

Nate Budd

1300 Riverside Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80524



1. Why are you running?

I am tremendously passionate about Fort Collins and deeply invested in the issues facing our community moving forward. Fort Collins is in a special moment in its history as it goes through the exciting transformation from a large town to a small city. That transformation is going to bring novel challenges and greater opportunities. Solving those challenges is going to require a diversity of voices on council to ensure that the solutions created and policy formed guide our city into a future that is bright for citizens at every stage of life and primes our community to take advantage and ownership of new opportunities. I believe that the experience and presence that I would bring to council will add an additional level of approachability and novel thoughts to our council to build a brighter future for our citizens and our region.

2. What's the most important issue voters in your prospective district have shared with you?

As I have spoken with the voters in District 1 they have expressed many issues and concerns. Many of these issues parallel the larger conversations in the community around issues like affordable and attainable housing, job opportunities, transportation and community culture, but the diversity of the district has lent itself to siloes of concerns that define the broad character of District 1. As you look into the Northeast the challenges around the patchwork of utility services that many households are dealing with has come up time and time again in conversations as well as the limited public transportation options and concerns about proximity of development ranging from housing to oil and gas to existing neighborhoods. Through the historic heart of district one encompassing Old Town, and the neighborhoods directly east of the university people are concerned about their neighborhood livability, transient issues, and a perceived loss of a comradery that once existed as decade long residents move on and new neighbors and developments move in. District 1 is also home to some of the historic Hispanic neighborhoods from which I have heard concerns around gentrification due to their proximity to Old Town and growing developments. In this case the amenities (like sidewalks) that are necessities for some regions are seen as catalysts to a change that will disrupt the culture of neighborhoods. Towards the Southeast of the district family, safety and education concerns have been the most prevalent concerns. These challenges may not be isolated to District 1 but I believe that the fact that such a large spectrum of concerns are all encompassed in this district which also borders the largest remaining GMA in the city will poses a very unique challenge and require an open minded leadership that I hope to bring to District 1.

3. Tensions exist between Old Town businesses and transients. How does Fort Collins balance being a welcoming place for many populations?

We are tremendously lucky that Fort Collins has such a welcoming atmosphere. As it relates to the Old Town Businesses and Transients I believe that this should be a top priority in our Cultural Plan that is up for review in this next Council's term. In speaking with the businesses across Old Town the transient

concern came up time and time again, but I was happy to hear in many cases, almost in the same breath, the gratitude that was expressed for the solutions that the city has already begun implementing like Outreach Fort Collins. I believe that we should continue to look for proactive solutions to the Business Transient interaction rather than punitive ones, a fear that was expressed around recent ideas like the sit-lie ban. We have laws in place that encompass illegal behavior in the community that we can exercise if necessary, but whenever possible we should be looking as a community to be a leader in fostering the partnerships across the city and the region that can create practical solutions to potential problems before tensions build to larger conflicts. This could be in the form of stable and sustainable affordable housing opportunities to help our friends and neighbors who have fallen on hard times, community outreach before law enforcement becomes necessary in less disruptive behaviors, and mental health and addiction facilities that will help people struggling with larger issues get to a more stable place in their lives.

4. Fort Collins has indicated it would like to communicate with Northern Water, which seeks to build NISP. Should the project move forward? Why or why not?

I agree with council's vote to pursue talks with Northern Water regarding NISP and support Northern Water's right to pursue their permit and, if environmentally feasible, build their project. I also support opponent's rights to protest and litigate to push for their interests. The EIS process is a robust federal process that will decide whether the project, based on the environmental impacts, should be allowed to move forward. That is not a decision for the City to make. The City's responsibility should be to ensure, if the project is built, that our interests are acknowledged and we are better positioned to do that with a seat at the table to communicate with Northern. Regarding our interests as a City; flows within the river above the biological opinion and storage opportunities to strengthen our existing water rights should be explored.

5. How can the City of Fort Collins be more inclusive to people of different ethnicities and socioeconomic status?

I see several ways that the City can be more inclusive to people of different ethnicities and socioeconomic statuses. First we should be looking at the days and times that we offer our opportunities to engage, diversifying these meeting times may open up the opportunity to share a voice to members of our community who have not been available to attend due to family or work conflicts in the past. Diversity in our representation can also add to that inclusive environment.

6. What's the one project/issue in the last budgeting for outcomes cycle that was not funded that you would worked to support?

Transfort Sunday service is something that the community overwhelmingly supported and plays largely into many of our other goals in the community that I would have worked to support in the last budgeting for outcomes cycle.

7. The Road to 2020 has experienced fits and starts. If elected, how will you help shape the city's climate action goals?

I believe that the City should continue to take action to accelerate air pollution reduction and achieve its climate action goals. My biggest fear in pursuing these solutions is where the cost burden that could be put on people in the community already dealing with affordability especially with the current timeline. I believe, given the increasing population and traffic and associated pollution, the City should prioritize the multi-modal transportation solutions that align with our other long term transit and transportation plans and priorities with an emphasis on those that extend services to some of our vulnerable populations. Also in District 1, where so much of the GMA is located, we need to be prepared to have necessary regulations and plans in place for areas of future development to ensure that our growth takes these climate goals into consideration with density and building energy efficiency standards while leaving enough flexibility to balance the many other issues across the community.

8. Should Fort Collins become a broadband provider?

Looking at the information regarding broadband services I see two major impediments to a fully Fort Collins owned and operated broadband service that push me toward the Public Private option. 1) Fort Collins is a great utility provider with an amazing customer service reputation, but we have never operated our utility services in the competitive set that poses additional risks for this level of investment 2) The technology risk associated with this type of infrastructure is also uncharted territory especially as we consider the advancements that may be made within the next 15 years (the expected timeline for payout on this investment). We have an opportunity to partner with private industry in the development of these assets to push greater competition in the region and negotiate the service standards and expectations for our community while eliminating the need for spending \$120,000,000+ ourselves.

9. Should the city re-evaluate its you-plus-two ordinance? Why or why not?

Absolutely. I understand the concerns surrounding neighborhood livability that went into creating and later enforcing the rule. However, I think that there is enough history and data if we care to explore it to gain a better understanding of the impact of artificially restricting the supply of rooms in the community has had. With affordable and attainable housing concerns on the rise re-evaluating you-plus-two can hopefully help us adapt to the times and strike a better balance between housing affordability and neighborhood livability for our future.

10. What grade (A-F) would you give current elected city leadership, and why?

B-, I think that our current council has done an above average job, but there is always room for improvement. In some cases it feels like minds are made up by certain council people and their positions are undeterred even when compromises are made. I also believe that council could do a better job of engaging more diverse groups of stakeholders in issues to avoid the narrow thinking and special interest solutions that accompany always “greasing the squeaky wheels” which are not often representative of the larger community.