

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2015 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION**

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org
by 5pm on Thursday, February 22, 2015.**

**Please note that all questionnaire answers
will be shared with the business community.**

Office Sought: Councilmember	District (If Applicable): 4
Name: Kristin Stephens	
Home Address: 1911 Enfield Ct. , Fort Collins, CO 80526	
Daytime Phone: 970-581-7580	Evening Phone: same
Fax: none	Email: info@kristinforfortcollins.com
Employment: Graduate Coordinator – Colorado State University	
Length of Residence: In City: 21 years In District: 19 years	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education:

B.A. in History, Colorado State University, 1995

Currently working on Graduate Certificate in Student Affairs in Higher Education

(2) Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:

2004-present -4-H Leader, Larimer County 4-H program

2010-present -member of City of Fort Collins Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Commission

2012-2013- Representative for Liberty Common School to PSD's District Advisory Board, Chair of Legislative Committee

2012-present - Vice-Chair and member of CSU's Classified Personnel Council

2011-present –Member of Larimer County Citizen Review Panel

2006-2010 – Member of Larimer County's Integrated Family Enhancement Board

2002-2004 – Co-Chair City of Fort Collins Women's Commission, Liaison to Senior Advisory Board

2001-2010- Steering Committee member and Fundraising Chair, Mother's Center of Fort Collins

I have also done volunteer work with Meals on Wheels, Homeward 2020, Little Shop of Physics, St. Joseph Catholic Church, School is Cool and Volunteers in Public Schools.

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(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

1990-1995- Assistant Manager-Stone Lion Bookstore
1995-1998- Assistant Manager-Barnes and Noble Booksellers
1998-2000- Manager- CSU Bookstore
2005-2006-Executive Director-Youth Orchestra of the Rockies
2006-2010- Grant Administrator, National Science Foundation grants at CSU
2010-present- Graduate Coordinator -Department of Statistics

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

I am currently employed by Colorado State University as the Graduate Coordinator for Statistics. I supervise 2 full time staff members and 2 student workers in my office. I am responsible for coordinating all of the events, seminars, and conferences in the Statistics Department. I also coordinate all of the hiring for the faculty, staff, instructors and post-doctoral fellows in Statistics.

(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

For the past five years I have served on the city's CDBG where I have advised city council on how to spend the millions of dollars allocated for Affordable Housing. I also served as co-chair of the Women's Commission. During this time, I have brought a strong, steady leadership to these commissions. I have also held numerous leadership responsibilities at work and in my volunteer and non-profit positions. I am comfortable working with and listening to people from all kinds of backgrounds and perspectives.

(6) Why Are You Running For This Office?

I am passionate about Fort Collins where I have lived for 21 years, most of those years in beautiful District 4. During this time I have had the opportunity not only to serve the city on two different commissions, but to volunteer in the community. I want to continue my service to the city as a Council Member. I will bring my enthusiasm for our city along with my strong leadership skills to City Council. I am committed to keeping Fort Collins the best place to live, work, start a business, raise a family and retire.

(7) What have you done to prepare for election to this office and how you will

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you conduct yourself if elected to this office? What experiences have you had that makes you qualified to serve in office? On what City Boards and Commissions have you served?

To prepare for the election I have been observing city council meetings and staying abreast of city issues. I've also been meeting with current and former city council members and members of city boards and commissions. I will continue these meetings throughout the next few months, so that I am prepared to take office in April. One of the most important ways I've been preparing is by meeting with individuals and small groups in my District. Since I will be representing District 4, I want to know what is important to the citizens there and what city government can do for them.

If elected to City Council, I would conduct myself with the utmost decorum. As a city leader, I would understand the importance of having civil, constructive dialogue. This doesn't mean that everyone will always be in agreement, rather that we listen and engage thoughtfully after hearing all of the different sides of an issue. This is how I have conducted myself in all of my leadership roles and I would continue in this same way on City Council.

I have served on the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Commission for the past 5 years where I've advised the City Council on how to allocate the over \$1 million in Affordable Housing dollars that come into the city. I am also currently serving on the subcommittee that is writing the city's Affordable Housing Strategic plan. I have served as co-chair of the city's Women's Commission and as the liaison to the Senior Advisory Board.

(8) If you are elected, what are the top three accomplishments you want to have completed by the end of your term and how will you get them done?

I want to bring more services to the southern end of the city where the population is growing. I will make sure these services are addressed in the city budget.

I want to engage the people of my district so that they feel that they have a strong voice in city government. I will do this by holding regular listening sessions in my district which has never been done in District 4.

I want to make sure that we have smart growth, so that we protect the things

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we all love about Fort Collins while making sure that we create jobs of the future. I will vote to protect and maintain natural areas and will encourage economic vitality in our city.

- (9) What do you think are the top 3 economic priorities the city government should undertake during the next four years? What role should the City of Fort Collins have in economic development? How will you make the economy a City budget priority?

Helping to increase the building and supply of affordable housing. We are on schedule to increase the number of jobs in the area, but it may be hard to attract employees to take these jobs with the current housing and rental costs being so high.

Making sure that we attract and keep jobs of the future, in fields like high tech, and Cleantech.

Maintaining and repairing our infrastructure so we can support the businesses that move into our community. This is one of the essential city services and although it's not flashy, it is necessary.

As a Councilmember I will make sure the economy is a priority. We can achieve more of our goals as a community when our economy is strong.

- (10) How will you make Fort Collins a more Jobs Friendly community? Are you willing to engage with business leaders to discuss these solutions? Please explain how you will stay in touch with business leaders.

I would encourage innovative start-ups and continue associations with incubators like Innosphere who are committed to Cleantech. I would encourage business leaders to be in touch with CSU and FRCC so that those workers can be trained for the jobs that are needed in our community. Community Colleges have the ability to pivot quicker than universities to offer classes and training for in-demand fields and Front Range Community College is located in my district. I would welcome the opportunity to engage with business leaders to discuss solutions. I will have an open door policy and regular community conversations; I would also be happy to meet with groups of leaders. We all benefit from a strong, robust economy.

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- (11) What role should the City of Fort Collins have in the region? What do you believe are the top issues facing Northern Colorado in the next several years?

Fort Collins should be and is the leader in our region. I believe the top issues facing Northern Colorado are transportation, affordable housing, and smart growth and we can lead in all of these areas.

- (12) Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should the City Council plan for growth, if at all?

Living in Fort Collins we have certain expectations for our city. I want to make sure that people in higher growth areas like the Southeast still have access to bike trails, natural areas and recreational opportunities. I also want to make sure our infrastructure keeps up with growth, so that congestion, traffic and gridlock can be avoided as much as possible.

- (13) What are the top two issues facing city government over the next 4 years and why do you believe they are the most important?

One of the top issues is maintaining our quality of life while still keeping our economy strong. It is important for us to keep the things we love about Fort Collins while making sure that our citizens can find good, high paying jobs within our region.

Another issue is the lack of affordable housing in our community. In my district, there was an 11% increase in the median price of homes from the first half of 2013 to the last half of 2014. I want to make sure that Fort Collins does not "price out" the middle class.

- (14) What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?

In many ways I feel the city is doing what it should be doing with regard to attracting key employers. Many companies are attracted to our city because of our natural areas, our scenic beauty and talented workforce. We need to maintain our relationships with the Chamber of Commerce, business leaders,

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and incubators like Innosphere. I do believe tax incentives for businesses are sometimes helpful, but they should be used on a case by case basis.

- (15) In recent years, the City Council has been prone to push ahead on issues that are clearly not popular with the public. An example would be trash districting. Though public support was absent, the Council pressed forward with the results being significant negative response by the public and hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars spent on consultants and staff time. What would you do to ensure good governance and the prudent use of staff time and resources?

I have served on the city's CDBG Commission for more than 5 years where I work with city staff, so I understand that their time is valuable. As a taxpayer in the city, I intend to be a good steward of our tax dollars. I plan on holding listening sessions in my District so I understand issues that are truly important to people in Fort Collins.

- (16) The High Park Fire and drought showcased how vulnerable the City is to lack of water storage. What would you do to help the City be better prepared for water emergencies?

I think the city needs to implement a robust conservation project, but we also need to look at some storage options. I was happy to see that Fort Collins will be going ahead with plans to expand Halligan Reservoir even though Greeley is not ready to go ahead with their sister project, Seaman Reservoir.

Because I am aware of the importance of water to our community and our region, I am taking a short online class this spring that deals with addressing the Water Challenges of the 21st Century.

- (17) What are the top three transportation improvements the City of Fort Collins should accomplish? What is your position on the potential renewal of the Pavement Management Sales Tax? Why?

We should continue to strengthen our commitment to public and alternative transportation. As the city grows, this will help with problems like gridlock and congestion.

We need to make sure bike paths and safe routes are maintained, especially in newer growth areas like the southeastern part of the city.

We should maintain our roads and continue to work on intersections to make

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traffic flow better. Because I support maintaining our infrastructure, I am in favor of the ¼ cent Pavement Management Sales Tax. It is much more cost-effective for our community to maintain our roads than to repair them.

(18) Why would a business person support your election to office?

I will bring calm, collaborative, and pragmatic leadership to city council and I am committed to an economically strong Fort Collins.

(19) If business groups endorse you, is there any significant information that could come out about you during a campaign that could potentially embarrass you (and them) publicly? (ex: bankruptcy, arrest, conviction, etc.)

No.

Signature

Date