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## From the Desk of Commissioner Stan VanderWerf

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**Board of County Commissioners**  
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Carrie Geitner, District 2  
Stan VanderWerf, District 3  
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Dear El Paso County Residents,

El Paso County is known for being one of the [best places to live in the United States](#), and we can see a symbol of this greatness from almost any vantage point. Colorado Springs sits nestled at the foothills of Pikes Peak, America's Mountain, whose purple mountain majesty was an inspiration to one of the most beloved patriotic songs, *America the Beautiful*. Our region offers the best of nature and a vibrant culture that draws in new residents from across the country and the world.

El Paso County and Colorado Springs was founded on the vision and hard work of our past community leaders. As we continue to develop and grow, we look forward to building upon this foundation and continuing to serve our residents with the best quality of life possible.

The Quality of Life Indicators Report is an essential reference as we look to shape our future and future generations to come. It provides the facts we need to make informed decisions and to act effectively as a government and a community. The report provides evidence of the challenges we face collectively, and identifies the strengths we can build upon as we move forward. Finally, it also provides key data to use as we make decisions concerning future development and growth in our community, keeping El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs as one of the top places to live in the United States.

I am pleased to share a heartfelt "thank you!" with Pikes Peak United Way and with the hundreds of volunteers and community organizations that worked hard to create this valuable report. Well done!

Sincerely,



Stan VanderWerf  
Commissioner  
Chair, Board of County Commissioners  
El Paso County, Colorado