

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

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org  
by 5pm on January 16, 2017.**

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

Office Sought: City Council	District (If Applicable):5 <sup>th</sup>
Name: Duane Michael Hansen	
Home Address:1721 Choice Center Drive #1213 Fort Collins CO, 80525	
Daytime Phone: 970-567-8845	Evening Phone: 970-567-8845
Fax: N/A	Email: duane.m.hansen@hotmail.com
Employment: Core Spaces <i>State on Campus</i> Courtesy Manager	
Length of Residence: In City: 28.5 Years In District: 2.5 Years	

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

- (1) Education: Associates Degree of Arts Front Range Community College 2013; Bachelors of Political Science with a concentration in Governance, Law, and Policy and a minor in Diversity in Law.
- (2) Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held: Cadet Staff Sergeant Civil Air Patrol, Legislative Representative—FRCC Student Government Association, Legislative Liaison—State Student Advisory Council (representing 163,000 community college students to state legislative bodies), Senator (Adult Learner and Veteran Services)—Associated Students of Colorado State University, Member—Student Fee Review Board (allocating and overseeing \$54 million in student fee dollars), Member—ALVS Advisory Board, Vice President—Liberal Arts Dean’s Leadership Council, President—Inclusive Excellence Council, Program Coordinator—ALVS Serves, President—Pinnacle Honor Society, Member—Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society, Member—Student Veterans Organization, and Commander—Sons of the American Legion Squadron Post 1879.
- (3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience: 10 years customer service call center experience, 3 years landscaping experience, 2 years Administrative Assistance experience, 3 years Adult Learner and Veteran Services, and 3 years volunteer employment at Core Spaces’ *State on Campus* property management.

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
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- (4) Specific Qualifications For This Office: Communication, Analytical, Budget Oversight, Legislative (State and Student), Outreach, Organization, Leadership, Accountability, Asymmetric Thinking, and the ability to be approachable are all skills that have been developed through multiple years of work, volunteer, and student experiences across a wide-spectrum of environments. I would bring all these skills to bear representing 5<sup>th</sup> District as a delegate ensuring the various stakeholders from citizens, organizations, and businesses all have their voices heard before votes are cast.
- (5) Why Are You Running For This Office? I have lived in Fort Collins for nearly 30 years. I love this city from its laid back culture, its passion for being on the cutting edge of governance and leadership, and the people who live here. I feel that our city leadership has strayed from the voice of the people on topics such as the trash districting, plastic bag fees, and the CSU stadium as well as not prioritizing the more vulnerable members of our community. It is the people whom I wish to empower to become more involved and engage with our City Council and create a broader culture of inclusivity and transparency. I will be a strong presence on the City Council representing the interests of all stakeholders in the 5<sup>th</sup> District.
- (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? (1) I intend to work hard to create a homeless veterans community that would provide temporary housing with in-house resources for health—both physical and mental—as well as job skill resources. I intend to accomplish through a public-private partnership between various stakeholders such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, Banner Health or Columbine Health, University of Colorado Health, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Larimer County Workforce, Fort Collins Housing Authority, and other local businesses who would be willing to participate. (2) Promoting balanced growth to diversify our industry and curb housing costs. I would accomplish this by strongly utilizing our Urban Renewal Authority and potential tax increment fees or public improvement fees and by aggressively lobbying our state legislature to reform the Construct Defect Law to ensure developers are not discouraged to build more density development housing. I would further advocate for a higher utilization of mixed-use developments and for the construction of a business district within Fort Collins. (3) Improve our

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
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transportation infrastructure by encouraging we use higher quality materials for our roads and avoid using chip seal like what is used along North Lemay and Lincoln. I would also strongly advocate for investing some funds into the North I-25 corridor as it is our strongest link to traffic into our city and would allow us to be a stakeholder in the process to ensure our needs can be met, and finally I would urge a Transfort study and consider moving routes to a grid system to encourage efficiency, ease of use, and limit confusion.

- (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? In order of importance—housing, industry diversification, and transportation. The most important is getting Fort Collins’ ballooning housing costs under control. If we do not make this a priority it will have serious deleterious effects on our economy. As prices continue to surge, low-moderate income citizens will either struggle to live here or may leave our community altogether. This also presents obstacles for those already owning a home who will see their property taxes increase placing a greater burden on them. Fort Collins needs to continue to develop greater industry diversification in order to ensure our economy remains healthy. Too much focus on one particular area may set us up for failure. Transportation is also a key factor in maintaining our economic health. A strong transportation infrastructure ensures the sound, safe and reliable flow of business, be it for recreation, commuting, or goods. City Council’s role in maintaining economic health in the city is ensuring that we create enough growth development to meet the demands in a balanced fashion, to rein in housing costs, and encourage business development in a data-driven, neutral fashion.
- (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. As stated before I would strive for greater industry diversification to promote a healthy workforce and to prevent impacts of any negative economic forces but I would also encourage greater entrepreneurialism within the city. Further developing small business incubators such as the Innosphere are great drivers in developing a more diverse business sector. I am also in favor of developing a business district within Fort Collins to create a truly vibrant element showcasing local, innovation, and technological businesses. To

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
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help understand the needs of the business community I would absolutely be open to their input. This input would be achieved through multiple means: regular business forums, a heavy social media presence for outreach, and constant communication encouragement.

- (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? Fort Collins is the regional leader in the conduct of business. Many of the issues facing Fort Collins are similar to those facing the surrounding communities in Northern Colorado. Demand to move here has driven growth and, therefore, housing prices are rising dramatically. With this level of growth water resources have become a great concern among many in the region. We need to analyze and determine which of the projects such as the Northern Integrated Supply Project to proactively address our regional water concerns in a cooperative fashion. Collaboration will also be key in helping the regions' workforce needs to best place individual cities resources to ensure their absolute maximum impact. The region must work together with state and federal bodies to ensure the North I-25 corridor receives the necessary upgrades and expansion to economic flow through our communities strong as we all rely on the traffic that comes from I-25.
- (10) Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should the City Council plan for growth, if at all? When it comes to the growth that is coming to Colorado and especially Fort Collins, we as a community must take this growth head on. We cannot act as though growth cannot or will not happen. It is an inevitable reality that as a nationally high-ranking city we will attract growth. City Council must be willing to develop balanced approaches to addressing our growth by employing a number of strategies. Some of which may be increased density development in certain key areas of the city, one that does not negatively impact Fort Collins' quality of life yet permits some growth to ease rising costs. Looking at non-traditional means of housing such as the increased trend in tiny homes which has been providing cities like Detroit with a great deal of housing success also increases density development without the need for large building large structures in some areas. We must also consider thoughtful expansion into our Growth Management Area allows Fort Collins some room to maneuver and address revenue and development needs.

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

- (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? Housing and transportation are without a doubt two of the biggest issues facing the city of Fort Collins. Housing costs have risen so sharply in recent years we have become one of the tightest housing markets in the U.S. This is not healthy for our economy long-term. Too high of costs drives out low-moderate income individuals who play a significant role in our service and retail industries. The farther they move out of Fort Collins the greater the burden on our transportation infrastructure. This will place a lot of liability onto homeowners through their property taxes as they will pay for the majority of the infrastructure while those who are moving out of our community will utilize it with minimal financial contribution. As previously stated, the North I-25 corridor expansion should be one of our key investments in order to ensure we remain connected to the major line of traffic in the region and be a stakeholder in the decision making process.
- (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? In my time in student governance through legislative and budget oversight bodies, I have learned and developed the ability to be a delegate representing students rather than being a trustee, or someone who makes decisions based on what they believe to be in the best interests of their constituency. I work in a hands on approach actively seeking constituent feedback and educating members of the community on legislation and policies being implemented. My approach to governance is to educate and then receive as much feedback as possible. I will balance between all the different interests in my community and vote based on all of that feedback. In terms of prudent use of resources, it is simply a matter of asking where, why, and how resources and staff will be used and allocated and ensuring these departments are spending as wisely and effectively as possible.

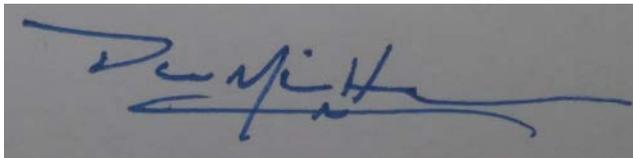
**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE  
2017 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION**

- (13) The City adopted very aggressive Climate goals in 2016. What role does government have in driving achievement of those goals? I believe that these goals may be achieved and the way I would approach these goals with both homeowners and businesses is through incentives. I don't believe that punitive measures would be as effective as creating a culture of encouragement. Adding burdens to homeowners or businesses may have a chilling effect on our overall economy.
- (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? Most importantly, we must invest in updating our infrastructure to ensure no further contaminations occur during emergencies like the High Park Fire. As our growth increases and new water resources are developed, countermeasures to these issues should be built into the system to make it more agile should we need to reallocate or divert water. For recurring drought conditions we must address this to ensure surrounding agriculture is not impacted and we can maintain safe drinking water for the city. I would be proactive on measures to encourage further conservation of this vital resource as well as look into developing projects like NISP.
- (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? We should be investing more into our infrastructure to ensure the smooth flow of commerce through Fort Collins. Fort Collins should not be using such inefficient materials such as chip seal—which has been used in North Fort Collins such as Lemay North of Mulberry and on Lincoln. Given our climate and heavy use of automobiles, chip seal overtime is less efficient than higher quality asphalt. In terms of mass transit, I would strongly recommend the Transportation Board investigate and recommend that TransFort redesign its routes into a grid pattern. As the city is designed on a one mile by one mile grid this would create an ease of use map as well as increase efficiencies by not overlapping routes in multiple areas and could use less buses. This may allow us to reduce the fleet or expand the routes out further. Finally, timing our traffic lights to improve traffic patterns would greatly reduce traffic, ease congestion, and help Fort Collins achieve its climate goals by reducing idle emissions from cars. But the easiest way to reduce these emissions is by promoting and strengthening our multi-modal transportation network between

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

mass transit, bike lanes and trails, and ensuring all neighborhoods have sidewalks. As stated above, we should be involved with the expansion of I-25 to be stakeholders in the expansion project to ensure we have a voice in how it is conducted. If we do not invest into the project, we lack proper leverage to make sure our needs are also met.

- (16) Why would a business person support your election to office? I feel businesses would support me because I am proactive in ensuring we have a strong economy and making local businesses stand out even more in our community. I am also someone who leads from the front which means I am visible and approachable to address concerns, issues, or suggestions they may offer to help our city be even more successful than it has already become. However, most importantly, I am someone who holds himself accountable to decisions and actions I take. I communicate frequently with the people who have a stake in my constituency and I have a strong record of doing so. I created a strong presence on the state level, on the University level, and will bring that presence to Fort Collins City Council.
- (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.) The only thing that I have that anyone would worry about is a few traffic violations for not having car insurance. A result of either being from a low-income family or being a college student where money was tight and certain decisions had to be made. I would be more than happy to discuss this with anyone interested in supporting me.



Signature \_\_\_\_\_

01/16/17 \_\_\_\_\_

Date