

**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.**

Office Sought: Mayor	District (If Applicable):
Name: Wade Troxell	
Home Address: 812 Rochelle Circle, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526	
Daytime Phone: 970-491-6618	Evening Phone: 970-225-0281
Fax:	Email: voteforwade@comcast.net
Employment: CSU Department of Mechanical Engineering	
Length of Residence: In City: 58 years	In District:

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education:

Dr. Troxell received his BS degree in Engineering Science-Bioengineering in 1980, his MS and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering at Colorado State University in 1982 and 1987, respectively. After he completed his doctorate, he was a NATO Postdoctoral Fellow at Edinburgh University for 1987-1988.

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

- Elected City Council Member representing District 4, two terms, April 2007 to 2015. Currently, term limited as a Council Member and am running for Fort Collins Mayor.
- City Council assignments include:
 - Futures Committee, Chair
 - Legislative Review Committee, Chair
 - CML Legislative Policy Committee, Fort Collins delegate
 - NLC University Communities Council, Vice Chair
 - Colorado State University Liaison Committee
 - North Front Range Trans./Air Quality Council (Alternate)
 - Urban Renewal Authority
- Serves on the Board for the Colorado Clean Energy Cluster
- Serves on the Board for the Water Innovation Cluster
- Reappointed to the State of Colorado Smart Grid Task Force per legislation SB10-180
- Served on the Board of Directors of the Colorado State University Alumni Association
- Served on the Board of Directors of the First United Presbyterian Church Foundation.
- Past Member of Colorado State University Alumni Association

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

- Member of the CSU Alumni Athletes Association
- Helped form the FIRST Robotics in Fort Collins with the formation of the Poudre High School Alpine Robotics Team in 1994 and the Colorado FIRST Robot Lego League competition in Fort Collins.
- Sponsored and made presentations at Merit Badge University for Boy Scouts, Young Scholars, MESA, and Odyssey of the Mind student groups (K-12) on civic responsibility, science, engineering, and building “robots”.

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

Troxell is an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. For the past 10 years, he served as the Associate Dean for Research and Economic Development in the College of Engineering at Colorado State University. He has been on the mechanical engineering faculty at Colorado State University since 1985. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Troxell is a founding/emeritus member of the U.S. Department of Energy's GridWise Architectural Council. He is a founding member of the Colorado Clean Energy Cluster, Colorado Water Innovation Cluster and the International Cleantech Network. He has served on the State of Colorado's Smart Grid Task Force. Together with the City of Fort Collins, Spirae, Larimer County, New Belgium and other partners, successfully executed the US DOE Renewable and Distributed Systems Integration (RDSI) smart grid demonstration project called FortZED.

Troxell co-founded Sixth Dimension, Inc., a provider of network communications and real-time control technology for the electric power industry integrating in distributed energy resources. As President/COO, he led this early-staged company through three rounds of venture financing involving some of the top energy venture firms. Sixth Dimension was sold to Comverge in 2002. From 1988 to 1997, he co-founded and directed the Manufacturing Excellence Center (MEC) at CSU. MEC was a consortium of 41 laboratories and centers focused on improving the competitiveness and profitability of small to medium-sized manufacturers in Colorado. He established Colorado's NIST-funded Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) center and served as its Executive Director from 1992 to 1997.

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

Troxell is a recognized expert in the areas of intelligent robotics and intelligent control of distributed energy systems. His smart grid research has focused on intelligent systems and the integration of the distributed energy resources (DER) including renewable energy into the electric power grid. He takes a systems approach towards innovative research with the aim of furthering a secure U.S. smart grid infrastructure. He directs the NetEnergy Lab that includes the InteGrid demonstration facility and works closely with partners like the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, CSU Energy Institute, Colorado Clean Energy Cluster, International Cleantech Network and the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory.

(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

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

Troxell has the background, the experience and a demonstrated commitment to the Fort Collins community. He is a listener, leader, and a doer to make Fort Collins even a better for future generations. He is a lifelong resident of Fort Collins. When only 14 years old, he was "Mayor for a Day" substituting for then-mayor Karl Carson. He grew up in Old Town, attended PSD schools, was a CSU student-athlete and captained the football team, earned three degrees in engineering at CSU, served on the CSU mechanical engineering faculty for 30 years. He has started businesses and supported businesses through his outreach at CSU. He is a listener and a doer. He is known as a collaborator as evidenced by the regional economic cluster formations, Colorado Clean Energy Cluster and Colorado Water Innovation Cluster. Since April 2007, he has been serving on City Council as District 4 representative.

(6) Why Are You Running For This Office?

Troxell has provided a balanced perspective to the City Council since he was elected in April 2007. Fort Collins is on the cusp of our golden era, as you suggest a Renaissance. As Mayor, he will provide the leadership for a vibrant Fort Collins looking forward to the future for all of Fort Collins citizens. He has brought an independent voice to issues that impact individuals, families and business owners who live, work and care about Fort Collins' future. Drawing on the vision and leadership he saw growing up when his father served on City Council in the 1960s, Troxell sees local government can be an obstacle to City's vibrant future. City government needs to get out of the way of citizens wanting to make a Fort Collins better place.

(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?

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve citizens of District 4 on the Fort Collins City Council since I was first elected in April 2007. I look forward to serving the citizens of Fort Collins as Mayor with respect, commitment, diligence, and discernment as to what is best for Fort Collins now and for its future. See #2 and #5 above.

(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?

- Economic health and prosperity for Fort Collins as evidenced by an increased number of primary employers in Fort Collins.
- Commitment to partnerships and collaboration as evidenced by Fort Collins being an innovation hub for clean energy, water technology innovation, arts incubation, and bioscience technologies.
- Citizen-centered priorities, reduced regulatory barriers and accountability by City

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

government

- (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?

- Reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers recognizing balance is important,
- Foster innovative initiatives and a healthy economic environment being a catalyst,
- As a catalyst, attract capital for seed, start-up, growth and expansion, and eliminate the use tax to spur attraction of capital and investment in Fort Collins.

The role of the City of Fort Collins is to create a business-friendly climate that understands and fosters a growing economy. A strong economy encompasses many dimensions including the natural environment, opportunities for all who chose to live here, and a vibrant future. BFO can be extended to prioritize between outcome key area/outcomes.

- (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.

Yes, I would like to lead this discussion. In addition to my experience in business and on City Council, Through more collaborations and partnerships, we can create more opportunities for Fort Collins citizens. I understand the impact and possibilities of Colorado State University being the City's biggest employer as well as the biggest talent producer through its students and graduates.

- (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' self determination is dependent upon out leadership in the region. A vibrant regional economy, multimodal transportation systems, clean water and water storage for the future, and clean energy are important issues facing Northern Colorado. Fort Collins needs to engage as a solid partner with others in the region.

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

The proper role of City government is to make the City of Fort Collins a terrific place to work, live and recreate. I pledge to support:

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

- Economic Health - a healthy, sustainable economy reflecting the values of our unique community in a changing world.
- Environmental Health - promote, protect and enhance a healthy and sustainable environment.
- Neighborhood Livability - foster and support a variety of quality neighborhoods.
- Safe Community - provide a safe place to live, work, learn and play.
- Cultural and Recreational Opportunities - encourage and provide diverse cultural and recreational opportunities.
- Transportation - provide for safe and reliable multi-modal travel to, from, and throughout the City.
- High Performing Government - exemplify an efficient, innovative, transparent, effective and collaborative city government.

It is important to make decisions that will positive for future generations to live in Fort Collins. The City Council needs to balance competing needs that keeps Fort Collins a great place in terms of its key areas and outcomes.

(13) What are the top two issues facing city government over the next 2 years and why do you believe they are the most important?

- Economic complacency, as David May has written, is the challenge to our economic well being, thus making our Economic Health the top issue. The next 2 years it will be important that we foster the ability of businesses to be able to innovate and create wealth. These are key and can be hallmarks in Fort Collins given the talent of its citizens and its assets.
- Neighborhood Livability are under pressure due to the fact we are now an infill community increasing our population density. The next years will need to address current limitations and the need for student housing and affordable housing in general. We also need to address the "art of neighboring" to bring home the culture of neighborhoods. I would like for more formally be able to recognize established neighborhoods through their neighborhood-identified leadership rather than Tuesday night self-appointed spokespersons.

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

Economic tools for the tool box include:

- URA, TIF, Metro Districts, and other kinds of districts provided by under state law (e.g., Innovation Districts).
- Reducing or elimination of certain taxes (e.g., Use tax) to stimulate economic activities.
- Creation of economic clusters based on the triple helix model for economic development can help assist the community ecosystem thrive.

These are important in their appropriate application to economic development.

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

- (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?

Good governance is transparent and reflects the true interests of Fort Collins' citizens.

Troxell has consistently been an independent voice standing up for a broad base of Fort Collins' citizens across the spectrum that has been ignored by the majority on City Council on a number of issues. He was the outspoken critic of trash districting when the majority flipped in the 11½ hour when 600 citizens stormed City Hall. On the Eastside/Westside Neighborhood restrictions ordinance, he was a lone voice and vote on Council. He and Mayor were on the short side of Plastic Bag Fee Ordinance, 5-2. He supported the petition drive by citizens to repeal the ordinance on the plastic bag fee. The successful citizen petition effort forced the rest of the current Council members to repeal this ordinance.

- (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?

Troxell wants to foster better collaboration and partnerships in our community and region to provide for clean water and water storage for the future. He supports the full expansion of the Halligan Reservoir. He as consistently pointed out that the NISP project positively impacts 8000 Fort Collins water users supplied by the Fort Collins-Loveland District. He supports the bringing together of the three water districts and FC Water Utilities to better utilize not only water resources, but also better utilization of our water infrastructure and capital investments. He has been a leader in forming the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster to help make water technology solutions become a greater economic driver through our talent and innovation capacity.

- (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?

1. Better integration of the MAX with Transfort.
2. Move improvements in the multimodal transporation system.
3. Improvements and expansion to I25 to fully serve Fort Collins.

I support the renewal of the Pavement Management Sales Tax on the April 7 ballot.

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

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

I best represent the broad middle of Fort Collins who like to live, work, recreate, build and grow a business, start a business, study and research, relax and retire. With over 1200 business in Fort Collins, we need to address the needs from the start up company, mom and pop business to the well-established businesses. I know this community and I know how important economic well being and wealth creation is fundamental to our quality of life we enjoy.

(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



Wade Troxell, Candidate for Fort Collins Mayor

February 19, 2015
Date