

= Douglas Bruce =

Douglas Edward Bruce (born August 26 , 1949) is a conservative activist and former legislator in the U.S. state of Colorado . He is also known for being the author of Colorado 's Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) .

A strict advocate for limited government , Bruce wrote and promoted TABOR , a spending limitation measure approved by Colorado voters in 1992 ; his name is so associated with the measure that attempts to bypass its restrictions are known as " de @-@ Brucing . " After two unsuccessful campaigns for the Colorado State Senate in 1996 and 2000 , Bruce was eventually elected to the El Paso County , Colorado county commission in 2004 . While a county commissioner , Bruce was noted for frequently falling on the losing sides of 4 @-@ 1 votes , and for disputes with county staff and fellow commissioners on numerous occasions .

Bruce was appointed to a vacant seat in the Colorado House of Representatives in December 2007 and represented House District 15 , which encompasses eastern Colorado Springs . After kicking a Rocky Mountain News photographer on the day he was sworn in , Bruce became the first legislator in Colorado history to be formally censured ; he was later removed from a House committee overseeing veterans affairs after refusing to sponsor a ceremonial resolution honoring veterans . Although defeated for election to a full term in the August 2008 Republican Party primary , Bruce has continued his activism to reduce government expenditures and taxes in Colorado and in Colorado Springs in particular before being indicted for a decades @-@ worth of criminal activity for " cheating " Colorado out of millions under the guise of charity and anti @-@ tax activism . In 2011 , Douglas Bruce was convicted of all counts in the indictment , including four counts of felony criminal activity including money laundering , attempted improper influence of a public official , and tax fraud after he was discovered to be using a small @-@ government charity he founded to hide millions of dollars from the state department of revenue . He was sentenced on February 13 , 2012 to a total of 180 days in jail , ordered to pay a total of \$ 49 @,@ 000 in fines , and subject to six months of probation which includes extensive disclosure requirements .

= = Early career = =

Born in Los Angeles , California , Bruce graduated from Hollywood High School , at the age of 16 and then from Pomona College with a double major in history and government . He completed a law degree from the University of Southern California 's Gould School of Law in 1973 , and worked as a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney from 1973 to 1979 , resigning amid frustration with the court system .

In 1980 , Bruce ran a largely self @-@ financed campaign for the California State Assembly , running in the Democratic Primary for the 38th Assembly district , which , at that time , centered on Pacific Palisades and Malibu . Running with the campaign slogan " Specifics , Not Safe Generalities , " Bruce ran what a local newspaper described as " something of an anomaly ? a law and order primary campaign by a Democrat . " Bruce lost by five percentage points in a high @-@ turnout primary ; his opponent , Steven Afriat , narrowly lost the general election to Republican Marian la Follette .

= = = Move to Colorado and rental properties = = =

During the late 1970s , Bruce acquired a number of rental properties in the Los Angeles area , which he managed full @-@ time after leaving the district attorney 's office . During the late 1970s and early 1980s , Bruce was embroiled in several protracted tax disputes with the Internal Revenue Service . In 1986 , Bruce acquired several properties in Colorado Springs and moved to Colorado permanently . Shortly before moving to Colorado , Bruce changed his political party affiliation from Democrat to Republican .

In addition to his Colorado Springs properties , Bruce acquired rental properties in Denver and Pueblo , Colorado . He has been cited repeatedly by law and code enforcement officials regarding

the upkeep of his properties , although most of the dozens of citations brought against him have been overturned . In connection with charge of operating an unsafe building , Bruce spent eight days in jail in 1995 on a contempt of court citation . In response to the numerous complaints filed against him , Bruce has questioned the constitutionality of city code provisions , and accused city officials of selective prosecution and carrying out a " vendetta " against him personally .

In 2003 , Bruce announced that he intended to sell his rental properties in order to devote more time to political activism , but was cited by Colorado Springs for keeping dilapidated properties as recently as 2007 . In 2008 , Bruce was cited by Colorado Springs for two properties they considered " dilapidated , " in part because of windows boarded up under orders from the city , but the charges were ultimately dropped when Bruce sold the buildings . Shortly before his August 2008 legislative primary , Colorado Springs declared a four @-@ plex owned by Bruce as " dilapidated ; " Bruce responded that he had put money into repairing the building and readying it for sale . In early 2010 , Colorado Springs told Bruce that it would charge him \$ 40 @,@ 000 to restart water service at seven of his rental properties , a charge that Bruce said amounted to political retaliation , but that city staff justified by noting of the properties had been abandoned .

= = = Taxpayer 's Bill of Rights = = =

Although similar tax @-@ limitation measures had been rejected by voters over the previous decades , in 1988 , Bruce authored and led the campaign that was eventually successful in enacting TABOR , a " Taxpayer Bill of Rights , " in Colorado . Among other provisions , TABOR mandated voter approval of any tax increases and constrained state government spending to grow at a rate no greater than the rates of population growth and inflation . Although TABOR did not pass in 1988 , garnering only 42 % of the vote in a statewide reference , Bruce revised the measure and it was placed on the ballot again in 1990 , when it received 49 % support . A third attempt in 1992 was successful , and TABOR was passed with 54 % of the vote and became part of Colorado 's constitution . In 1997 , TABOR 's restrictions on state spending were triggered for the first time , resulting in refunds to taxpayers .

During these campaigns , Bruce was the primary spokesperson for TABOR , often trading barbs with TABOR opponent and Colorado governor Roy Romer . In one frequently @-@ cited incident , Romer likened the TABOR proposal to " economic terrorism ; " in response , Bruce printed personal business cards reading " Douglas Bruce : Terrorist . " The passage of TABOR was Bruce 's most prominent political accomplishment ; years later , Bruce 's personalized license plate read " MRTABOR . " Bruce also wrote and successfully passed a similar spending limitation measure in Colorado Springs in 1991 . The statewide and local effects of TABOR on government finances led Colorado College political science professor Bob Loevy , in 2009 , to call Bruce " the most influential Colorado politician of his time . "

Since the passage of TABOR in 1992 , hundreds of local jurisdictions in Colorado have sought voter approval to temporarily or permanently exceed the spending limitations of TABOR , measures which became known as " de @-@ Brucing , " in reference to TABOR 's author . By 2007 , over half of Colorado 's school district and counties had " de @-@ Bruced , " as had many municipalities . TABOR 's budget restrictions were frequently cited by officials in Bruce 's native El Paso County as resulting in deficiencies in health , law enforcement , and administrative services , and on the state level , creating financial difficulties for higher education .

In 2005 , after several years of tight budgets brought about by recession , the spending limitations of TABOR , and other budgetary obligations , the Colorado General Assembly referred Referendum C , a statewide " de @-@ Brucing " measure , to Colorado voters . Bruce was a vocal opponent of Referendum C , facing off against supporters including Gov. Bill Owens , who had supported the original passage of TABOR . Referendum C , which was ultimately passed by voters , authorized a five @-@ year " time @-@ out " from some of TABOR 's spending restrictions . Although Bruce threatened a lawsuit against the state of Colorado if the referendum passed , the measure was ultimately enacted into law , raising state revenue by several billion dollars .

In 2008 , following his term in the state legislature , Bruce argued against a measure to reverse

some of the spending restrictions of the Taxpayer 's Bill of Rights . The initiative , known as the Savings Account for Education , would divert refunds given to taxpayers under TABOR to a special fund for K @-@ 12 education . Bruce opposed the measure in legislative hearings and then filed a legal challenge once House Speaker Andrew Romanoff , its primary proponent , sought to place the measure on the Colorado ballot as a citizen initiative . The measure was ultimately placed on the November 2008 statewide ballot as Amendment 59 , and Bruce launched a website opposing it .

= = = State Senate campaigns = = =

Bruce 's first attempt to seek elected office in Colorado came in 1996 , when Bruce challenged incumbent Republican state senator Ray Powers in the Republican Party primary . Bruce lost to Powers , who went on to become the Colorado State Senate President . Because of the negativity of Bruce 's campaign against Powers , Bruce was the only person banned from Powers ' ranch , a frequent site for Colorado Springs Republican fundraisers .

Bruce also ran unsuccessfully for the Colorado State Senate in 2000 , losing a hotly contested Republican party primary to Ron May in the solidly Republican district . Running with the slogan " Ron May , but Bruce will , " Bruce faced institutional opposition from statewide Republican leaders , including Governor Bill Owens , who had once supported Bruce 's TABOR initiatives . May ultimately won by only 112 votes .

= = = El Paso County Commissioner = = =

= = = = 2004 election = = = =

Bruce sought election to the El Paso County , Colorado , county commission in 2004 , winning the Republican Party nomination by defeating Colorado Springs councilwoman Maraget Radford in the party primary . In the general election , Bruce defeated Democrat Stanley Hildahl and two Republicans who ran as write @-@ in candidates with the backing of some party leaders . Bruce won the general election with 58 % of the vote . Bruce self @-@ funded his campaign , refusing to accept outside donations .

= = = = Policy positions = = = =

While serving on the El Paso County Commission , Bruce was frequently the only opposition to measures supported by the other four county commissioners . He cast the only vote against implementing mail ballot elections , against county interference in the proposed incorporation of Falcon , Colorado (although he also opposed the incorporation) , against a package of road improvement projects recommended by the Colorado Department of Transportation , against the appointment of County Administrator Jeff Greene , against stricter building codes for mobile homes , and against awarding a county grant to an anti @-@ poverty agency , calling it handouts for " deadbeats . "

He was unsuccessful in attempting to reduce the number of paid holidays taken by county employees , but was instrumental in lowering property tax rates and in negotiating the expansion of a gravel pit operation . He also spoke in favor of turning over management of the county fair to a volunteer organization and called for the number of volunteer boards and commissions to be reduced . Bruce was also outspoken in support of deportation for illegal immigrants , and went against his normal practice of refusing to support ceremonial resolutions to support a resolution in favor of the creation of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in El Paso County .

= = = = Conflicts with county staff and commissioners = = = =

When Bruce joined the commission , he sought to have his salary of over \$ 60 @,@ 000 per year

directed to charity , per a campaign promise . Designating Active Citizens Together , an educational non @-@ profit he helped found , as the recipient , Bruce sought to have the county not withhold income tax from his checks , as the money would go directly to charity and he would receive no direct personal benefit . After ten months of disputing arrangements with county staff , Bruce agreed to accept checks with taxes and deductions withheld . In 2007 , Bruce attempted to use the non @-@ profit group to donate copies of the U.S. Constitution for local school districts to distribute to graduating seniors ; several districts refused his donation on logistical grounds or policies forbidding distribution of external material . The nonprofit group has purchased tens of thousands of copies of the constitution , with the goal of giving one to every graduating high school senior in Colorado .

He also refused to accept a VIP pass from the Colorado Springs Airport , characterizing it as a " bribe ; " he also objected to the introduction of public prayer during county commission meetings . Bruce also objected to the inclusion of his name (alongside other county commissioners) on a plaque marking county support of a new courthouse expansion , threatening to physically remove his name from the plaque ; his opposition to financing methods for the courthouse had been a driving factor behind his 2004 county commission campaign .

Bruce 's debating and speaking style during county commission meetings led to occasional conflicts with county staff and other commissioners . During his first year , an escalating series of disputes with Commissioner Sallie Clark led to her ruling , at a meeting which she chaired , that Bruce was not allowed to discuss Colorado Springs city politics . In 2006 , Bruce was also accused of intervening in a county bidding process for a copying contract in favor of a campaign supporter .

In 2006 , El Paso County Attorney Bill Louis denounced Bruce as a " narcissist , sociopath and crackpot enabler " for supporting Colorado 's Amendment 38 , a referendum designed to ease rules for petitioning measures onto election ballots . Bruce and Louis verbally tangled after Louis called Bruce 's tactics " guerrilla " and Louis announced : " I plan to do everything in my limited power to make sure that [Bruce 's tenure in elected office] comes to an end at some point for the good not only of this community but for all of Colorado and the nation . "

Tensions also rose during Bruce 's final weeks on the county commission , as he sought a vacancy committee 's appointment to the state legislature . Bruce criticized county staff for being unresponsive to his inquiries , and Sheriff Terry Maketa responded by accusing Bruce of harming the morale of county staff , and told Bruce that he supported his bid for the legislature in order " to put you in an environment that will match your ineffectiveness , " a statement applauded by other county staff . During his final commission meetings , Bruce was also repeatedly cut off by other commissioners during his comments ; other members of the commission described his behavior as an increase in " grandstanding " prior to the vacancy committee 's meeting .

= = = Activism in Colorado Springs = = =

In June 2000 , Bruce was called to appear as a potential juror for a sexual assault trial in Colorado Springs . During the jury selection process , Bruce distributed leaflets written by the Fully Informed Jury Association in support of jury nullification . After defense attorneys objected to Bruce 's actions , the presiding judge dismissed Bruce and 50 other potential jurors who had received the fliers , resulting in a two @-@ week delay for the trial .

Bruce authored two measures , Issues 200 and 201 , which appeared on the November 2006 Colorado Springs election ballot , and would have reduced the city 's sales tax rate , eliminated its property tax , and restricted the city 's ability to borrow money . The legality of the measures was challenged by city officials ; the dispute rose to the Colorado Court of Appeals , which ruled in favor of the measures ' placement on the ballot . Bruce also unsuccessfully contested both the editing of statements of support for the measures in ballot summaries mailed to voters , and what he claimed was deceptive wording in other taxation measures that election .

Bruce was also the subject of several criminal citations ? first in May 2006 , stemming from charges that he campaigned against a tax increase for the Falcon Fire Protection District at a polling place closer than the legal 100 @-@ foot (30 m) limit , and then in August 2009 , when he and another man were charged with trespassing after being asked by police to stop soliciting signatures outside

a Costco for the second time in a year . Bruce alleged that the City of Colorado Springs attempted to " bully " him and violate his First Amendment rights , a charge city officials denied . A trial was eventually held after paperwork errors , a tainted jury pool , and claims by Bruce of selective prosecution ; after a three @-@ day trial , both were acquitted . Bruce later filed an unsuccessful complaint alleging professional misconduct by the case 's prosecutor and judge .

= = Colorado House of Representatives = =

= = = Appointment , swearing @-@ in , and censure = = =

In October 2007 , Bruce was chosen over two other Republican contenders for the state house seat vacated by Rep. Bill Cadman , following a short but contentious battle for the appointment . Bruce received two @-@ thirds of the votes from the 66 @-@ member vacancy committee . Although eligible to be sworn in immediately after his appointment was certified , Bruce postponed the oath of office in order to be eligible to serve a full four terms beyond the partial term under Colorado 's term limits rules , an action which was criticized by both Republican and Democratic lawmakers . His delay led to the enactment of legislation requiring legislators to be sworn in within 14 days of their selection . Bruce cast the only dissenting vote on the measure .

Bruce also demanded to be sworn in in front of the full house , a request denied by both Republican and Democratic leadership . He acquiesced to an individual swearing @-@ in ceremony on January 14 after House Republicans voted 22 @-@ 1 to call for a representative to be named for District 15 if Bruce did not take the oath of office by the end of the day .

On the morning before he was sworn in , Bruce kicked a Rocky Mountain News photographer who took Bruce 's picture during the prayer ; Bruce accused the photographer of " violating the order and decorum " of the house , and refused to apologize , describing his action instead as a " nudge or a tap . " A six @-@ member legislative panel recommended 6 @-@ 0 that Bruce be censured by the House for his actions . On January 24 , the full House of Representatives voted 62 @-@ 1 to censure Bruce . He became the first representative in the recorded history of the state house to be formally censured .

= = = Legislative agenda = = =

For the 2008 session of the Colorado General Assembly , Bruce was named to seats on the House Finance Committee and the House State , Veterans , and Military Affairs Committee . Before the session began , Bruce denounced much of the House Republican caucus ' legislative agenda as " streamlining socialism . " Bruce was similarly critical of the proposed state budget debated during the 2008 legislative session ; however , his budget amendment proposals were unsuccessful .

All of the legislation introduced by Bruce died in House committees , including proposals to distribute copies and require instruction on the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution to high school seniors , to prohibit counties from assessing any charges other than property taxes on property tax bills , to raise legislative pay and index pay to inflation , and to create a bipartisan panel to draw up Colorado 's congressional and legislative districts .

Bruce routinely objected to the practice of attaching a " safety clause " to bills , the inclusion of which declares the bill an " necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace , health or safety , " enacting it into law sooner and prohibiting challenges to the legislation via the petition process . He offered amendments to a number of bills to remove the safety clause , which often failed on account of legislators ' personal hostility towards him ; however , in 2008 , 41 % of bills passed had no safety clause , up from 25 % the previous year . Bruce also opposed proposals to raise signature requirements for citizen @-@ initiated constitutional amendments , and opposed a bill to impose new requirements on landlords , despite criticism that voting on the measure constituted a conflict of interest .

= = = Removal from committee = = =

Consistent with Bruce 's practice as a county commissioner , Bruce opposed ceremonial resolutions in the legislature , and on February 13 , was the lone legislator who refused to sign on as a cosponsor to a resolution recognizing Military and Veterans Appreciation Day . Other Republican legislators denounced Bruce in a public letter for " callous indifference " towards veterans , and Republican Minority Leader Mike May removed Bruce from the House State , Veterans and Military Affairs Committee . Bruce offered as evidence of his support for veterans his successful amendment to a house bill to include interest in a state repayment to the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund , a move which resulted in an additional \$ 636 @, @ 000 repaid to the fund . Bruce would later cite this as one of his major accomplishments during the 2008 session .

= = = " Illiterate peasants " comments = = =

On April 21 , 2008 , Bruce voiced opposition during house debate on a bill sponsored by Rep. Marsha Looper to create a guest worker program to facilitate temporary employment visas for agricultural workers from Mexico . After speaking against illegal immigration and being advised to restrict comments to the bill by debate chair Rep. Kathleen Curry , Bruce took the floor a second time and commented :

Bruce was immediately gavelled to order by Rep. Kathleen Curry , who ruled that he would no longer be recognized during debate on the bill . Bruce 's comments were denounced by legislators on both sides of the aisle , as well the Mexican consulate in Denver . Bruce proudly defended his remarks as being factually accurate , citing dictionary definitions of " illiterate " and " peasant . " Legislators responded to Bruce 's propensity for generating controversy by declaring that they would " start ignoring him . " The following weekend , Bruce 's comments were the target of a local protest in Colorado Springs .

= = = 2008 election = = =

Bruce announced in November 2007 that he would stand in the 2008 general election for the House District 15 seat . He faced a challenge for the Republican nomination from attorney and Iraq War veteran Mark Waller . Bruce funded his own campaign with over \$ 30 @, @ 000 of personal funds , refusing to accept private campaign donations ; Waller , however , received endorsements or contributions from at least five sitting state representatives , and Colorado Attorney General John Suthers . Waller received 57 % of the vote at the Republican assembly in March , claiming the top line on the August Republican primary ballot ; he did not differ publicly with Bruce on political positions , but argued that Bruce 's temperament caused him to be an ineffective legislator .

Both Bruce and Waller accused each other of inappropriate conduct while campaigning ; Bruce was accused of inappropriately distributing campaign flyers to Republican representatives on the House floor , of mailing flyers promoting his charity shortly before the primary , and of inappropriately listing endorsements on his web site . In turn , Bruce filed several campaign finance complaints against Waller , one of which resulted in Waller 's campaign being fined for failing to properly disclose a campaign contribution . Ultimately , Bruce was defeated for the Republican nomination in the August 12 party primary , taking 48 percent of the vote to Waller 's 52 percent .

= = Post @-@ legislative activism = =

= = = Colorado Springs = = =

In 2007 , Bruce began a series of challenges to the City of Colorado Springs ' creation of a Stormwater Enterprise Fee , which he contended amounted to an illegal tax collected by a government entity . After his first attempt at a ballot measure to end the fee was held to violate

Colorado 's single subject rule , Bruce gained permission for a second petition following a year @-@ long battle over wording , and placed the measure on the November 2008 ballot following struggles to collect the necessary number of signatures but were rejected by voters .

Bruce was again successful at placing a measure targeting the Stormwater Enterprise on the ballot in 2009 , despite challenges from the city that signatures were not submitted in time , but not after Bruce lost disputes over the wording of the ballot measures . Bruce 's Issue 300 was passed by voters with about 55 percent of the vote , and mandated that enterprise payments to Colorado Springs be phased out over eight years . Bruce and city officials disputed , even before the election , as to whether his measure would apply to the city 's Stormwater Enterprise Fee ; and after threatening to launch a ballot initiative to cut property taxes after an initial 5 @-@ 4 vote by the city council over two years , the city council then voted 5 @-@ 4 to phase out the authority immediately . Bruce , however , objected to the city council 's proposed implementation of the initiative , which would allow the city to collect payments from the authority in exchange for services rendered . Bruce claimed that this would " undo the plain meaning of issue 300 , " and made similar claims regarding a local government restructuring proposal made by Colorado Springs mayor Lionel Rivera .

In March 2010 , Bruce filed suit against the city of Colorado Springs and its city council , charging that they had illegally hired outside legal counsel . He also accused the council members of receiving benefits greater than that authorized by law .

In June 2010 , Bruce filed a ballot measure to dramatically expand the powers of the city 's mayor , including eliminating the positions of city manager , chief financial officer , and communications staff , as well as giving the mayor power to veto ordinances , lower taxes , and excuse city code violations .

= = = Statewide ballot measures = = =

Although Bruce attempted to distance himself from three statewide ballot measures aimed at limiting Colorado governments ' power to raise and borrow money , several petitioners for the measures were linked to Bruce through records showing that they temporarily resided at one of his Colorado Springs apartment buildings , and through their past work on TABOR initiatives in other states and petitioning for Bruce 's Issue 300 in Colorado Springs . The three measures ? Amendment 60 , Amendment 61 and Proposition 101 ? would impose restrictions or tax cuts , eliminate governments ' ability to borrow money without voter approval , cut the state income tax from 4 @. @ 63 to 3 @. @ 5 percent , and eliminate vehicle ownership taxes .

Opponents of the ballot measures filed a complaint alleging the backers violated Colorado campaign finance laws by failing to disclose contributions and expenditures . Bruce was subpoenaed to testify in a hearing related to the case in March , but contested the summons unsuccessfully . During the month of May 2010 , the state attempted 29 times to serve a notice of a court order testify to Bruce at his Colorado Springs residence ; Bruce stated that he was out of town at the time , although both notices and delivered newspapers were removed during that period .

At a hearing in late May , one of the ballot measures ' sponsors , Michelle Northrup , testified that she had met with Bruce before the measures were filed and that he provided advice on submitting the initiatives and other legal matters . In early June , an administrative law judge ruled that the evidence showed Bruce was behind the three measures and imposed fines on their proponents , and state attorney general John Suthers ' office stated that they would seek a contempt citation against Bruce in district court .

= = Crime , trial , conviction and sentence = =

In 2010 , Douglas Bruce was charged with money laundering , attempted bribery of a public official , and tax fraud after he was discovered to be using a small @-@ government charity he founded to hide millions of dollars from the state taxman , pocketing interest and using the funds to further his political agenda . The case went to trial during which Bruce acted as his own attorney and , after eight days of trial , on Dec 22 , 2011 , after only four hours of deliberation , jurors convicted Bruce

on four counts . On 13 February 2012 he was sentenced to two consecutive 90 @-@ day jail terms and six months of probation , during which he will have to make extensive financial disclosures to the court aimed to ensure he does not become a repeat offender . This was less than the two years of prison the District Attorney had asked for . He was also ordered to pay around \$ 21 @,@ 000 to cover the cost of prosecution and about \$ 29 @,@ 000 to cover the taxes that were owed .

State Assistant Attorney General Robert Shapiro said , " Mr. Bruce , for personal , selfish and narcissistic reasons , took advantage of our charitable @-@ giving process . He was able to cheat Colorado for the better part of a decade . " Douglas Bruce defiantly denounced the trial , saying without contrition , " This was the dirtiest trial I have seen in 38 years , regardless of the outcome . " On February 13 , 2012 , Denver District Judge Anne Mansfield sentenced Bruce to six months in jail and six years on probation , imposing strict conditions that will require him to disclose in detail his financial life , even allowing the government access to his personal computers . Mansfield said she doubts Bruce will successfully complete his probation as Bruce himself would show up tardy to trial and introduced evidence by throwing documents onto the floor , the judge said . ? The defendant has absolutely no regard for the rule of law . His behavior during trial was reprehensible , ? Manfield said . Assistant Attorney General Robert Shapiro said the outcome was fair , ? Mr. Bruce ? s life is going to be extremely transparent . That ? s all we ever wanted , ? he said . Bruce remained defiant , saying , ? They will be able to have my body , but they cannot have my soul , ? he said . Bruce began serving his sentence 17 February 2012 . Bruce spent 104 days in jail , and was paroled with 20 terms and conditions required for his release . After a year , the probation department of the Denver District Court brought two complaints against Bruce , claiming that he failed to submit financial disclosures and tax filings , didn 't disclose a financial deal with Colorado Springs Councilwoman Helen Collins and didn 't report code violations and court cases related to six properties he owns in Ohio , Wisconsin and Illinois nor nearly \$ 22 @,@ 000 in delinquent taxes on three Ohio properties . On March 11 , 2016 , Douglas Bruce was found in violation of his probation and sentenced to two years . He is currently serving his sentence in the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility in Cañon City , Colorado .