

November 26, 2024

Garfield County Library Board and BOCC  
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the Garfield County Library Board. I look forward to an interview with you.

I grew up in Aspen, but I have lived in Garfield County, in Glenwood Springs since 2005.

I currently work as a Deputy District Attorney based in Garfield County and have been practicing law in Colorado since 1999. and while I am in court there most of the time. I also served one term (each) on the Aspen and Glenwood Springs City Council(s). If it helps, I was a library aid at the Aspen Middle School and High School for several years. But since then, I have been a frequent user of libraries including the one down the street from my home.

Despite the technological advances I feel Public Libraries serve an important purpose. Not everyone has the internet access or skills or technological (my mother for example) to find what they need “online”, but they can always go to one of the many libraries in Garfield County and access the books or information they need. And the staff is always there to assist people in finding what they need. Something you may not get if you were “only online”

In addition, there aren't many truly “public” places left in the United States. But our libraries are truly public. You don't need money or status; you don't have to make a purchase (like at a restaurant or a coffee shop) to be there and stay there. Anyone, adults and children can access the library and enjoy the facilities and premises. Our public libraries require nothing of its visitors: no purchases, no membership fees, no dress code. You can stay all day, and you don't have to buy anything. You don't need money to access a multitude of on-site resources that include books, e-books and magazines, job-hunting assistance, computer stations, free Wi-Fi (which is crucial for many people), and much more. In addition, many of our libraries, including the one in Glenwood, provide and maintain meeting rooms and public areas for various organizations, large and small, to assemble.

Thus, I believe that I would be a good board member because as a local citizen and patron I know how important my library, our libraries are to the community and what an important resource they are and have become and will be in the future. It is important that they have proper leadership and resources, and I know I can help provide that.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or if I can answer any questions.

Yours sincerely,

*Tony Hershey*

Tony Hershey

[Redacted]

[Redacted]