

GRAND COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER JOLENE LINKE

Republican Grand County, Colorado Clerk and Recorder Jolene Linke was born in Kremmling, Colorado and grew up in Routt County. She moved to Grand County when she married her husband, Trey, in 1990. Linke was an attorney in Hot Sulphur Springs and claims to have taught school for 12 years. Linke also often highlights experiences on her grandparent's ranch and the Linke family's Linke Cattle Ranch. Linke's brother-in-law, Merrit Linke, is a Grand County Commissioner. Her sister, Laura Woods, served in the Colorado state senate from 2015 to 2017.

Key Findings:

Former election officials were hired as consultants to help Linke clean up security process violations that occurred in 2024. In October 2024, there was a break in the chain of custody with Grand County voting systems, leading the Colorado Secretary of State's office to intervene and require two local consultants to support the county. As a result, Former election judge Patty Brown and former county clerk Sara Rosene were hired as consultants to help Linke. According to those involved in the discovery of the break, tamper-evident seals were not put on six voting machines in the run-up to Election Day in 2024. According to documents written by Rosene and Brown, Linke and her staff struggled to keep up with the responsibilities of conducting four elections in 12 months. Rosene and Brown noted a lack of adherence to strict security and communication protocols required to conduct an election. The consultants viewed the overarching problem as an untrained staff, extending from Linke to all the other employees in the office.

Linke pushed for Grand County to transition away from Dominion Voting Systems after campaigning on her willingness to do so to ensure election validity. In December 2025, the Grand County Board of Commissioners voted to transition from the Liberty Vote (formerly Dominion Voting Systems) voting system to Clear Ballot. Linke agreed with the county commissioners' decision, having pushed for the change since she first ran for office in 2022. Linke said the Clear Ballot equipment was "much more user friendly both for voters and for their office employees." She said her support of the change came from numerous discussions with different counties who felt the new system was easier to use. In June 2025, Linke presented a proposal to switch from Dominion to Clear Ballot at a commissioners meeting, but the board decided to continue their contract with Dominion through the 2025 election. At the time, she expressed that Clear Ballot would be a good choice because its cost is not much different than Dominion Voting System's and they have new, modern equipment that is more user-friendly than Dominion. In 2022, while running for office, Linke expressed a willingness to discontinue use of Dominion to ensure election validity, according to Ski-Hi News. According to John Riedel and Zachariah Falconer-Stout, Co-chairs of the Grand County Democratic Party, Linke said the GOP would be unhappy if Linke did not replace Dominion machines at a candidate forum.

In 2022, Linke refused to answer a press inquiry about whether she believed Joe Biden won the 2020 election fairly and legitimately; she has also expressed skepticism about mail-ballots. When Linke ran for Grand County clerk in 2022, she admitted in a candidate forum that she would be open to changing elections systems in light of claims of potential fraud or system malfunctions during the 2020 presidential election. In 2022, Linke refused to directly answer a question from Ski-Hi News on whether President Biden won his seat in a fair and legitimate election. However, in 2025, Linke stated she no longer believed there was election fraud or systems issues in the 2020 election, saying "after years of thinking and listening to all the news, things are more clear to me." Linke has said that "mail-in ballots are convenient, but they're also the method of choice for unethical individuals who abuse the system."

BACKGROUND

BIOGRAPHY

Family

Linke said she grew up on a ranch: “I also grew up on a ranch, which taught me tenacity, common sense, perseverance, hard work and honesty.” “‘I taught school for 12 years, which meant patience, understanding and no discrimination or disparaging of beliefs,’ she said. ‘I also grew up on a ranch, which taught me tenacity, common sense, perseverance, hard work and honesty.’” [Sky-Hi News, 10/22/22]

- **Linke grew up on her grandparent’s ranch and became a part of the Linke Cattle Ranch with marriage.** “From childhood, Linke's life has been rooted in the responsibility of tending livestock. She grew up on her grandparent's ranch and believes it taught her the value of hard work and getting a job ‘done right.’ When she married Trey, she also became a part of the Linke Cattle Ranch, a historic institution in Granby.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Linke grew up in Routt County, Colorado. “Jolene Stetson grew up in Routt County, but was born in Kremmling. When she married Trey Linke of Granby in 1990, she became an official Grand County resident.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Linke was born in Kremmling, Colorado. “Jolene Stetson grew up in Routt County, but was born in Kremmling. When she married Trey Linke of Granby in 1990, she became an official Grand County resident.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Linke became an official Grand County resident when she married Trey Linke of Granby in 1990. “Jolene Stetson grew up in Routt County, but was born in Kremmling. When she married Trey Linke of Granby in 1990, she became an official Grand County resident.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Linke’s mother-in-law Lorene Linke was a Grand County commissioner. “With her marriage to Trey, Linke also became part of a family with a longstanding commitment to public service. Trey's mother, Lorene Linke, was a Grand County commissioner, and his brother, Merrit Linke, is a current commissioner for District 2.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

As of 2022, Linke’s brother-in-law Lorene Linke was a current Grand County commissioner for District 2. “With her marriage to Trey, Linke also became part of a family with a longstanding commitment to public service. Trey's mother, Lorene Linke, was a Grand County commissioner, and his brother, Merrit Linke, is a current commissioner for District 2.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Linke’s sister, Laura Woods, was a Colorado state senator from 2015 to 2017. “But Jolene's birth family has its own history of public service: her grandfather was a county commissioner in Routt County, and her sister, Laura Woods, served as a state senator from 2015 to 2017.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Education

Linke attended Baylor University and the University of Colorado Law School. “In college, Linke continued to gain skills that could pertain to the role of clerk and recorder. At both Baylor University, in

Texas, and the University of Colorado Law School, in Boulder, she studied law, which she put into practice as an attorney in Hot Sulphur Springs.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Career

Linke was an attorney in Hot Sulphur Springs. “In college, Linke continued to gain skills that could pertain to the role of clerk and recorder. At both Baylor University, in Texas, and the University of Colorado Law School, in Boulder, she studied law, which she put into practice as an attorney in Hot Sulphur Springs.” [Sky-Hi News, 4/8/22]

Linke said she “taught school for 12 years, which meant patience, understanding and no discrimination or disparaging of beliefs.” “I taught school for 12 years, which meant patience, understanding and no discrimination or disparaging of beliefs,’ she said. ‘I also grew up on a ranch, which taught me tenacity, common sense, perseverance, hard work and honesty.’” [Sky-Hi News, 10/22/22]

Linke cited experiences as secretary for the Grand County Republicans, a class officer in law school and election judge prepared her for the clerk role. “She added her experiences as secretary for the Grand County Republicans, a class officer in law school and election judge prepared her for the role. If elected, she said she plans to fully staff the department of motor vehicles office so there will be no gaps in the service.” [Sky-Hi News, 10/22/22]

Opinions

2015: Linke supported Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson, saying “This country is tired” of career politicians. “Another Carson supporter, Jolene Linke, 50, a cattle rancher from Grand County, said everyone was sick of the longstanding career-politicians on offer to voters, on both the Republican and Democratic sides of the aisle. ‘This country is tired of them,’ Linke said.” [Reuters, [11/2/15](#)]

CAMPAIGNS

2022: Linke beat Democrat Abby Loberg by only 1.24%. “Republican Jolene Linke closed out her race against Democrat Abby Loberg, who still had a mathematical chance of overtaking Linke after the last votes were counted. Linke's lead grew from 96 to 99 votes as she added 45 of the final 94 votes and Loberg added 42. The percentages reflect Linke's close margin of victory, as she won by 1.24% 50.62% to 49.38%.” [Sky-Hi News, 11/17/22]

Philosophy

Linke said she was up for the challenge of the clerk and recorder job, “I have been in the position for four years and have never stopped learning.” “In a phone call with Sky-Hi News later that afternoon, Linke confirmed that she is most certainly up for the challenge herself. ‘I have been in the position for four years and have never stopped learning,’ she said. ‘I’m very committed to my job. I love this job and believe I have a hardworking team of well-trained employees. They are running the office smoothly and I am proud of the job they are doing.’” [Sky-Hi News, 3/13/26]

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the job they are doing.” “In a phone call with Sky-Hi News later that afternoon, Linke confirmed that she is most certainly up for the challenge herself. ‘I have been in the position for four years and have never stopped learning,’ she said. ‘I’m very committed to my job. I love this job and believe I have a hardworking team of well-trained employees. They are running the office smoothly and I am proud of the job they are doing.’” [Sky-Hi News, 3/13/26]

2022: After former clerk Sara Rosene’s retirement, Linke vowed to “carry on the office of clerk and recorder with honesty and integrity.” “I agree with this opinion, and I pledge to carry on the office of clerk and recorder with honesty and integrity. I will work to employ enough people to open the driver’s license office and stagger lunch hours to keep the office open during lunch time.” [Sky-Hi News, 10/19/22]

2022: when asked about bridging the political divide in America, Linke said “the clerk is to be nonpolitical. That bridges the divide locally.” “How can government bridge the political divide in America? The clerk is to be nonpolitical. That bridges the divide locally.” [Sky-Hi News, 10/19/22]

Linke said she plans to fully staff the department of motor vehicles office so there will be no gaps in the service. “She added her experiences as secretary for the Grand County Republicans, a class officer in law school and election judge prepared her for the role. If elected, she said she plans to fully staff the department of motor vehicles office so there will be no gaps in the service.” [Sky-Hi News, 10/22/22]

ELECTION ISSUES

2024 Election Administration

Former election judge Patty Brown and former county clerk Sara Rosene were hired as consultants to help Linke clean up some security process violations that occurred in 2024. “This was the first year in decades that longtime election judge Patty Brown and former country clerk Sara Rosene were not part of the process. Last year, they were hired as consultants to help current County Clerk and Recorder Jolene Linke clean up some security process violations that occurred in 2024.” [Sky-Hi News, 11/6/25]

- **October 2024: There was a break in the chain of custody with Grand County voting systems, leading the Colorado Secretary of State’s office to intervene and require two local consultants to support the county.** “In October 2024, nearly two years after Jolene Linke was elected as Grand County Clerk and Recorder, there was a break in the chain of custody with Grand County voting systems. With the Nov. 5 presidential election looming just weeks away, the Colorado Secretary of State's Office intervened, requiring two local consultants to support the county.” [Sky-Hi News , 7/16/25]
- **According to those involved in the discovery of the break, tamper-evident seals were not put on six voting machines in the run-up to Election Day in 2024.** “According to those involved in the discovery of the break, tamper-evident seals were not put on six voting machines in the run-up to Election Day in 2024.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]
- **Rosene and Brown had a long history of maintaining elections in Grand County.** “As a result of the break, Sara Rosene and Patty Brown were brought in to assist the county during the 2024 election. These two consultants had a long history maintaining elections in Grand County.

Rosene served as clerk and recorder for over 30 years before she retired in 2023. Although officially retired, Rosene continued to help the clerk and recorder's office administer elections as an elections judge in 2023 and 2024. Retired deputy chief clerk Brown also volunteered as an elections judge during this time. On Oct. 15, 2024, Rosene and Brown's roles officially changed from elections judges to consultants.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

According to documents written by Rosene and Brown, Linke and her staff struggled to keep up with the responsibilities of conducting four elections in 12 months. “As consultants, Brown and Rosene have the ability to work directly with the clerk's office. The clerk's office led by Linke had all new staff as it undertook four elections in 12 months. She and her staff struggled to keep up with the enormous responsibilities of conducting elections, according to documents written by Rosene and Brown.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

- **Rosene and Brown noted a lack of adherence to strict security and communication protocols required to conduct an election.** “Overall, Rosene and Brown noted a lack of adherence to strict security and communication protocols required to conduct an election. The overarching problem in their view was an untrained staff. This extended from Linke to all the other employees in the office.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]
- **Rosene and Brown viewed the overarching problem as an untrained staff, extending from Linke to all the other employees in the office.** “Overall, Rosene and Brown noted a lack of adherence to strict security and communication protocols required to conduct an election. The overarching problem in their view was an untrained staff. This extended from Linke to all the other employees in the office.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

Linke said “the clerk’s office was grateful for the expertise of Rosene and Brown during the 2023 coordinated election, the 2024 presidential primary, the 2024 primary, and the 2024 general election.” ““The clerk's office was grateful for the expertise of Rosene and Brown during the 2023 coordinated election, the 2024 presidential primary, the 2024 primary and the 2024 general election,” Linke stated in a July 11 email to Sky-Hi News. The clerk's office canceled a planned interview with Sky-Hi News on July 10, instead offering to respond to questions about the break in custody and subsequent oversight only by email.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

Linke said the office had embraced the recommendations of Rosene and Brown and worked with the Secretary of state’s office to ensure the 2025 election was competently managed. “In the July 11 email, Linke told Sky-Hi News that she and staff have made numerous improvements since fall 2024. ‘... The clerk's office embraced the recommendations of Rosene and Brown and is working with the Secretary of State's office each week to ensure that this year's election is competently managed,’ Linke stated. Linke explained that beginning in January, a majority of Grand's driver's license, DMV, recording and vitals staff have been receiving elections training with the secretary of state's office. Previously, cross-training these employees was a ‘challenge during 2023 and 2024 because brand new employees cannot learn everything all at once,’ Linke added. ‘With each election, the Clerk's office staff gains valuable experience to serve the voters of Grand County.’ The office is also dividing tasks between Linke, deputy chief clerk Major and Morse. This ensures that the majority of the work isn't Morse's responsibility. ‘Rosene and Brown are to be commended for their prior years of service to Grand County voters and their willingness to share their considerable elections knowledge with the new clerk's office staff in support of future elections,’ Linke stated.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

Linke cited issues with cross-training in Grand County, saying “brand new employees cannot learn everything all at once.” “In the July 11 email, Linke told Sky-Hi News that she and staff have made numerous improvements since fall 2024. ‘... The clerk's office embraced the recommendations of Rosene and Brown and is working with the Secretary of State's office each week to ensure that this year's election is competently managed,’ Linke stated. Linke explained that beginning in January, a majority of Grand's driver's license, DMV, recording and vitals staff have been receiving elections training with the secretary of state's office. Previously, cross-training these employees was a ‘challenge during 2023 and 2024 because brand new employees cannot learn everything all at once,’ Linke added. ‘With each election, the Clerk's office staff gains valuable experience to serve the voters of Grand County.’ The office is also dividing tasks between Linke, deputy chief clerk Major and Morse. This ensures that the majority of the work isn't Morse's responsibility. ‘Rosene and Brown are to be commended for their prior years of service to Grand County voters and their willingness to share their considerable elections knowledge with the new clerk's office staff in support of future elections,’ Linke stated.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

- **The Grand County clerk oversees the motor vehicle office.** “Since the clerk oversees the motor vehicle office, Linke has been working to keep that office staffed to ensure citizens can receive driver's license services. It was briefly fully staffed, but recently lost employees. They are currently hiring for both full-time and part-time positions.” [Sky-Hi News, 8/24/23]

Election Denial

When Linke ran for Grand County clerk in 2022, she admitted in a candidate forum that she would be open to changing elections systems, in light of claims of potential fraud or system malfunctions during the 2020 presidential election. “After a presentation by Clear Ballot on June 24, the Grand County Board of Commissioners decided not to change voting systems at that time. Commissioners will revisit the idea of a potential change after the 2025 election. When Linke ran for Grand County clerk in 2022, she admitted in a candidate forum that she would be open to changing elections systems, in light of claims of potential fraud or system malfunctions during the 2020 presidential election. Dominion was at the center of allegations that the 2020 presidential election was rigged in favor of Joe Biden. According to claims by some conservative media and Trump's lawyers, machines were compromised to flip votes from Trump to Biden. Despite the web of conspiracy theories, there has been no concrete no evidence of widespread fraud or rigged voting machines in that election. When reached for comment about this from Sky-Hi News, Linke stated she no longer believes there was election fraud or systems issues in the 2020 election. "After years of thinking and listening to all the news, things are more clear to me," she stated.” [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

- **2025: Linke stated she no longer believes there was election fraud or systems issues in the 2020 election, saying “after years of thinking and listening to all the news, things are more clear to me.”** “After a presentation by Clear Ballot on June 24, the Grand County Board of Commissioners decided not to change voting systems at that time. Commissioners will revisit the idea of a potential change after the 2025 election. When Linke ran for Grand County clerk in 2022, she admitted in a candidate forum that she would be open to changing elections systems, in light of claims of potential fraud or system malfunctions during the 2020 presidential election. Dominion was at the center of allegations that the 2020 presidential election was rigged in favor of Joe Biden. According to claims by some conservative media and Trump's lawyers, machines were compromised to flip votes from Trump to Biden. Despite the web of conspiracy theories, there has been no concrete no evidence of widespread fraud or rigged voting machines in that election. When reached for comment about this from Sky-Hi News, Linke stated she no longer

believes there was election fraud or systems issues in the 2020 election. "After years of thinking and listening to all the news, things are more clear to me," she stated." [Sky-Hi News, 7/16/25]

2022: Linke side-stepped a question on whether President Biden won his seat in a fair and legitimate election. "Did the current president win his seat in a fair and legitimate election? I am seeking the office of clerk and recorder to serve the people of Grand County with the same commitment Sarah Rosene has brought to the office for 30-plus years. I want to continue that excellence and even expand hours with opening the driver's license office, and staggering lunch hours." [Sky-Hi News, 10/19/22]

2024: Linke released a statement saying "The Grand County Clerk and Recorder's office has a history of running fair, accurate and secure elections thanks to the dedication of all who have served our county as election officials and election judges. I am confident that our elections team will continue administering elections with the same level of integrity voters expect." "Sky-Hi News reached to the Grand County Clerk and Recorder's office for a statement on the letter and Jolene Linke, clerk and recorder for the county, provided the statement below. Statement from Grand County Clerk and Recorder Jolene S. Linke The Grand County Clerk and Recorder's office has a history of running fair, accurate and secure elections thanks to the dedication of all who have served our county as election officials and election judges. I am confident that our elections team will continue administering elections with the same level of integrity voters expect." [Sky-Hi News, 2/4/24]

ERIC

2022: Linke said Electronic Registration Information Center would further secure the voting process through assessing death records and address changes. "She added the Electronic Registration Information Center will further secure the voting process through assessing death records and address changes." [Sky-Hi News, 10/22/22]

Mail-In Ballots

2022: Linke said "Mail-in ballots are convenient, but they're also the method of choice for unethical individuals who abuse the system." "Mail-in ballots are convenient, but they're also the method of choice for unethical individuals who abuse the system," Linke said. 'My office will be vigilant in our signature verification system to ensure each and every ballot cast in our county is from an eligible voter.'" [Sky-Hi News, 10/22/22]

- **Linke: "My office will be vigilant in our signature verification system to ensure each and every ballot cast in our county is from an eligible voter."** "Mail-in ballots are convenient, but they're also the method of choice for unethical individuals who abuse the system," Linke said. 'My office will be vigilant in our signature verification system to ensure each and every ballot cast in our county is from an eligible voter.'" [Sky-Hi News, 10/22/22]

Voter Registration

Linke said a self-serve DMV kiosk at a grocery store in Fraser would be a convenient option for Grand County residents to get their registrations. "A self-serve DMV kiosk is now accessible to residents in the Fraser Safeway. The bright-yellow kiosk is hard to miss and can perform vehicle registration renewals on the spot, duplicate tabs, duplicate registration with new tabs and check on title status. The machine looks similar to an ATM and will be a convenient option for Grand County residents

living on the southern end of the county. County Clerk and Recorder Jolene Linke said the kiosk will be available to help people even when the Clerk and Recorder's Office is unable. 'When we're closed or when it's snowy or just (convenient) for (people) to get their registrations there, or when they're shopping, it's very easy to go there,' Linke said." [Sky-Hi News, 12/23/24]

Voting Systems

2026: Linke agreed with the county commissioners' decision to transition from the Liberty Vote (formerly Dominion Voting Systems) voting system to Clear Ballot. "Grand County Clerk and Recorder Jolene Linke who has pushed for the change since she first ran for office in 2022, agreed with the decision, stating that Clear Ballot would save time, improve accuracy, reduce stress and lower countywide costs. She also expressed confidence that Clear Ballot provides strong election security." [Sky-Hi News, 3/17/26]

- **Linke said the Clear Ballot equipment was "much more user friendly both for voters and for their office employees."** "'The equipment is much more user friendly both for voters and for their office employees,' she said in a March 12 phone call with Sky-Hi News." [Sky-Hi News, 3/17/26]
- **Linke had pushed for the change since she first ran for office in 2022.** "Grand County Clerk and Recorder Jolene Linke who has pushed for the change since she first ran for office in 2022, agreed with the decision, stating that Clear Ballot would save time, improve accuracy, reduce stress and lower countywide costs. She also expressed confidence that Clear Ballot provides strong election security." [Sky-Hi News, 3/17/26]
- **Linke said her support of the change came from numerous discussions with different counties who felt the new system was easier to use.** "In her call with Sky-Hi News, Linke said that she has believed Clear Ballot would be a better choice all along, and her support of the change comes from numerous discussions with different counties who all feel this new system is much easier to use." [Sky-Hi News, 3/17/26]
- **Linke expected trainings for election judge roles to be quick and easy.** "Linke expects trainings for these election judge roles to take place in April 'quickly and easily.' She noted that the new voting system will not impact the statewide voter registration system, SCORE, which is used by the majority of office staff and election judges during elections." [Sky-Hi News, 3/17/26]

June 2025: Linke presented a proposal to switch from Dominion to Clear Ballot at a commissioners meeting, but the board decided to continue their contract with Dominion through the 2025 election. "Linke presented a proposal to switch from Dominion to Clear Ballot at a board of county commissioners meeting on June 24, 2025. After discussions and public comment, the commissioners ultimately decided to continue their contract with Dominion through the 2025 election. At the time, they agreed that this was the best decision for the benefit of the clerk and recorder's office employees, the county's finances and elections integrity." [Sky-Hi News, 3/17/26]

- **Linke expressed that Clear Ballot would be a good choice because its cost is not much different than Dominion Voting System's and they have new, modern equipment that is more user-friendly than Dominion.** "Jolene Linke expressed that Clear Ballot would be a good

choice because its cost is not much different than Dominion Voting System's and they have new, modern equipment that is more user-friendly than Dominion.” [Ski-Hi News, 6/26/25]

- **2022: Linke expressed a willingness to discontinue use of Dominion to ensure election validity.** “When she ran for the position of clerk and recorder in 2022 (after the retirement of clerk Rosene), Jolene Linke expressed a willingness to discontinue use of Dominion to ensure election validity. These machines have been the center of allegations that 2020 presidential election was rigged in favor of Joe Biden.” [Ski-Hi News, 6/26/25]

2022: According to John Riedel and Zachariah Falconer-Stout, Co-chairs of the Grand County Democratic Party, Linke said the GOP would be unhappy if Linke did not replace Dominion machines at a candidate forum. “We are writing to thank the organizers of the candidate forum on Monday night in Granby. In these voters' opinion, the responses showed a marked contrast between the two candidates for Grand County Clerk and Recorder. On the one hand, Abby Loberg stated that Grand County elections are accurate and fair, period. Her opponent, Jolene Linke, won't say if the last election was fair. However, in response to the question, ‘How do you plan to remain nonpartisan and what decisions might you make that may not be supported by your political party,’ candidate Linke responded that she would, ‘Replace Dominion [voting] machines, and I would have an opportunity to do that...If I did not, they [my party] would be unhappy.” In short, Candidate Linke responded that she would be partisan.” [Letter To The Editor, Sky-Hi News, 10/18/22]

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