

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

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org
by 5pm on Thursday, February 19, 2015.**

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

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| Office Sought: City Council | District (If Applicable): District 2 |
| Name: Nancy Tellez | |
| Home Address: 2931 Stockbury Drive, Fort Collins 80525 | |
| Daytime Phone: 970 282-0492 | Evening Phone: |
| Fax: | Email: ntellez@frii.com |
| Employment: Retired | |
| Length of Residence: In City: 43 years In District: 20 years | |

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education:

I graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor of Arts degree and teaching certification in 1971. In 1986, I earned a Masters Degree of Education with a focus on curriculum and instruction.

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

From 2005 to the present I have served on the Poudre School District Board of Education, 5 years as vice president, and 2 years as president. In connection with my service on the school board, I have served on the board of the PSD Foundation; the City, County, School District Coordination Committee; the District Accreditation Committee; and the District Advisory Board.

I also have served on the Board of the Homelessness Prevention Initiative for the last six years and have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and in various capacities for my church, Plymouth Congregational UCC.

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(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

From 1972 until 2003, I was employed as a teacher in Poudre School District, teaching at Blevins Junior High and then Preston Junior High. I was hired as the Language Arts Department Head at Blevins in 1975 and served in that position at Preston, as well, until retirement in 2003.

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

I am currently retired and serve in a volunteer capacity, as described in the response to the question about community service.

(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

I have lived in Ft Collins and watched it grow and develop for forty-three years. As a long-time resident, a junior high teacher, and a member of the school board, I have grown to know and appreciate the culture and values of this community.

I also bring nine years of experience on a community board that must balance resources, needs, voices of community members, and needs of students and parents. This structure affects most decisions made by the school board and is similar to the structure that affects city council decisions. During this time, I have learned a variety of ways of interacting with and receiving feedback from our constituents and stakeholders on a variety of subjects. I have also learned the difference between governing and day-to-day managing and the great importance of collaboration in making that work.

(6) Why Are You Running For This Office?

My history in Ft Collins has led me to value highly the lifestyle and culture of Ft Collins and motivates me to become involved in serving the current residents. Our city is growing and changing, and it is important that the planning and decision-making that is taking place to adapt to these changes incorporates broad-based community input and the outcome is met with community

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satisfaction.

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

I have watched many City Council meetings, and read agendas and reports, in an attempt to be informed about issues being decided by this body. I have meetings with Council members and other active community members, talking with them about city issues.

In the past, I served as part of a team that planned for City-County-School District collaboration.

Over time I have attended meetings of City Boards, such as the Planning and Zoning Board, when relevant issues are being considered.

- (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?

Three topics that seem important at this time are management of the effects of growth, effective implementation of next steps in the Climate Action Plan, and effective community involvement in decisions made by the city. I realize, however, that my agenda is not the city's agenda, and that city staff and citizens may bring forward topics that are more significant to them. I will consider their interests as a high priority.

When addressing these three topics and others, my first interest will be to become well informed about the background, the implications for the city, and various viewpoints relevant to the subject at hand. I will seek information from city staff and community members, and attempt to collaborate with fellow Council members in arriving at an outcome.

- (9) What do you think are the top 3 economic priorities the city government should

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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?

Business of a city is to provide world class infrastructure, including transportation, safety, recreational opportunities, and safe friendly neighborhoods. If the city keeps Fort Collins a great place to live and work, we will continue to attract workers, and people who wish to do business here. There are a few areas I am aware of where the economy influences the city's budget. The city can prioritize quality of life issues in budgeting, including infrastructure and city services adequately funded to maintain quality of life. In budgeting, I will be responsive by adequately funding infrastructure and services to maintain our high quality of life. For example, it's very important to fund street maintenance and to upgrade or expand city facilities, such as parks or the senior center, as demands increase. I also think that the city needs to attract high quality employees, and in the budget process I support the salary policy.

- (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 strongly believe that sound decision-making starts with factual information and input from all stakeholders. I will make time to meet with business leaders to discuss their issues. The way to make Ft. Collins a "jobs friendly" community is what the city government has always done, and that is to provide world class infrastructure and city services. Ft. Collins has been acknowledged as one of the best places to do business because of the great quality of life we have here. By maintaining Ft. Collins as a great place to live and work, we help businesses attract high quality employees. The city not only provides basic services, but we help grow arts and culture and recreational activities, that attract a diverse range of people who want to live here.

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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?

The City of Ft. Collins has always been a progressive and visionary leader in northern Colorado. For example, Ft. Collins was the first city in the state to offer their residents electricity generated by wind power, and we're now moving forward with Ft ZED and community solar gardens. We have initiated small business incubators and business clusters to help grow local start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Top issues facing Northern Colorado are managing and mitigation of growth, improving public transportation, such as passenger rail along the Front Range on existing BNSF tracks, and collaborating with our neighboring communities on issues of mutual concern. For example, in recent years Ft.Collins has coordinated with the towns of Windsor and Timnath on growth management boundaries, open space and tax sharing opportunities.

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

As the community grows, the city's role is to make sure we maintain high quality infrastructure and services and expand to meet the needs. The costs of growth must be fairly attributed to the beneficiaries.

- (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?

Managing the effects of growth in a positive way is a very important issue because this must be managed in such a way to make sure we keep Ft.Collins a great place to live.

Affordable workforce housing will enhance economic and social sustainability, significant long-term city goals.

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

As I said before, the best tools Ft. Collins has for attracting businesses is maintaining our great quality of life. Based on what I know now, the city has effective tools in our tool box currently to support our economic health goals. To cite just a few of those tools, they include collaboration with the Innosphere and business clusters, Climatewise, and selective, appropriate use of the Urban Renewal Authority. If elected, I would look forward to discussing with the business community other tools we may be lacking.

- (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?

In order to insure good governance and prudent use of staff time and resources, it is very important for the Council to develop well thought out procedures for obtaining and using broad-based community input. Stakeholders need to be identified early on in the decision-making process and invited to participate in meaningful ways. The city has many citizen advisory boards that are effective resources.

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- (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?

Our city is well prepared for water emergencies. First, Ft. Collins wisely draws its water from the Big Thompson Project and the Poudre River. That way, if there is an emergency in one drainage, they still have a source of supply in the other. My understanding is the city has been planning to expand Halligan for drought protection. From what I know, that seems to be a prudent approach. The city also has award-winning conservation and Climatewise programs, which have reduced per-capita use of water by over 25% since 2002. The city also has the Water Supply Shortage Response Plan, which provides a four-tier system of water shortage response levels and corresponding water restrictions and conservation measures to be administered by city staff.

- (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?

I support continuation of the Pavement Management Sales Tax because it provides continuous revenue that maintains our roads . The gas tax revenues the city receives are insufficient to maintain this expensive infrastructure. It is much more cost effective to maintain a street than to let it fall apart and have to come back and totally rebuild it.

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

I am qualified, having had pertinent experience. I have skills acquired in service on an elected board, to be an effective, responsive leader. I have a personal commitment to seek out and collaborate with business people and others in order to best serve this community. I think we all share a love for this community and want it to be a great place to live, work, and retire.

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- (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

Nancy Tellez

Feb. 19, 2015

Signature

Date