



2017 CANDIDATE Written Questionnaire

CANDIDATE'S NAME: Nate Budd

COUNCIL SEAT BEING SOUGHT: Council District #1

- 1.) Why do you want to be a member of the Fort Collins City Council, and what in your back-ground has prepared you to be a council member?

I would like to be a member of the Fort Collins City Council because I believe that the city is at an important transition point from a large town to a small city and I want to ensure that our council leadership represents the diversity of perspectives of our community as we shape our path into the future. I am currently the Associate Director of Development for the Scott College of Engineering and an Adviser for Wyco Power and Water as well as a Board Member for Neighbor to Neighbor and the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek. I have also served as a past Development Chair for Homelessness Prevention Initiative and as a member of both the Coloradoan's Editorial Board and UniverCity Connections Scoping Committee. Through those work and volunteer roles I have honed skills of collaboration, strategic planning, budgeting and consensus building while demonstrating my ability to ask pointed questions and make thoughtful decisions. Specifically, my time on the Coloradoan's Editorial board was a great parallel to council process. During that time we engaged with many of the same issues as City Council, we educated ourselves ahead of meetings on the issues, listened to proponents, opponents and experts on those issues and asked necessary questions to gain additional information. Our diverse citizen board engaged in constructive civil discourse to come to consensus on opinions on steps could and should be taken for the greatest benefit of the community. I believe that my experience bringing diverse stakeholders to the table and looking for win-win opportunities will lend itself well to a role on council. Those experiences, particularly at the community level, paired with my passion for Fort Collins have exposed me to the breadth and depth of the various issues facing our community and I look forward to working through the policy to begin solving these complex problems.

- 2.) What recent City Council policies and decisions have been made with which you agree, disagree, and why?

Given I am running against a current member of the council I would like to point out two recent decisions that I differ from my opponent on. First, is the Woodward Silos decision. While council took the right approach in supporting Woodward's ability to turn the silos into a meeting space my opponent vehemently opposed the option and took a stance that I saw as unrepresentative of the voices of a majority of the district, willfully ignorant of the safety concerns and behold only to a vocal minority. Along those same lines, just earlier this week

my opponent took a stance against the City entering into conversations with Northern Water around NISP. I believe that his vote to not pursue these talks was irresponsible given that, whether the project is ultimately approved or not, these talks are our opportunity to ensure that the interests of the community are heard.

- 3.) What are the two most important issues we face in Fort Collins that can be affected by City Council? What would you propose in order to address these issues?

I believe that the two most important issues we face in Fort Collins that can be affected by City Council are Affordable/Attainable Housing and Underemployment.

Affordable and Attainable Housing – Affordable housing as it relates to those people in the lower 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and how we assist some of the most vulnerable populations in our community. I am a board member for Neighbor 2 Neighbor and past development Chair for Homelessness Prevention Initiative and believe that stable housing is crucial for positive personal and professional growth and the developing the sense of place and community that strengthens and sustains our culture. Attainable Housing, related to people above 80% of the AMI, is a growing issue as well. Given the tremendous appreciation we have seen in the region over the past 5 years many people that we consider to be doing “OK” in our community are struggling to find opportunities to rent or purchase a home without spending over 30% of their monthly income. I believe that any solutions starts with ensuring stakeholders voices are heard and represented. To address these issues I believe that we have an opportunity to put upward pressure on our state officials to pursue reform of things like construction defects to encourage development of condo housing (an entry level housing option for many people). The City should also utilize our land bank in conjunction with regional partners to promote development of certain types of affordable housing options. Also our fee structure and its timeline for review could be adjusted to incentivize more sustainable types of housing and reduce the dramatic fee increases that come with the current review cycle.

Underemployment – Fort Collins is a highly educated community but we do not have the jobs to match our skilled workforce. A 2011 economic study showed that 78% of our population has above a high-school education (trade school, college, etc.) but only 38% of the jobs that we offer in the region require that level of education. This not only pushes people out of our community as they look for opportunities to advance their careers and grow their families, but also plays into the affordable and attainable housing issues when you look at the depressed wages and greater competition at those lower paying jobs that result from this problem. Northern Colorado is well known as a great place to live, but I do not think that we have done enough to promote ourselves as a great place to do business. I believe that the city has an opportunity to address this issue with a marketing effort. This could be on our own or through collaboration with organizations already operating in this space for the region like NCEA. Those efforts will hopefully attract the much needed primary employers to the region, but we must also tap into our highly innovative community to create and grow our local business economy. The city may be able to do more in this space by getting out of the way, but I do believe that they are in a

unique position to foster greater connections between potential regional animators of innovation like the University, City services, and our regional business community.

4.) If the Fort Collins Board of REALTORS® choose to endorse you would you accept that endorsement?

Yes