

FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT
QUESTIONNAIRE 2017 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Office sought: Mayor

Name: Elizabeth Hudetz

Cell: 970-566-1514

Email: Elizabeth4MayorFortCollins@gmail.com

Length of residence in city: 29 years, 1988-1999, District 1, 1999-2017, District 2

1. Education:

- [] B.A. Music, CSU, 1995
- [] Music Education License, K-12, CSU, 1997
- [] Elementary Education license, K-6, CSU, 2002
- [] Masters in Elementary Education, UNC, 2005
- [] Professional Teachers License, Elementary Education, & K-12 Music, 2008

2. Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:

- [] PVH, Volunteer, Children's unit & Mindskills unit, 1989-1990
- [] Dunn Elementary, V.I.P. Math, (created multiplication tables CDs), 1990
- [] Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Choir Director/Vacation Bible School, 1990-1995
- [] Fort Collins Transportation Board, 1991-1995
- [] Dunn Elementary, V.I.P Kindergarten Music, 1995
- [] City Park Neighborhood Association, President, 1995-1999
- [] Dunn Elementary, taught B.E.A.T classes (12 weeks, 3 sessions) 1995
- [] Composed original musical for Dunn Elementary School, Quest For the Blue Dolphins, and directed, with performance, 1996
- [] CSU Creative Arts Symposium, 1st Place, Original Musical Theatre competition, Imagine A Perfect World, 1997
- [] Lincoln Center, Docent, 1998-2008
- [] After The Fire (R&B fundraising 18-piece show band), performer 1998-2005
- [] Golden Meadows Neighborhood Association, Vice President, 1999-2004
- [] Created Young Composers/ Songwriters concert, CSU, 2000-2001
- [] Opera Fort Collins, Board and performing member, 2004-2011
- [] Natural Resources Board, 2016-present

3. Past and Present Employment/ Business Experience:

- [] Retired PSD, 2009
- [] TSD, Elementary Music Education, 2006-2009
- [] PIONEER EL/OB PSD, Junior High/High School, Performing Arts/ Speech Specialist, 2003-2006
- [] PSD, CLP, Junior High, Enrichment Guitar Teacher (multi-age classes), 2003
- [] Discovery Montessori, Music Specialist/Literacy (K-8), 2002-2003
- [] PSD, Laurel Elementary, Music Specialist, 1997-1999

4. Specific Qualifications For This Office:

- [] Environmental and social justice advocate/ activist in Fort Collins, 1989-present
- [] Worked on Holnam cement plant potentially burning burning Hazardous Waste issue, 1990
- [] Transportation Board, 1991-1995
- [] Natural Resources Board, 2016-present
- [] Attend SuperBoard meetings and Issues Meetings
- [] Speak regularly at City Council and have attended council work sessions
- [] Member of state group COCRN, CO Citizens' Rights Network, working to give every municipality the right to Home Rule which Fort Collins enjoys
- [] Graduate of Democracy School through COCRN
- [] Creative problem solver and work well in collaborative groups of all types
- [] Have been called a natural leader and have excellent people skills
- [] Member of Citizens for a Healthy Fort Collins, 2013- present

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Hudetz and I want to be your next mayor.

We need progressives at every level of government in every position that hasn't already been filled, to give a healthy balance to our nation's newly elected officials in Washington.

A healthy city is a productive city and a productive city is a profitable and sustainable city.

Those of us who weren't born in Fort Collins, moved here because of the beautiful landscape, the mountains, the Poudre River, great hiking and biking trails, clean air ...and water.

This last decade has seen a shift in some of the industries in our state, towards businesses that don't support this healthy lifestyle, that are polluting our air and using up copious amounts of water leaving it unpotable. In a state with an arid climate, where water is so precious that there are attorneys who specialize only in water law, the use of that water needs to be carefully considered, as wasting and rendering unusable, that precious commodity, is unconscionable under these conditions.

I was at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, in Boulder, last month regarding the air quality along the front range. Our ozone levels are precariously high and that's by US standards, which are higher, more lenient, than most other countries'. When I asked what city councils could do to improve that, I was told 2 things: make sure that the people who work there can live there and that the people who live there can work there, and have public transportation that gets people out of their cars.

My family moved here in 1988 and my children grew up here. I went to CSU to get a B.A. In Music and Music Ed degree and got my masters at UNC. I buried a son in Grandview cemetery and plan to live out my days here until I join him there.

I am committed to Ft Collins.

We need leaders with a fresh vision, of what this world can be, and we need that at every level of government if we want to create sustainable cities, which I'm sure we all do.

We need people who won't accept business as usual as the way to make decisions. Every decision has consequences down the road, there's a ripple effect, long term ramifications. We need to bear that in mind and think creatively what our options are for solving problems as they present themselves. There are no small decisions.

For the last 25 years in Fort Collins I've spent time learning about issues regarding our environment, health, real estate, property rights and values, safety and sustainability and on social justice issues. I've served on the Transportation Board, am currently on the Natural Resources Board and speak regularly at city council on issues I'm involved in. I've worked with environmental groups like Citizens for a Healthy Ft Collins, 350.org, the Fort Collins Sustainability Group, Save the Poudre, the Sierra Club, social justice groups like CO Citizens' Rights Network, which is working to give every municipality in our state "home Rule," a right which Ft Collins currently enjoys.

We need our mayor to understand that scientists are in agreement that climate change is real and the fossil fuel industry and specifically the process of extracting the fuels from the ground known as hydraulic fracturing, is largely responsible for global warming.

What does this have to do with the Ft Collins business community, you might ask. Well, other than the obvious; i.e., if we are poisoning our air and water we cannot stay healthy and therefore productive, and we can be neither financially sustainable, nor environmentally sustainable. And if our air quality is bad and getting worse, currently, how long before tourists, and others, begin to notice? Not good for business.

If we, on the other hand, decide to turn this around by pulling in alternative energy industries, like solar, and all the things that go with it, we can not only clean up the air and water making our city healthier, but can also bring in clean, truly sustainable businesses, which will make our city cutting-edge, bringing in more visitors who will likely want to return and possibly move here. If we can address the issues we face here as a city, an arid climate with water shortages, transportation issues that have come with unchecked growth that hasn't been sufficiently prepared for, and a polluting industry that is moving ever closer and damaging our air quality, we will become sustainable.

Last April 20, 2016, the Denver Post listed Ft Collins as #10 in the US for highest ozone levels. The National Center for Atmospheric Research placed us as #9 in the US for highest ozone levels, in their most recent findings last month.

We need leaders who understand that we have a say in how sustainable our cities are, and who are armed with the facts necessary to make the decisions that will lead us there. We need leaders who won't accept business as usual as the way to make decisions. That is exactly what has helped put us where we are now.

We need to start moving away from our dependence on fossil fueled vehicles, and begin to put more money into public transportation whenever possible. More full buses means fewer cars on the road, and more electric vehicles means less pollution in our air.

Make no mistake, short term monetary gain at the expense of our air and water quality will affect our health and cost us down the road. And it's a short road.

Thank you..

1. Why Are You Running For This Office?

I believe that Fort Collins citizens want their government to take a more environmentally proactive approach. Many people moved here because of our healthy environment, and crave a healthy lifestyle. I want to carry into every meeting the message that environmental policies don't have to be anti-business, but we must be much more cognizant of our environmental impacts as we create policy.

2. 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 will work to attract environmentally-oriented and environmentally responsible businesses to Fort Collins. I will work within the municipal boundaries and with neighboring governmental entities to ensure that future generations of taxpayers are not picking up the tab for environmental choices that prove to be negatively impactful that we can prevent today.

I will make sure we are on track toward achieving our environmental sustainability goals for 2020, 2030, and 2050. We make choices at every city council meeting and work session. The choices we make determine the long-term outcomes that we achieve.

3. 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?

If our businesses don't thrive our city is negatively affected. I will help to develop a business mix that offers sustainable employment opportunities to all our residents -- a variety of skills and skill levels, a living wage, and a chance to advance and grow, without reliance on boom-and-bust or exploitative business models.

We need to continue partnering with neighboring city and county governments to develop a shared, united, regional policy for dealing with development proposals and requests for inducements. We need to address the water issues with Fort Collins' Growth Management Area regarding The Ft Collins/ Loveland Water District and City of Ft Collins' Water and treatment facilities.

We need to improve on how we move people around in our city. We need to get them out of their vehicles via public transit that's as good as Max is to the North South corridor.

The city government must be an active leader in these endeavors to ensure that all relevant goals are met. The economy is an important part of the responsibilities that the city council gets to deal with as the elected representative of the citizens.

4. 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.

My goal is to bring environmentally focused and environmentally friendly businesses to Ft Collins. Just a few towns over, in Windsor, Vestas, a blade factory for wind turbines which is part of the move towards clean sustainable energy, is looking to hire 400 new employees. With over 1,000 employees currently, they become one of the biggest employers in that city. I want to attract a manufacturer of solar panels which would offer a wide range of skill and pay levels and be environmental in focus.

Businesses like New Belgium are very environmentally friendly in how they handle their waste and have a very healthy carbon footprint, and that has served them well. They are a very successful company! That should be our role model.

Of course I will make myself available to business leaders to discuss whatever their concerns are. I have begun meeting with business owners already to find out what their needs and concerns are. But their needs must be balanced with the needs of the city as well in order to be a truly sustainable city.

All city council members are available to their constituents, including business leaders, via a variety of communication avenues, including e-mail, telephone messages, listening sessions, public input sessions associated with council meetings, and scheduled sessions to take input on particular issues. I also personally like to visit over a warm beverage for one-on-one meetings.

5. 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 largest city at the northern part of the I-25 corridor in Colorado. What happens here impacts the region, and what happens in the region impacts Fort Collins. Just as in natural environments, everything is connected to everything else. I intend to foster cooperation and to play a cooperative role regarding transportation, business encouragement and protection of our natural resources.

When I was on the transportation Board in the early 90's, we looked at rapid rail along I-25. It was a beautiful system, serving the commuters from Cheyenne to CO Springs with a spur in Boulder and another to the airport, during the day, and at night, most of the cars' seats folded down and it became a freight train. Brilliant! The impacted cities felt the cost was too high, and decided against it.

Sitting still in cars, or creeping along on the interstate, is bad for our air quality and a waste of our time. I lived in the suburbs of Chicago and the trains were always full, and the traffic on the roads was much less crowded than here, though they have probably 10 times as many people. We need to figure out a way to do that, and soon, because, if adding more lanes was a viable solution, LA would have solved the traffic issue long ago.

Though the up-front cost would be great, light rail would pay for itself over time and we would be on our way to solving our traffic problem bringing long-term, sustainably. We should work with senator Kafalas and the other cities in NOCO to help bring about that vision.

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

The city should absolutely plan for growth, but we need to do it with an eye to the long term impacts. As a city we need to focus on public transportation that will get people out of their vehicles and help cut their distances from their jobs. We also need to focus on water and how our city will grow.

Public transportation needs to get people out of their cars, like the Max is doing, but it should be city-wide, a grid type system. Ft Collins should also be focused on growing upward from the center ideally, with structures that have businesses at ground level, public parking above that, residential parking above that and residences above that. This would give us fewer cars on the streets, every residence would have their own places to park, and businesses would have a street presence.

We also need to address our water situation. There's a fascinating book called, Cadillac Desert, that talks about how we have moved into arid areas of the US and tried to recreate the landscape we find back east. We have brought our green lawns with their maintenance issues, but have had to install sprinkler systems to maintain them. Many cities use up to 2/5 of their water on these lawns. You add the herbicides and pesticides that have runoff into our water system and the mowing and blowing we do to keep them tidy and you realize that a lot of our time and resources are used to maintain a false landscape.

We need for new growth to bring their own water rights or use xeriscape or permascape for landscaping their yards. We need to incentivize people to start moving into those more sustainable options in their yards. If we do this, new growth wouldn't necessitate things like the NISP to divert more water from the Poudre in order to handle future growth.

We need to partner with the Loveland/ Ft Collins Water District to create a system that will extend potable water to the planned and approved developments south of Ft Collins.

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

I think two of our city's top issues would be jobs and transportation.

We need to bring in businesses offering jobs that pay a living wage and skill levels offering chances for advancement and commensurate pay increases. Businesses like the call center that wanted to relocate here would not be a good fit. Businesses like OtterBox would.

We also need to make sure we are working towards the goal of getting people out of their vehicles through a public transit system and bike lanes, that serve our population's needs locally, and also connects with other cities and counties along the front range... and then we should work to extend this throughout our state. Ideally this would be coupled with the inner city growth I mentioned earlier so people could go from their residences, to their jobs and shopping, and back home again, then out for the evening, and home again. All of this could be done on public transit, by bike, or on foot. We have to look at the model for big cities, and grow into that in order to truly manage growth.

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

The climate goals were developed with community input and will be achieved with community participation and with supportive government leadership. I am committed to these goals, and I consider them reasonable for our city to achieve in order to secure a healthy environment for the future.

Our city government needs to be supportive of these goals and offer sufficient funding to achieve them, not de-fund them. These goals are important, in order for our city to be sustainable, especially as we anticipate large scale future growth.

9. 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?

Given the area where Fort Collins is located, we will never be entirely insulated from the negative effects of natural droughts and natural forest fires. Evidence shows that unwise efforts to alter the environment to suit ourselves can have consequences the very opposite of what we intend. I will pursue a strategy of modifying our lifestyles to be a better fit with the beautiful landscape in which we live. I have been to a number of water seminars and there are water districting plans being discussed, one idea being for water shares to be "saved" much like in a bank. We should take an active part in the planning and possible implementing of these. We also need to reconsider the use of our fresh water being used by the fossil fuel industry that takes

water out of the water cycle and makes it unusable by humans or animals, after processing which means it is gone forever.

10. 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?

The first would actually be two improvements related to mass transit within the city -- more frequent service and Sunday service. We should implement a system that will get people out of their vehicles such as a grid-type system. We should be considering how to connect to other cities in our area like Laramie, Cheyenne, Loveland, Greeley, Longmont, and Boulder in our region.

I-25 may not be the answer to all our questions. We might need to look at rapid rail, as was considered by our transportation board in the 1990's but was deemed too expensive. Had we built rapid rail then we wouldn't have many of the problems we are experiencing today. We should have anticipated the growth we are now experiencing and will be experiencing in the future.

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

I will work to make Ft Collins the sustainable city that we strive to be, economically, socially and environmentally. Economically, I plan to pull in forward thinking industries that fit our parameters of being clean and sustainable. I plan to meet regularly with business owners in group meetings and individually as necessary to stay abreast of the issues the business community is facing and do some creating problem solving/ brainstorming sessions to come up with innovative solutions. Socially, I will make myself accessible to my constituents electronically, through public comments at council meetings and at community coffees. I learn from people and enjoy finding solutions that are win/wins.

And with access to some of the top atmospheric scientists in the US, who I am blessed to have as personal friends, and CSU's world-renowned college of Sustainability, we have some of the best minds in the country to help us become truly sustainable and a beacon of hope for other cities in our country and beyond.

"It's people with ideals without common sense that'll ruin this town." Mr Potter, It's a Wonderful Life