Sterling city attorney Kelly Barlean filed Monday, July 6, with the Secretary of State as a Republican candidate for the University of Colorado Board of Regents for the 4th Congressional District.

“My background and experience will make me an effective Regent for our district. I will work to keep tuition affordable and to ensure that CU will be an institution to which we would be proud to send our children,” said Barlean.

“A lot of people do not realize the amount of money the Regents are overseeing. CU just adopted a 2.6 billion dollar operating budget that is nearly three times the size of Denver’s budget. That’s some serious money that requires some serious oversight”, said Kelly. “My past experience in negotiating and putting together a 20 billion dollar state operating budget has ably prepared me to serve on the Board of Regents.”

Barlean also plans on being a customer-friendly Regent. “I will be a resource for high school educators, parents and students. CU should be a viable option for all kids to seek their degree and pursue their talents regardless of the size of their high school,” said Barlean.

Barlean is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and the CU School of Law. He also attended Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Ore. before he enlisted into the U.S. Air Force Security Service/Electronic Security Command as an intelligence analyst.

Based upon his performance in the intelligence community, Barlean received a rare appointment from the enlisted ranks to the Air Force Academy. After graduating from the Academy, Kelly opted to enhance his skill set for a return to the intelligence community by cross-commissioning into the U.S. Army Infantry where he served in the 101st Airborne Division. His military career ended when he was medically discharged for injuries he sustained in a combat training exercise jumping out of a Blackhawk helicopter.

After his discharge, Barlean obtained his law degree in Boulder then moved to Langley, Wash. and established a private law practice. Barlean was twice elected to the Langley city council and twice elected to the Washington State House of Representatives.

While in the Washington Legislature, Barlean worked on higher education fiscal and policy issues as the Republican Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Committee and a member of the Capital Budget Committee.

Barlean has been the city attorney for Sterling since 2003. He lived in Pueblo as a child and his maternal roots have been in Pueblo since his grandfather emigrated from Mexico. He is married and has three children with his spouse, Tara. Barlean also serves on the Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Board for the 13th Judicial District and is a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans.