is eligible to run for re-election. She has lived in her off-grid solar-powered house on Log Hill Mesa for 24 years, where she raised two children, now alums of Ridgway High School. She lives with her husband, Jeff, and their two rescue dogs.

"Ouray County is special because of our people and communities. We work hard to be here because of our quality of life, which for many is deeply intertwined with outdoor recreation and access to incredible public lands. Growing and staying true to our values and community connections matters. Details matter. Honoring our master plan and applying our land use code equitably, consistently, and fairly matters."

To help her decide if she should run, Padgett convened a fireside chat on March 2nd in Ridgway to hear firsthand what was essential to constituents. About 35 citizens came to share their thoughts, including Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated voters.

Citizens expressed the need to protect our communities and way of life while enhancing opportunities and embracing tourism.

I heard, 'We need to plan for what we need to retain our quality of life and the environment. This includes attainable housing, transportation, disaster preparedness, aging in place, clean energy, and economic diversity. We must be resilient and protect our dark skies, water resources, public lands access, and scenic integrity,' said Padgett.

Padgett was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Colorado Broadband Deployment Board in 2021. In 2023, she was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to the Bureau of Land Management's Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council, where she serves as Chair.

Padgett was honored as the Colorado County Commissioner of the Year by Colorado Counties, Inc. and her peers in 2011. The selection committee was comprised of seven Republicans and one Democrat. She was voted as the People's Choice Winner of the Ouray County Plaindealer BEST OF OURAY COUNTY – Best Politician for 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Padgett invites anyone who wants to discuss issues with her to email her at lynn2024@lynnpadgettforouraycounty.org. She's planning on participating in meet-and-greets and additional "fireside chats," both in person and virtually. If you would like to meet with Commissioner Padgett for coffee, food, a hike, SUP, a dog walk, or a virtual meeting – reach out by email or phone.

