

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE  
2017 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION**

**Questionnaires are due back to [ahutchison@fcchamber.org](mailto:ahutchison@fcchamber.org)  
by 5pm on January 22, 2017.**

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

Office Sought: Councilmember	District (If Applicable):1
Name: Nate Budd	
Home Address: 120 Mathews St Unit 1, Fort Collins CO 80524	
Daytime Phone:	Evening Phone:
Fax:	Email: <a href="mailto:nate@votenatebudd.com">nate@votenatebudd.com</a>
Employment: Colorado State University – Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering	
Length of Residence: In City:	10 years In District: 4 years

***Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.***

(1) Education:

2012 BS Warner College of Natural Resources – Natural Resource Tourism  
Minor Business Administration

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

Past:

Coloradoan Editorial Board – Board Member  
UniverCity Connections – Scoping Committee  
Homelessness Prevention Initiative – Board Member/Development Chair

Present:

Neighbor to Neighbor – Board Member  
The Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek – Board Member

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

Past:

**Key Account Executive\*** – Coloradoan

At the Coloradoan I was quickly promoted to managing its 2<sup>nd</sup> largest desk. There, I grew overall territory revenue +9% while learning the marketing goals of regional businesses and utilizing Gannett’s resources in strategic ways to help them achieve strong ROI.

**Business Development Director\*** – Wyco Power and Water

With Wyco I helped navigate the early stages of developing one of the Rocky Mountain region’s largest private water supply, storage and hydroelectric projects. In addition to developing a RFP for DBFO services I worked with multi-national engineering firms, government agencies and opposition groups in promotion of the project.

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Present:

**Associate Director of Development** – Scott College of Engineering

In addition to securing numerous major gift commitments I have been working with regional business and economic development entities to establish and grow opportunities that leverage the workforce pipeline, and research advantages of the University with regional priorities and strengths of our business community.

**Adviser** – Wyco Power and Water

As an adviser to Wyco we have been focused on building a team of business and financial partners representative of the many aspects of the project to include recruiting a project industrial advisory board and CEO.

*\* Multiple positions held.*

(4) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

Through my work and volunteer roles (above) I have honed skills of collaboration, strategic vision, budgeting and consensus building while demonstrating my ability to ask pointed questions and make thoughtful and decisive decisions when necessary. Most notably, during my time on the Coloradoan Editorial Board we engaged with issues City Council was deliberating; listening to proponents and opponents on a variety of issues ranging from NISP to toplessness. As a member of the board I educated myself on the issues, asked questions to gain additional information and through constructive civil discourse worked together with a diverse citizen group to form actionable opinions on what steps should be taken for the greatest benefit of the community at large.

(5) Why Are You Running For This Office?

I am tremendously passionate about Fort Collins and deeply invested in the issues facing our community moving forward. I believe that 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 vast 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 them to take advantage and ownership of new opportunities. I believe that my voice embodies these changes, challenges and opportunities.

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(6) 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?

- Advance additional affordable/attainable housing opportunities by partnering with existing local and regional entities, and encouraging new players with a vested interest in these problems to come to the table to do their part for our common future
- Deepen our Sense of Place by investing in our art, cultural, and natural areas through increased visibility of city programs that embody these values
- Enhance Multi-modal transportation opportunities by ensuring future planning begins with this end in mind.

(7) 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?

- Attracting, growing and sustaining jobs of the future that align with our region strengths and future opportunities to combat underemployment concerns
- Infrastructure investment to ensure that we are prepared as a community to support the needs of future people and industries
- Foster partnerships and collaboration that marry technology, industry and education to prepare our community for the lifelong learning challenges of the future

The city of Fort Collins is responsible for creating an environment that facilitates economic development by ensuring our quality of life attracts a strong labor force; and transportation technology and business infrastructure is readily available. I believe the Budgeting for Outcomes process and the identified priorities the community will allow me to make the economy a City budget priority.

(8) 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 believe that Fort Collins is in a unique position as a community of this size with a large research University at our center to be an animator of innovation through stronger industry, university and government partnership. I have already been working in my role with the Scott College of Engineering to foster these relationships by bringing university, industry and economic development partners together around research opportunities and talent pipeline relationship development that I believe fosters a more jobs friendly community. I welcome the opportunity to engage with citizens and leaders from every aspect of our community to include the business community. I see those relationships as a two-way street where, through our unique perspective on the community, we welcome open and honest dialogue around the issues that affect us.

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- (9) 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 Fort Collins should be a leader in the region, especially now when our share of voice is at its largest. We are in a great position to be that leader because the top issues facing Northern Colorado in the next several years have tremendous implications for our community: Economic Diversity, Water Resiliency and Transportation Infrastructure

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

I believe that the City Council has done a great job in identifying 7 key strategic priorities for the community that take into consideration our inevitable growth. City council should focus on applying those priorities to ensure: proper planning for GMAs, opportunities for sprawl reduction and concentrated urban growth, affordable housing development, open space and recreation opportunities, multi-modal transportation opportunities, utility resiliency and sustainability and cultural continuity

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

- Under-employment – According to the City’s Economic Health Strategic Plan 73% of people 25 or older in the Fort Collins MSA have above a highschool diploma or GED but only 38% of our jobs require that level of skill as of 2011. Not only are we leaving a tremendous amount of human capital on the table and limiting the speed of our economic growth but we are also limiting the opportunities for people trying embrace our culture and grow with our community by limiting their opportunities for career growth.
- Affordable & Attainable Housing – Not only is our supply of affordable housing for people making 80 percent or less of AMI already strained but rapidly increasing home prices are putting greater strains on citizens making above 80% of AMI and looking for attainable housing opportunities that require no more that 30 percent of their income. Both of these problems have major implications for our future and the diversity of citizens that we are able to sustain across a variety of industries, and stages of life that make our community possible.

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- (12) 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?

Being an innovative community should not exclude our city government. When issues arise that the city is closest to, like wear and tear on roads caused by multiple heavy trash vehicles utilizing that infrastructure, we should encourage the exploration of novel ideas and solutions. I want to be clear that I'm not supporting past Council's decision on this specific issue, rather that when these types of issues arise we should not discourage the exploration of innovative solutions so long as those solutions take into account the risks and opportunity costs associated with utilizing taxpayer dollars and staff time and resources.

- (13) The City adopted very aggressive Climate goals in 2016. What role does government have in driving achievement of those goals?

As a major power purchaser and population center it is important for the city to recognize our role in driving solutions to a changing climate. We should absolutely pursue greater efficiencies as a community and continue to be a leading and innovative example on how to move forward around this issues. City government must ensure that solutions are pragmatic and take into account the implications our efforts may have on other issues the community is facing like affordability.

- (14) Past droughts and the High Park Fire 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?

Increased severity in the extremes of our water availability means that our city needs to do more to increase our resiliency to drought. Storage is a crucial part of a municipalities water infrastructure system that safeguards and provides for a greater diversity of uses of our diverse water rights. I think that in order to be better prepared for water emergencies the City should be pursuing new storage opportunities like Halligan as well as working with regional partners to maximize shared infrastructure opportunities. I also think it may be worth the city revisit our current Water Supply and Demand Management Policy to consider adopting 1 in 70 or 100-year drought preparedness?

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(15) What are the top three transportation improvements the City of Fort Collins should accomplish? Should the City of Fort Collins be investing in North I-25?

- Strengthen and develop more integrated multi-modal transportation services
- Continue to work with the FRA to try to address safety, traffic and noise concerns of our community
- Take proactive and innovative approaches to increasing traffic congestion

Yes, I believe that given CDOTs current timeline for what is already a growing concern for our region it is important for the City in conjunction with regional and state partners to look for opportunities to influence and invest in the future of North I-25.

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

I recognize the role that the business community plays in the development of new jobs and fostering economic opportunity that government cannot fulfill alone. I have shown my ability to understand and work in collaboration with the business community in many of my roles across Fort Collins and would look forward to continuing to encourage an open dialogue in my role as a councilmember.

(17) 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.

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Signature

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Date