

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2016 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

**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): 3
Name: Tom Donnelly	
Home Address: 2092 Firestone Ct	
Daytime Phone: (970)290-2431	Evening Phone: same
Fax:	Email: todonnelly@gmail.com
Employment: Current Larimer County Commissioner	
Length of Residence: In County: 22yrs	In District: same

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education: Attended Kansas State University. Left school to move to Colorado to be with my brother who had terminal cancer.

(2) Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:
 Current Larimer County Commissioner 2009-present
 Larimer representative to the North Front Range MPO 2009-present
 including two years as chair and five years on executive committee
 Executive committee member Upper Front Range Transportation
 Planning region 2009-present
 elected Larimer County Surveyor 2007-2009, member Colorado Assn of County
 Surveyors, member Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, Former member of
 City of Loveland Planning Commission,

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:
 Professional Land Surveyor in private practice

I've signed the front of a paycheck...not just the back.

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(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

Current Larimer County Commissioner, representing the people of Larimer County by setting policy and overseeing a nearly \$400 million budget and 1600 employees.

(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

Over two decade resident of Larimer County (Loveland) with 10 years experience as County elected official. Reputation as an "idea guy" who finds creative solutions to problems.

(6) Why are you running for this office?

County govt. plays such an important role in the lives of the people of our County. Through public safety services, health and human services, our regional road system...even parks and open lands, Larimer County government contributes significantly to our overall quality of life. As a father of four, I want to ensure that this remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

(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?

See above. As a current member of the Board of Commissioners, I am proud that the County government organization that I oversee is viewed positively by the community as an organization that consistently provides a high level of service and responds to the most pressing policy issues currently facing our region.

(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?

1. Seeing I-25 expanded to three lanes all the way to Denver. 2. To see the creation of a mental and behavioral health treatment facility. 3. Develop strategy for the future of our County landfill. 4. New County building in Loveland (I know you only asked for three, but it's important!).

(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?

1. Expanding our transportation infrastructure. 2. Increasing the affordability of housing through the efforts of the County's housing affordability working group. 3. Increasing workforce development and engagement with our business community through the county's Workforce Center.

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The Commissioners have been much more engaged in economic development than previous Boards and have developed a vigorous economic development department to work collaboratively with our municipalities, the NCEA, our Chambers and the State in attracting and retaining employers to Larimer County.

- (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.

Commissioners all frequently attend meetings of our local business groups and always seek out business leaders for our citizen advisory boards. The commissioners are always mindful of tax rates and maintaining a high level of service in our County government. One other thing, the County Commissioners have convened a Housing Affordability Working Group to develop strategies to make housing attainable to our current and future workforce.

- (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?

Larimer County should continue to serve in a leadership role in our region. As seen with I-25 expansion, Larimer County can, and does, facilitate many positive efforts in Northern Colorado. As the overarching government we are in a unique position to work for the entire County and all municipalities. Some of the top issues will be: mitigating traffic congestion, making housing more affordable, and expanding water storage throughout our region.

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

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Larimer County needs to work collaboratively with our municipalities to ensure that as growth occurs public infrastructure is developed to accommodate it. We have done that for years and will continue to do so. We are currently working with many of our municipalities, including Ft. Collins to update our Growth Management Area boundaries. One thing I would like to see is greater collaboration on regional roadway capacity improvements, similar to the County's recent I-25 mill levy plan.

(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 believe there are two distinct fronts where the County will face issues in the near future. The first is pretty straight forward...emergency response and recovery. The County suffered \$100 million in infrastructure damage as a result of the 2013 floods. Making our communities and infrastructure more resilient will become increasingly important. Secondly, I think significant efforts must be directed at dealing with the effects of growth to make our economy remain strong and make our quality of life remain high. Issues like relieving traffic congestion, keeping housing affordable, and increasing water storage opportunities will be key to keeping our communities strong and vibrant places to live and work.

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

We have recently reconstituted the County's Economic Development Department. This department will be able to help with business attraction and retention, particularly with working with the State on incentives. The Commissioners recently adopted a new policy regarding incentives and help for local businesses. Some recent examples are the personal property incentives granted to Avago in Ft. Collins and Hach in Loveland for business expansions.

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

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Larimer County has been actively working with Fix North I-25 and, in fact, convened our own I-25 group which included our business community. It was during those meetings that the implementation plan to expand the interstate between Hwy 14 and Hwy 402 was developed. 1. Expanding I-25 to six lanes all the way to Denver must be a major transportation priority for all of our Northern Colorado region. 2. Upgrading the Owl Canyon corridor, a major truck bypass which keeps truck traffic out of Ft. Collins, needs to be a priority. 3. I also think we should begin discussions of use of the road and bridge mill levy in a similar way to how we did for I-25 to facilitate some regional road improvements to ensure that people will still be able to move about the region as growth continues. And 4, the Commissioners have prioritized senior transit solutions in our recently completed strategic plan. This can help seniors stay in their own homes longer and significantly improve the quality of life for seniors in our community.

- (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?

The landfill is estimated to have approximately 10 years of usable life remaining so now is the appropriate time to plan for the future. The Commissioners have convened both policy and technical advisory groups to evaluate all potential solutions for the future of solid waste here in Larimer County. These are collaborative groups with representatives from Larimer County, Ft. Collins, Loveland and Estes Park. A series of community meetings will be held over the next few months and public participation will be an important part of the process. There are many exciting new possibilities besides just landfilling trash including new opportunities for recycling, composting and "waste to energy" technologies and all will be fully evaluated.

- (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 am opposed. Amendment 69 is a tremendous tax increase and would undoubtedly severely limit the State's ability to fund other key services in future years.

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

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This Board of Commissioners ended a sales tax six months early (our current County sales tax rate is nearly 20% lower than when I entered office), offered a \$2.5 million property tax credit this year, increased general fund rainy day reserves by over 600%, and championed an innovative plan to expand I-25.

- (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.

Signature

Date