



1. Your name

Max Salfinger

2. Why did you decide to run for the Park Hospital District Board?

Since moving to Estes Park in 2021, my wife and I have embraced this incredible community. Whether it is volunteering, attending town hall meetings, or enjoying the natural beauty of Rocky Mountain National Park, we are deeply invested in Estes Park's future. As a frequent attendee of Park Hospital District Board meetings, I see both the

strengths and challenges facing Estes Park Health, and I believe my experience can help shape a bright future for healthcare in our community.

The elected board will have different responsibilities once the affiliation moves forward. I am extremely excited to help build a new relationship between the hospital, UCHHealth and the elected board.

3. Describe any attributes, skills, or experience you have that would make you an effective Park Hospital District board member

As a team player, my career has been built on improving public health systems, ensuring accurate and timely diagnostics, and leading teams toward innovation. Now, I want to apply that experience to ensure Estes Park Health remains a trusted, high-quality resource for our community.

My experience serving on the Estes Park Health Foundation Board since December 2023 has enabled me to develop relationships with management and hospital staff as well as gaining an understanding of the Estes Park Health needs and operations. My membership on various committees helps me understand and identify fund raising needs and opportunities.

4. Describe your past experience serving on boards and what you did to make those boards effective

Currently, I serve as vice chair of the Estes Park Health Foundation and chair of its Fund Development Committee. On the professional side, I am the treasurer of the American Friends of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Furthermore, I am the inaugural chair of the Association of Public Health Laboratories Nontuberculous Mycobacteria working group. I was a state legislature in Switzerland and chaired the Personnel Committee.

Whatever tasks I have committed to, I am always prepared for the meetings by doing research about the topic at hand and I am always committed to investing whatever time is required to get the job done.

5. What are the three most important issues facing the Park Hospital District and how should the Board address these issues?

Successful Affiliation with UC Health – Completing the affiliation with UC Health is the number one priority. This will provide sustainable long-term healthcare for the Estes Valley for the foreseeable future.

Representing Community Interests - According to a recent press release from Estes Park Health, the Park Health District Board will have different responsibilities after affiliation with UCHealth. I will make sure that the healthcare needs of the Estes Valley community are heard and considered by our new partners.

Strengthening Financial Stability - A financially strong hospital is essential for maintaining high-quality care. I will work with UC Health to advocate for sustainable financial strategies that prioritize patient care, staff retention, and smart resource allocation.

Community Health Needs Assessment - Inspired by the Rocky Mountain National Park, the Estes Park Valley community is unique in various aspects - an older community and many of us are living here because of the hospital; a seasonal economy; a needed workforce which has difficulty finding affordable housing. What is missing is a holistic approach for the well-being and health of our entire community - a community health needs assessment is a must which should not only include the hospital but also the health needs for less fortunate ones, mental health, dental screening in the school, pharmacy services, home and hospice care.

6. Are you for or against the possible partnership with UCHealth, and describe your reasons for or against the partnership

As a new Park Hospital District board member, I would support the affiliation 100%. I believe our hospital and the community will benefit from the stronger purchasing power of the UCHHealth system – higher reimbursement rates and better pricing when purchasing equipment and consumables. Besides these positive financial incentives, the availability of medical services and efficiency of the operation will increase. When implementing new processes, the wheel does not need to be invented again - another hospital in the system may have already done that. Doctors and nurses can seek consultations easier with other professional colleagues within the system when caring for unusual situations.