

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org
by 5pm on Friday, September 9, 2016.**

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

Office Sought: County Commissioner	District (If Applicable): 2
Name: William E. Wright	
Home Address: 1924 Bronson Street Fort Collins, CO 80526	
Daytime Phone: 970-568-6764	Evening Phone: 970-568-6764
Fax:	Email: wrightforlarimercounty@gmail.com
Employment: Poudre School District	
Length of Residence: In County: 62 years In District: 26 yrs	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

1. Education:

B.A. in English/Secondary Education from University of Northern Colorado
M.A. in Education from Lesley University

2. Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:

Volunteer with Special Olympics annually, coordinated food drives for Food Bank,
clothing drive for Red Cross,

3. Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

21 years as High School teacher with Poudre School District
11 years in marketing and circulation for The Coloradoan newspaper and USA
Today
30 years owner of Graphic Design business

4. Current Employment and Responsibilities:

English and World Humanities teacher at Fossil Ridge High School. I have been a member of the
union negotiation team for years, working on budgets and contracts for all employees in the
district.

5. Specific Qualifications For This Office:

I am a third generation native of Larimer County and, as such, I have witnessed the massive changes the county has undergone. I understand the challenges we face and I am quite good at forging coalitions to find solutions that benefit everyone.

6. Why are you running for this office?

According to a Coloradoan article from January, 2016, 60% of people eligible for food stamp assistance are not enrolled. That means that people who are food insecure are not getting help and the county lost out on approximately fifty-three million dollars in Federal funds. The current Commissioners have done nothing to remedy this. I want to help those people who feel they don't have a voice in our government.

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?

Since I first decided to run for office, I have been talking to the heads of the various departments within the county. I have come to understand the process of how property taxes are assessed. I have a basic understanding of the Human Services department's operations and challenges. Most importantly, I have talked with people about their needs from the Commissioners and, when elected, I will continue to listen to all the people and find ways to help solve problems.

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?

I. I will spear-head the efforts to enroll people in the food stamp program who are eligible. My goal is to have half of that 60% enrolled in the first year and have ninety percent participation by the end of my term.

II. Larimer County will have at least four hundred single-family homes that sold for \$150,000 or less. This will be accomplished by facilitating a coalition of builders to work together in a subdivision and by offering financial help for infrastructure improvements.

III. I will lead the effort to allow counties to be exempted from the Gallagher Amendment to lower property taxes for businesses and allow each county to set percentages of taxes collected.

9. What do you think are the top 3 economic priorities the county government should undertake during the next four years? What role should Larimer County have in economic development? How will you make the economy a County budget priority?

I. Creating affordable single-family housing in the county.

II. Lowering property taxes for small businesses. Create a tiered system of taxation

III. Create greater job opportunities for entry level workers

County Government can play a significant role in economic development by being the facilitator for a variety of groups, both public and private. Most times this will not involve a capital infusion from the county but that should be an option. If the taxes paid by small business owners is lowered by just five percent, that will stimulate expansion and job opportunities.

10. How will you make Larimer County 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.

As I've said before, I believe it is vital to be connected with the business leaders in the county. By working in collaboration, we can find creative solutions to the economic problems that arise. I will attend meetings regularly with the Chamber of Commerce and would establish monthly meetings where every business person could attend and discuss issues.

11. What role should Larimer County have in the region? What do you believe are the top issues facing Northern Colorado in the next several years?

Managing growth will be one of the top issues in the near future. With a projection of 20,000 people moving here by 2020, we must prepare for this. The first priority must be water resources. The county must take the lead in acquiring and protecting water rights if we are to maintain the life-style of our county. Cities and towns can't do it alone. I believe the County Commissioners have to take a leading role and be proactive rather than sitting back and solving problems when they arrive.

12. Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should Larimer County plan for growth, if at all?

I believe I've outlined this in number 11. In addition, housing issues have to be considered. Apartments are not the answer, they are a short-term fix and the sea of asphalt surrounding them taxes the sewer infrastructure and contributes to rising temperatures.

13. What are the top two issues facing county government over the next 4 years and why do you believe they are the most important?

- I. Finding and retaining qualified employees, especially in the Human Services departments. As the population grows, so does the need for these services which are already understaffed.
- II. Roads and bridges are going to become more of an issue as the population increases and people are living away from the cities and towns. Infrastructure maintenance will be vital.

14. What economic tools should the County add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?

I understand the need to attract businesses to the county in order to remain economically strong but I would not offer tax incentives to attract businesses here. I believe these incentives punish existing businesses and may give competitors an unfair advantage. Larimer County offers so many things that are attractive to businesses and I think by simply presenting these, we can attract employers. The Commissioners should be actively courting businesses that would be a good fit for the area.

15. What are the top three transportation improvements Larimer County should accomplish? What is your position on the Fix North I-25 effort? Why?

I. Improve mass transit through-out the county and beyond to tie in to regional transit lines and reduce traffic congestion.

II. Reduce truck traffic through the cities, especially in fort Collins along 287. There is a reason North College Avenue has to be repaired constantly.

III. Expand I-25

I am completely in favor of the expansion efforts for I-25. I do question why the proposal is for a toll lane for Larimer County when other expansion has not contained this. I would pressure our state representatives to change this and get more money to Northern Colorado for highway expansion.

16. The Larimer County Landfill is nearing the end of its viable life. What should we be doing to prepare for our waste stream future?

First, we should ban ALL yard waste from entering the landfill. This waste is fully compostable so it can be repurposed. Next, I believe the County should ban all plastic bags and should make recycling mandatory with fines for violations. If we can cut waste by 50%, we have increased the life of the landfill to fifteen years. In that time, we must move toward a zero waste society.

17. An effort to create universal health care is on the state ballot this year (Amendment 69). What is your position on the issue and why?

I believe this is an essential first step toward universal health care and must be passed. The cost of health care is one of the greatest burdens for our society and results in those in the lower income brackets suffering the most. The cost of the program will be offset by not having to pay premiums to for-profit insurance companies who dictate what benefits the people receive. Universal health care works in EVERY other industrial country and can work as effectively here.

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

I will work to reduce taxes on businesses in a number of ways. I will push to get an exception to the Gallagher Amendment so businesses don't have to pay 55% of total taxes, I will closely monitor the county budget to keep property taxes at the lowest level possible, and I will always include business people in any coalition working on solving the County's problems.

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

William E. Wright
Signature (electronic)

09/08/2016
Date