

Arvada Fire District Board Candidates

(candidates shown in ballot order)

Jim
Whitfield



Jim Whitfield and his wife Carmen have been married for over 26 years and have two grown sons. He is part owner of a workplace technology company that has been based in Arvada since 1984. He attended Arvada High School and has earned degrees from the Colorado School of Mines and the University of Houston.

Jim brings knowledge of Special District, Fire District issues, and other government entities with which the District Board interacts with his experience at the Colorado Special Districts Association (SDA), the Apex Park and Recreation District, the Red Rocks College Foundation, and the Arvada Economic and Development Association. The SDA board provides oversight and assistance to all Special Districts in the State of Colorado including the Arvada Fire Protection District. Jim has been a resident of Arvada for over 37 years. In 2010 Jim attended the Metro North Chamber leadership program and was awarded the first Craig Falk Memorial Leadership award, which is for exhibiting extraordinary leadership, initiative, dedication, and loyalty during the program. Jim was also the recipient of the Arvada Community Spirit award in 2012. With his broad experience, Jim will help the Arvada Fire District with the building of its two new stations, state-level finance and revenue related issues, local intergovernmental issues, and District community outreach programs. Jim would like to see the Arvada Fire District continue to be a leader in the areas of employee safety and wellness and service to its citizens.

James
Gagliano



James Gagliano moved to Colorado over 21 years ago. James currently resides in Arvada with his wife Amy who is an Arvada native and two children. He has owned several businesses and understands how to meet service delivery expectations and financial obligations. James spends his time with his kids at their sporting events or family time in the mountains and traveling.

James started in the fire service in New Jersey 23 years ago. When he moved to Colorado he became a volunteer firefighter for Wheat Ridge Fire Protection District. James currently works for Westminster Fire Department at the rank of Fire Engineer. The experience of being in the career fire service and a business owner gives him the insight to understanding the needs of the community and the ever-changing challenges the fire service faces every day.

Debi Luft

No photo or bio available.

Bob Loveridge



I have been married to my wife for 33 years and we have two grown sons, who both achieved the rank of Eagle in the Boy Scouts of America among other accomplishments. As a Native of Arvada, I have always been proud of the Arvada Fire Protection District and the great service that they provide to the community. My goal is to help them continue this reputation and rise to higher achievements.

A few things that I have been involved with:

- CURRENT PRESIDENT OF ARVADA FIRE BOARD
- PAST PRESIDENT OF APEX PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
- JEFFERSON COUNTY BUILDING CODE BOARD SINCE 1996
- INDUCTED INTO ARVADA WEST HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME
- SKI INSTRUCTOR FOR BLIND SKIER PROGRAM
- ARVADA BUSINESS OWNER
- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Jeffrey Van Es



Jeff has lived in Arvada for the past 20 years. He is married and has one daughter who attends Ralston Valley High School. Jeff currently serves as Vice President on the AFPD Board of Directors.

Jeff served 8 years as a volunteer firefighter for the Arvada Fire Protection District. After his resignation as a volunteer, he continued his involvement in the department by volunteering his time and experience during the construction of the new fire stations and station remodels, in which he received a Certificate of Excellence from the Arvada Fire Protection District *in recognition of his efforts, leadership and inspiration with the construction of the AFPD's new fire stations*, in 2007. He has also volunteered his time teaching the AFPD Building Construction Class for multiple Fire Academies.

He has worked in the commercial construction setting in Colorado since graduating from Iowa State University in 1993. He serves as Vice President on his neighborhood HOA Board.

Steve Smith



My beautiful wife Briana and our children Tanner and Alexa are the foundation of my life. In 2015, I retired with 26 years of firefighting experience held within the Arvada Fire Protection District, totaling 28 years in emergency services. I am now a Dispatcher for South Metro Fire Rescue, continuing my service and dedication to the community.

Having great pride, I hold the Drum Major title for the Colorado Emerald Society Pipes and Drums; we honor the fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters and their families. In addition, I have been the Vice President for my children's elementary school and an Eagle Scout. I am extremely proud to state that I have been a lifelong resident of Arvada!