

2008 General Election ~ State Representative ~ District 18

1. Did you grow up with animals?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Yes; I grew up with cats and kittens, dogs and puppies, a chicken at one time. I "adopted" a baby sparrow that had fallen out of a nest and Parakeets. We had deer in our back yard, rabbits, various snakes and even very briefly, a baby raccoon.

2. Does your family have animals?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) No; I live in an apartment and animals are not allowed. However, I feed the wild birds and squirrels.

3. Are you in favor of the spaying/neutering of dogs and cats to reduce overpopulation?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Yes

4. Would you be likely to support state legislation to restrict the length of time and conditions under which a dog may be tethered outdoors?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Undecided

5. Do you believe that aggravated cruelty/violence to animals should be a felony?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Yes, in certain cases (e.g., in extreme cases only, or after the first offense)

6. During the 2008 legislative session, a bill was passed to prohibit inhumane forms of confinement, such as "veal crates" and "gestation crates," of calves and pigs raised for slaughter (SB08-201). If you are an incumbent, please indicate your level of support for this legislation. If you are not an incumbent, please indicate the position you believe you would have taken.

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Supported/would have supported this legislation on its merits; I have read many articles on livestock care and the benefits to humans that show not only are animals healthier, but the food supply is also healthier if animals are not confined inhumanely. To provide better quality and healthier foods to the population, I feel humane treatment is the only way to ensure the best.

7. Would you be likely to support state legislation to prohibit the confinement of egg-laying hens in "battery cages?"

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Yes

8. Would you be likely to support state legislation to require that educational institutions at all levels provide (and advertise to students) an alternative to animal dissection?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Yes

9. Would you be likely to support state legislation prohibiting the use of elephants in traveling acts, such as circuses?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Yes

10. Rodeos currently enjoy a blanket exemption from the state's animal cruelty statute. Would you be likely to support legislation that would limit this exemption to those events currently sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association?

Michael Merrifield (D) Did not respond

Katherine Szot (R) Undecided

11. Section 33-1-101 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, states, "It is the policy of the state of Colorado that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors." Do you believe that all Colorado residents should have a voice in wildlife policy?	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	Yes

12. Of the two following value statements, to which are you likely to give higher priority? =Wildlife and their environment are to be protected and preserved =Wildlife and their environment are to be managed	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	Wildlife and their environment are to be protected and preserved

13. Would you be likely to support state legislation to prohibit the hunting of captive or confined animals ("canned hunting")?	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	Yes; I feel that "hunting" in a "canned" senario is wrong. Animals should not be hampered in escaping their death.

14. Do you believe that Amendment 14, the anti-trapping initiative passed by Colorado voters in 1996, should be overturned or weakened in any way?	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	No; As far as Amendment 14, boxing an animal in to be killed in inhumane, also maming an animal in a leg trap is not proper. When issues are so vague such as if box trapping is legal or not, should not be left as a gray area. If inhumane traping and hunting are not allowed, then box trapping shouldn't be either due to the possible maming of an animal and the duration of time spent in a trap. My father and brothers were hunters, but they did not kill for sport only, we ate the food. They did not kill for trophies, it was for the family survival and sometimes protection from predators.

The following two petition-related questions will not be used for scoring.

15. Would you be likely to support state legislation to (1) require counties to allow county-level ballot initiatives and (2) establish consistent procedures and criteria for such initiatives?	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	Yes

16. Do you think that initiating a state ballot issue should be easier, harder, or as it now is?	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	Harder

17. Would you be willing to consider factual documentation from CHVL on a given issue?	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	Yes

This concludes our questionnaire. Please add any general comments below.	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	I feel that if we take care of the environment, not only will our natural resourses thrive, but also the population of people. The better we protect the environment from chemicals and other pollutants, we creat better living conditions for people. What ever has a negative impact on wild life and plant life, also has negative effects humans. I am a firm believer that man was put on earth to be stewards of the environment. This includes how animal and plant life are treated. When civilizations think they can destroy the environment and not be affected, they are sadly mistaken. To kill anything, plant or animal for selfish gain, or domination, brings mankind one step closer to it's own demise.

Questionnaire Score	
Michael Merrifield (D)	Did not respond
Katherine Szot (R)	81%