# MEGHAN LUKENS REPORT



**JULY 2022** 

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

Name:	Meghan Leigh Lukens
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Birth: May 10, 1993

Family: Single; Mother Shannon is the news director for

Steamboat Radio

Education: Master's degree, Leadership in Educational

organizations, University of Colorado

Bachelor's degree, history, University of Colorado

Military: None

Professional Experience: Social studies teacher, Steamboat Springs High School

Political Experience: Vice Chair Capacity Building for the Boulder County

Democratic Party

### **TIMELINE**

May 10, 1993	Born
2011	Graduated from Steamboat Springs High School
2011	Played hockey at Concordia University in Wisconsin
2012	Began studying at the University of Colorado
2015	Graduated from the University of Colorado
2015	Began student teaching at Niwot High School
2016	Moved to Kosovo
2017	Began teaching at Peak to Peak Charter School
2020	Earned master's degree from the University of Colorado

### **BOULDER DEMOCRAT**

- ➤ In December 2019, Meghan Lukens announced that she was the new Vice Chair Capacity Building for the Boulder County Democratic Party
  - o In a Dec. 12, 2019, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "Excited to announce that I am the new Vice Chair Capacity Building for the Boulder County Democratic Party! Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my political endeavors thus far. 2020 is just around the corner, so I'm looking forward to continuing to fight the good fight #VoteDemocrat2020"
- ➤ Meghan Lukens in June 2020: "I'm so proud to be a volunteer and officer of the Boulder County Democratic Party"
  - O In a June 26, 2020, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "Tonight the Boulder County Democratic Party hosted our 45th annual Truman Celebration virtually. As Vice Chair Capacity, I have been preparing for this event since January, which led to a huge change up come April when we decided the usually in-person event needed to be virtual. Seeing as this is our biggest fundraising event of the year, we still made it a huge success, featuring the amazing speaker, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed. The money raised will be going to BCDP's Get Out the Vote and outreach efforts to make sure the Blue Wave continues in Colorado. I'm so proud to be a volunteer and officer of the Boulder County Democratic Party."



Tonight the Boulder County Democratic Party hosted our 45th annual Truman Celebration virtually. As Vice Chair Capacity, I have been preparing for this event since January, which led to a huge change up come April when we decided the usually in-person event needed to be virtual. Seeing as this is our biggest fundraising event of the year, we still made it a huge success, featuring the amazing speaker, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed. The money raised will be going to BCDP's Get Out the Vote and outreach efforts to make sure the Blue Wave continues in Colorado. I'm so proud to be a volunteer and officer of the Boulder County Democratic Party.

Thank you to the amazing Truman Team: Raffi Mercuri, Katie Malzbender, Henry Vansant, Jason Sherry, Carol Teal, Susan Winter, Jake Marsing, Charlotte Pitts, Mariel Kramer, and Marisa Dirks.

## ➤ The 2020 Boulder County Democratic Party platform included support for Medicare for All

O According to the 2020 Boulder County Democratic Party platform, "We call on our Congressional delegation to reject industry propaganda and to co-sponsor H.R. 1384 Medicare for All Act of 2019, sponsored by Representative Pramila Jayapal, and the Senate companion bill S.1129, sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders. We urge Congressional leaders, Speaker Pelosi, and Majority Leader McConnell, to move these bills for consideration and vote. These comprehensive health care finance reform bills are the next needed step to build on the tremendous accomplishments and progress of the ACA."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Dec. 12, 2019; Link

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, June 26, 2020; <u>Link</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 2020 Party Platform: Health Care, Boulder County Democratic Party, Oct. 7, 2019

- ➤ The 2020 Boulder County Democratic Party's platform included a national gun registry, assault weapons ban, government buy-back programs and a minimum age of 21 to purchase, own or manufacture a gun
  - O According to the 2020 Boulder County Democratic Party platform, "1. We call on the state and federal government to require background checks, a 10-day waiting period, and a minimum age of 21 years for all prospective gun purchasers. No one on the TSA 'no-fly list' shall be able to purchase, own, or manufacture a firearm.
    - "2. We call on our elected officials to establish a national gun ownership registry.
    - "3. We call on Congress to pass laws requiring safe storage for privately owned guns and ammunition.
    - "4. We call on Congress to pass laws, including civil liability, to require anyone who manufactures firearms and/or ammunition, including 3D printed firearms, to be licensed to do so.
    - "5. We call on local, state, and federal government to ban sale and private ownership of military-style assault weapons."
  - o According to the platform, "11. We call on officials at every level of government to institute voluntary buy-back programs for firearms." 5
- According to the 2020 Boulder County Democratic Party platform, "To meet our commitments to future generations, Boulder County Democrats resolved to adopt the Green New Deal in July 2019. The 100% Clean Economy Act of 2019 provides a framework to legislation required to guide us in reducing emissions and other environmental contamination from human activities and in mitigating the effects of climate change"
  - According to the 2020 Boulder County Democratic Party platform, "Human-caused environmental impacts, chief among them climate change, must be addressed immediately by every country, state, community, and individual, as the greatest existential threat facing humanity.
    - "To meet our commitments to future generations, Boulder County Democrats resolved to adopt the Green New Deal in July 2019. The 100% Clean Economy Act of 2019 provides a framework to legislation required to guide us in reducing emissions and other environmental contamination from human activities and in mitigating the effects of climate change. As we approach the global temperature tipping point, we will see more water and food shortages, more increasingly powerful extreme weather events, and more wildfires. We believe our time to radically reduce

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 2020 Party Platform: Gun Violence, Boulder County Democratic Party, Oct. 7, 2019

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 2020 Party Platform: Gun Violence, Boulder County Democratic Party, Oct. 7, 2019

greenhouse gas emissions is extremely short. Therefore, our mission must be accomplished by 2030.<sup>26</sup>

Editor's Note: No Meghan Lukens vote for the platform has been found. For the entire 2020 Boulder County Democratic Party platform, see:

bocodems.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/Platform/EYHuM6chvPZLjbeRXbyOBTABFWbzrVh6GyKlmHII2uvh5O?rtime=K9kNPF9u2kg

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 2020 Party Platform: Climate Crisis, Energy Policy, and the Environment, Boulder County Democratic Party, Dec. 11, 2019

#### 2020 ELECTION

- Meghan Lukens in 2020: "If you want to know how I'm voting, check out bocovoter.org! Thank you to the Boulder County Democratic Party for this amazing voter guide"
  - o In an Oct. 14, 2020, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "Happy voting / election season! People text me all the time asking my opinions on specific ballot measures and other down-ballot races. If you want to know how I'm voting, check out bocovoter.org! Thank you to the Boulder County Democratic Party for this amazing voter guide."<sup>7</sup>
- The Boulder County Voter Guide recommended a "No" vote on an income tax cut, a "No" vote on citizen voting, and a "No" vote on banning abortions after 22 weeks
  - O According to the 2020 Boulder County Voter Guide, "Listed below are Boulder County Democratic Party recommendations for statewide amendments and propositions, city ballot issues and ballot questions in the order they will appear on your ballot. All Boulder County ballots will contain statewide amendments and propositions. Your ballot will also reflect the ballot issues for, and depending upon, your districts and if applicable, your municipality."

Measure	Explanation	<b>Boulder Dems Position</b>	Result
Amendment B	Repeal Gallagher	Yes	Passed 57.5-42.5
	Amendment of 1982		
Amendment 76	Changing the Colorado	No	Passed 62.9-37.1
	constitution from "every		
	citizen" can vote to "only a		
	citizen" can vote.		
Proposition EE:	Tax on E-cigarettes;	Yes	Passed 67.6-32.4
	dedicates funds to education		
Proposition 113:	National Popular Vote	Yes	Passed 52.3-47.7
Proposition 114:	Reintroduces gray wolves	Yes	Passed 50.9-49.1
	on public lands		
Proposition 115:	Prohibits abortion after 22	No	Rejected 59-41
	weeks gestational age		
Proposition 116:	Decrease state income tax	No	Passed 57.9-42.1
	from 4.63% to 4.55%		
Proposition 117:	Require Voter Approval of	No	Passed 52.6-47.5
	Certain New Enterprises		
	Exempt from TABOR		
	Initiative		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Oct. 14, 2020; <u>Link</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Boulder County Voting Guide, as accessed through Archive.org, Oct. 29, 2020

- ➤ Proposition 116 would reduce the state's income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 4.55 percent. State fiscal projections estimated that the average worker would save about \$37
  - o In a Nov. 3, 2020, article, the *Daily Camera* reported, "Colorado voters will soon be paying less in state income tax after voters approved Proposition 116 Tuesday night.

"Support for the measure led 56.7% to 43.3%, with 83% of the vote — more than 2.7 million votes — counted shortly before 11 p.m.

"Conservative groups have led the charge for Proposition 116, which would reduce the state's income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.55%. And even though progressives have seen a higher turnout of their voters so far, that doesn't necessarily translate to how Coloradans vote on statewide ballot issues.

"The tax cut will help Coloradans suffering from the economic effects of COVID-19, proponents say. But opponents argue that it will significantly decrease state revenue that has already been reduced for programs people depend on while giving the wealthiest Coloradans a significant tax cut.

"Colorado ranks 28th for its income tax burden, according to a WalletHub analysis, and state fiscal projections estimated earlier this year that the average worker will save about \$37 if the measure passes. The state, meanwhile, would bring in \$78.1 million less this fiscal year and more the following, according to that same projection."

- Amendment 76 would amend the Constitution to state that only a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age can vote
  - o In a Nov. 3, 2020, article, the *Durango Herald* reported, "Amendment 76: Citizenship Qualification of Voters. As of 10:20 p.m., 62.3% of the voters favored this measure with 37.7% against it.

"A Yes vote for Amendment 76 would amend the Constitution to state that only a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age can vote. The measure would end Colorado's constitutional right for 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if they will turn 18 before the subsequent general election."

<sup>9</sup> Saja Hindi, "Colorado Prop 116 results: Voters approve state income tax cut," *Daily Camera*, Nov. 3, 2020

<sup>10 &</sup>quot;Colorado voters weigh in on 11 ballot issues," Durango Herald, Nov. 3, 2020

### **TAXES**

- ➤ In 2018, Meghan Lukens supported a yes vote on Amendment 73
  - o In an Oct. 20, 2018, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "Hey Colorado: Have you voted yet? Please vote YES on Amendment 73. Colorado schools are struggling greatly due to lack of funding. Class sizes are growing because so many quality teachers cannot afford to stay in Colorado. Please support schools and vote yes!"



Hey Colorado: Have you voted yet? Please vote YES on Amendment 73. Colorado schools are struggling greatly due to lack of funding. Class sizes are growing because so many quality teachers cannot afford to stay in Colorado. Please support schools and vote yes!

- Amendment 73, which failed by a 57-43 margin, would have created a graduated income tax for people earning more than \$150,000 a year and would raise the state corporate tax rate
  - o In a Nov. 7, 2018, article, the *Denver Post* reported, "Colorado voters Tuesday night rejected a massive infusion of funding for Colorado's schools that was sought to deal with enrollment surges and funding cuts.
    - "In all, voters faced an unprecedented \$1.5 billion in local bond issues as well as a \$1.6 billion statewide tax measure called Amendment 73 that would have increased funding for every student in Colorado.
    - "But Amendment 73 failed by a margin of 57 percent to 43 percent, with 71 percent of votes counted. It needed 55 percent of the vote the pass." <sup>12</sup>
  - According to the same article, "The measure would have created a graduated income tax for people earning more than \$150,000 a year and would raise the state corporate tax rate. It also would have changed the assessment rate the portion of a person's property value that is taxed for commercial and residential property." <sup>13</sup>
- ➤ Under the amendment, individuals with a taxable income of \$150,000 to \$200,000 would see an increase in annual income tax liability by about \$185. Individuals with a taxable income of \$250,000 would experience an increased annual income tax liability of around \$870.
  - o In a Sept. 28, 2018, article, the *La Junta Tribune-Democrat* reported, "Amendment 73 on Colorado's 2018 state election ballot would increase funding for preschool through twelfth grade public education if passed on November 6. The amendment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Oct. 20, 2018; Link

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Monte Whaley, "Voters say 'no' to school tax measure," Dewer Post, Nov. 7, 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Monte Whaley, "Voters say 'no' to school tax measure," Denver Post, Nov. 7, 2018

proposes to pay for the increase via a raise in state individual income tax rates for taxpayers with a taxable income over \$150,000 and an increased state corporate income tax rate. For property taxes imposed by school districts, the amendment sets the assessment rate at 7.0 percent for residential properties and lowers the assessment rate for most nonresidential properties to 24.0 percent."<sup>14</sup>

O According to the same article, "Individuals with a taxable income of \$150,000 to \$200,000 would see an increase in annual income tax liability by about \$185. Individuals with a taxable income of \$250,000 would experience an increased annual income tax liability of around \$870. According to the ballot booklet, 'the change in income tax rates is expected to increase state revenue by an estimated \$1.4 billion in budget year 2019-20.'

"Amendment 73 raises the corporate tax rate from 4.63 percent to 6.0 percent. This would generate an expected \$229.4 million in budget funds for 2019-20. In regard to property taxes for residential properties, the Legislative Council Staff projects the rate to fall from 7.2 percent to around 6.1 percent for 2019 and 2020." <sup>15</sup>

# The measure would have raised an additional \$1.6 billion a year for preschool through 12th grade education

O In a Nov. 7, 2018, article, the *Denver Post* reported, "It would have raised an additional \$1.6 billion a year for preschool through 12th grade education. That's in addition to the roughly \$9.7 billion in federal, state and local money that Colorado will spend this year on schools." 16

### In 2019, Meghan Lukens supported a "Yes" vote on Proposition CC

o In an Oct. 16, 2019, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "Vote YES on Prop CC! Check out this informative op-ed that Henry Vansant wrote on behalf of the Boulder County Democratic Party, detailing why a YES vote will help Colorado's education system and transportation issues. Did you know that Colorado has one of the lowest funded education systems in the country, and because of this many teachers are struggling to make ends meet, causing a teacher shortage? A YES vote on Prop CC will help alleviate our education crisis!"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Christian Burney, "Amendment 73 proposes raised income tax for corporations and wealthy residents to fund schools," *La Junta Tribune-Democrat*, Sept. 28, 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Christian Burney, "Amendment 73 proposes raised income tax for corporations and wealthy residents to fund schools," *La Junta Tribune-Democrat*, Sept. 28, 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Monte Whaley, "Voters say 'no' to school tax measure," Denver Post, Nov. 7, 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Oct. 16, 2019; Link



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- Proposition CC, which was soundly defeated by Colorado voters, would have let the state keep any tax revenues above the state spending cap money that the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights guaranteed as refunds to taxpayers. Democrats said it wasn't a tax increase; Republicans argued it effectively was
  - O In a Nov. 6, 2019, article, the *Denver Post* reported, "Colorado voters have soundly rejected Proposition CC, dealing a blow to Democratic budget reform efforts and giving the state's fiscal conservatives a significant victory.
    - "This is the definition of a team win,' said Michael Fields, executive director of Colorado Rising Action, which led opposition to Prop CC. We were up against misleading ballot language and millions of dollars of out-of-state money pouring in against us, but thankfully our Taxpayer's Bill of Rights is preserved.'
    - "As of midnight, there were 574,385 votes in favor of Proposition CC and 716,174 in opposition, an 11-percentage-point difference.
    - "I didn't want the state to hold my money,' said Kylen Partch of Lakewood after she voted against Prop CC on Tuesday. 'It's mine.'
    - "The measure would have let the state keep any tax revenues above the state spending cap money that the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights currently guarantees as refunds to taxpayers. Democrats said it wasn't a tax increase; Republicans argued it effectively was.
    - "Once again, the people of Colorado have confirmed that they are the boss, not our part-time state legislature,' said Senate Minority Leader Chris Holbert, a Parker Republican. 'Despite overwhelming funding advantages, questionable ballot language, and the full endorsement of the Democratic power trifecta in Colorado, Proposition CC has failed." <sup>18</sup>
- Following the defeat of Proposition CC, Meghan Lukens said that she was "Disappointed in Colorado voters who shut down Prop CC"
  - o In a Nov. 5, 2019, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "Disappointed in Colorado voters who shut down Prop CC. Another year Colorado demonstrates we \*apparently\* do not value education. This is why voting matters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Justin Wingerter, "Colorado Prop CC: Effort to end TABOR refunds fails," *Denver Post*, Nov. 6, 2019

"Our schools have lost more than \$8 billion since the Great Recession. Students today sit in class sizes way too large, without adequate mental health supports, and their teachers work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Prop. CC passage would not have changed the reality that Colorado still funds each and every one of our students \$2,700 less than the national average. We can't expect every student to thrive when the power of our immense state wealth doesn't show up in our classrooms. Educators will continue to share the stories of our students with even more voters to support the changes we need to keep Colorado a great place to live, work, and raise a family." <sup>19</sup>



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Nov. 5, 2019; Link

### **GUN CONTROL**

- ➤ In 2018, Meghan Lukens said the goals of the March For Our Lives rallies were for reasonable gun control, including universal background checks, mandatory waiting periods, and raising the legal purchasing age to 21
  - O In a March 25, 2018, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "I was so inspired by the March For Our Lives this weekend, but was saddened to see how marchers in my hometown, Steamboat, were treated while marching. Not only is rolling coal disgusting and despicable towards the many road bikers who ride in Steamboat, but rolling coal repeatedly while flipping off peaceful protestors is just provocative. I have been following the comments all day on this photo, and the divisive rhetoric coming from people supporting this guy for illegally rolling coal is saddening. The goals of the March For Our Lives were for reasonable gun control including universal background checks, mandatory waiting periods, and raising the legal purchasing age to 21, all of which would provide way less gun control than there is in other developed nations, most of whom think Americans are foolish and preposterous for not having stricter gun control laws. I am very proud of the millions of protestors across the world this weekend, and am continually shocked that reasonable gun control legislation is so polarizing."<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, March 25, 2018; Link

### **ABORTION**

- ➤ In 2022, Meghan Lukens said that she absolutely supports a woman's right to choose and make decisions for her own body. Lukens also said the passage of the Reproductive Health Equity Act "was absolutely necessary to protect abortion access"
  - o In a May 5, 2022, article, *Real Vail* reported, "With this week's revelation of a U.S. Supreme Court poised to overturn nearly 50 years of precedent in Roe v. Wade, states are bracing for new legislative battles over reproductive rights. That includes House District 26 and the majority of Eagle County.

"Meghan Lukens, a social studies teacher at Steamboat Springs High School, is the Democratic nominee in the Nov. 8 general election for HD26, which, after redistricting, includes most of Eagle County and all of Routt, Rio Blanco and Moffat counties.

"Given the recent news regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's reported move to overturn Roe v. Wade, I want to first recognize how scary and upsetting this is for American women and the future of our country,' Lukens said in an email. 'I absolutely support a woman's right to choose and make decisions for her own body. It is crucial we keep in mind that anti-abortion laws do not eliminate abortions, they eliminate safe abortions."<sup>21</sup>

- O According to the same article, "Now there's a push for a state constitutional amendment, which would be harder for future legislatures or governors to overturn.
  - "The right for women to make decisions regarding their own bodies should be protected at the federal level, but seeing as the Supreme Court is dismantling this fundamental right, the passage of the Reproductive Health Equity Act was absolutely necessary to protect abortion access,' Lukens said of the recently passed state law."<sup>22</sup>
- ➤ The Reproductive Health Equity Act passed the Colorado legislature in 2022. The bill would clarify the use of contraception or to continue a pregnancy or have an abortion as a fundamental right, while a fertilized egg, embryo or fetus would not have independent or derivative rights
  - o In a March 23, 2022, article, the *Julesburg Advocate* reported, "The Reproductive Health Equity Act, by Democrat Sen. Julie Gonzales and Democrat Reps. Daneya Esgar and Meg Froelich, passed the Senate Wednesday after a long debate by a similar party-line vote as in the House.

<sup>22</sup> David Williams, "HD26 race highlights stark differences on abortion rights as SCOTUS targets Roe v. Wade protections," Real Vail, May 5, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> David Williams, "HD26 race highlights stark differences on abortion rights as SCOTUS targets Roe v. Wade protections," Real Vail, May 5, 2022

"House Bill 1279 now heads to Gov. Jared Polis, after passing the Senate by a 20-15 vote and the House by a 40-24 vote. Democrats have majorities in both chambers, leading to the passage of the bill.

"Should it receive the governor's approval, the bill would clarify the use of contraception or to continue a pregnancy or have an abortion as a fundamental right, while a fertilized egg, embryo or fetus would not have independent or derivative rights."<sup>23</sup>

# ➤ The bill allows access to abortion for pregnant women up until birth, according to the Colorado legislature

In an April 5, 2022, article, the *Daily Caller* reported, "Democratic Colorado Gov.
Jared Polis signed an abortion bill into law Monday that legalizes abortion as a 'right' in the state.

"Polis signed Colorado HB 22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, which passed the state Senate Mar. 23 by a vote of 20-15 and allows access to abortion for pregnant women up until birth, according to the Colorado legislature." <sup>24</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Brian Porter, "Abortion bill headed to governor," *Julesburg Advocate*, March 23, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Mary Rooke, "Colorado Governor Signs Bill Legalizing Abortion Up Until Birth," Daily Caller, April 5, 2022

### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

- ➤ On Dec. 22, 2021, Meghan Lukens gave \$50 to Rep. Joe Neguse's congressional campaign
  - According to the Federal Election Commission, on Dec. 22, 2021, Meghan Lukens of the Steamboat Springs School District gave \$50 to Neguse for Congress.<sup>25</sup>
- Less than a week later, Joe Neguse endorsed his endorsement of Meghan Lukens
  - In a Dec. 28, 2021, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "I am excited and honored to announce that I have received the endorsement of Congressman Joe Neguse.

"Congressman Joe Neguse embodies what it means to legislate with integrity and respect. He is a shining example of a community-oriented elected official. Colorado is lucky to have Congressman Neguse representing our state in the United States Congress."<sup>26</sup>



I am excited and honored to announce that I have received the endorsement of Congressman Joe Neguse.

Congressman Joe Neguse embodies what it means to legislate with integrity and respect. He is a shining example of a community-oriented elected official. Colorado is lucky to have Congressman Neguse representing our state in the United States Congress.

#meghanlukensforcolorado

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Individual Contributions: Meghan Lukens, Federal Election Commission, Dec. 22, 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Meghan Lukens for Colorado Facebook post, Dec. 28, 2021; Link

### ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

- In a 2019 Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "I love being the Fundraising Lead of the Boulder County Democratic Party, and I am so excited that our speaker for the Truman Dinner is Alexandria Ocasio Cortez!"
  - o In an Aug. 17, 2019, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "I love being the Fundraising Lead of the Boulder County Democratic Party, and I am so excited that our speaker for the Truman Dinner is Alexandria Ocasio Cortez! #truthtopower"<sup>27</sup>



I love being the Fundraising Lead of the Boulder County Democratic Party, and I am so excited that our speaker for the Truman Dinner is Alexandria Ocasio Cortez! #truthtopower

- In 2020, Meghan Lukens agreed with a Facebook comment that said that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez exemplified great leadership
  - O In a July 24, 2020, Facebook comment regarding Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's response to Rep. Ted Yoho's confrontation with her at the U.S. Capitol, Meghan Lukens said she completely agreed that "AOC is so well spoken and exemplifies great leadership."<sup>28</sup>



O In a July 24, 2020, article, CNN reported, "Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York on Friday rejected Florida GOP Rep. Ted Yoho's claim that 'no one was accosted, bullied or attacked' during their tense exchange this week on the steps of the Capitol, saying that Yoho and a Texas Republican lawmaker were both lying as she revealed new details about the viral incident.

"If he wants to continue to lie, that's his business," Ocasio-Cortez told CNN Friday.

"In the interview, Ocasio-Cortez added more detail about Yoho's broadside before he reportedly called her a 'f\*cking b\*tch' within an earshot of a reporter from The Hill newspaper. Ocasio-Cortez was walking up the east front steps of the Capitol to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Aug. 17, 2019; Link

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, July 24, 2020; Link

cast a vote Monday afternoon when both Yoho and Texas GOP Rep. Roger Williams approached her as they were walking down the steps.

"Yoho erupted at her instantly and kept 'escalating the situation,' she said."29

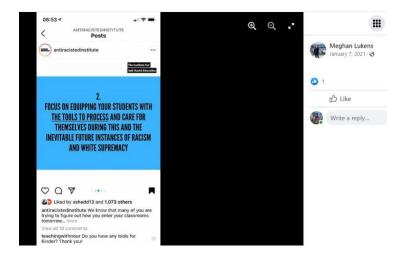
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Manu Raju, "Ocasio-Cortez reveals new details about viral incident with Rep. Ted Yoho," CNN, July 24, 2020

#### **RACISM**

- Meghan Lukens follows the Institute for Anti-Racist Education's Instagram page
  - O According to the Institute for Anti-Racist Education's Instagram page, Meghan Lukens is a follower of the page.<sup>30</sup>



- ➤ On Jan. 7, 2021, Meghan Lukens shared the Institute for Anti-Racist Education's Instagram post on her Facebook page. The post said following the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot, "Focus on equipping your students with the tools to process and care for themselves during this and the inevitable future instances of racism and white supremacy"
  - o In a Jan. 7, 2021, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "What anti-racist actions will you be taking today? Teachers, please talk with your students about the insurrection at the Capitol. I was on 9NEWS (KUSA) this morning talking about this exact subject. Message me for any resources you would like sent your way." In the comments of the post, Meghan Lukens shared a screenshot from the Institute for Anti-Racist Education, which said following the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot, "Focus on equipping your students with the tools to process and care for themselves during this and the inevitable future instances of racism and white supremacy" 31 32



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> www.instagram.com/antiracistedinstitute/followers/

<sup>31</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Jan. 7, 2021; <u>Link</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Jan. 7, 2021; Link

- The Institute for Anti-Racist Education's CEO's biography highlights her creation of "a unique framework to address the systemic racism that is deeply embedded in pedagogical practices and colonized curriculums which impedes the most vulnerable populations of students from flourishing"
  - According to the Institute for Anti-Racist Education's website, "Ashley Y. Lipscomb
    has a wealth of experience working with, motivating, and advocating for students
    and educators.

"After working as a teacher for five years and serving as a youth minister for eight years, Ashley has developed specialized interventions for her students, contributing to her success as an information literacy and language arts teacher at Frelinghuysen Middle School in Morristown, NJ. During her time in the classroom, Ashley advocated for the expansion of the language arts curriculum, leading to the incorporation of young adult literature that portrayed the Black experience. She also worked closely with school administrators to address pipeline issues contributing to the lack of a representative teaching staff.

"A graduate of Hampton University (BA English and Master in Teaching), Harvard Divinity School (MDiv) and Montclair State University (Certificate in Supervision), Ashley has participated in and spearheaded several committees focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion in both K-12 and higher education settings. She provides DEI consulting to students in the Diversity and Inclusion Management Course at the Harvard Extension School.

"Currently, her research uses a womanist methodology to center her story as a child of adjudicated parents and a Black woman from an urban community impacted by the racial implications of policies and laws, like mass incarceration, and analyze the effects they have on the emotional, spiritual, physical, social, political, and economic growth and development of the individual. Utilizing her research, she has created a unique framework to address the systemic racism that is deeply embedded in pedagogical practices and colonized curriculums which impedes the most vulnerable populations of students from flourishing." <sup>33</sup>

- The Institute for Anti-Racist Education promotes the "Decolonizing Gender Mini-Course" for elementary teachers who want to better understand how gender-based stereotypes show up in their classrooms, and how to create classrooms where all of their students can be themselves, regardless of gender identity or expression
  - O According to the Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, "The Decolonizing Gender Mini-Course is for elementary teachers who want to better understand how gender-based stereotypes show up in their classrooms, and how to create classrooms where all of their students can be themselves, regardless of gender identity or expression."<sup>34</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Our Executive Team, Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, Accessed July 25, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Decolonizing Gender, Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, Accessed July 22, 2022

- According to the Institute, "Lesson 1 provides context for gender binarism as a system of oppression in our society, which was reinforced purposely and violently through white supremacist colonization. It facilitates reflection on our own personal journey to understanding how stereotypes based on the gender binary affect us all"
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- According to the Institute, "Lesson 4 provides lessons, books, and opportunities for teaching about trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people at the elementary level, including gender-neutral pronouns"
  - O According to the Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, "Lesson 4 provides lessons, books, and opportunities for teaching about trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people at the elementary level, including gender-neutral pronouns."<sup>36</sup>
- ➤ The Institute for Anti-Racist Education promotes on its website, "The White Anti-Racist Accountability Mini-Course," lesson, one of which "facilitates reflection on our own personal journey to understanding our whiteness and our stake in dismantling white supremacy"
  - O According to the Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, "The White Anti-Racist Accountability Mini-Course is for white people with a baseline understanding of race, racism, and anti-racism, and a desire to move from passive learning to active accountability. Key to this process is reflection, which is the root of this course.
  - Lesson 1 facilitates reflection on our own personal journey to understanding our whiteness and our stake in dismantling white supremacy."<sup>37</sup>
- In a February 2021 Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote to white women, "If you would like to become an antiracist, check out this amazing program from my friend Dr. Amber Kim, Antiracism 101 for White Women!"
  - o In a Feb. 11, 2021, Facebook post, Meghan Lukens wrote, "White Women: If you would like to become an antiracist, check out this amazing program from my friend Dr. Amber Kim, Antiracism 101 for White Women!" 38
  - o According to the Amber K. Kim Antiracism 101 website, "This 9-session introductory course dives deeply into the topics of race, identity, and racism. It

<sup>35</sup> Decolonizing Gender, Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, Accessed July 22, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Decolonizing Gender, Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, Accessed July 22, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> White Anti-Racist Accountability, Institute for Anti-Racist Education website, Accessed July 22, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Meghan Lukens Facebook post, Feb. 11, 2021; Link

allows White women to process feelings of guilt and fear and replace them with the knowledge, language and critical lens needed for antiracism. It fundamentally shifts how White women move through this world in personal, collective and systemic ways. This course is the start of a lifelong commitment to antiracism. View course calendar & topics."<sup>39</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Antiracism 101 for White Women website, Accessed July 22, 2022