

**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: Councilman	District (If Applicable): 3
Name: Ken Summers	
Home Address: 5706 White Willow Dr	
Daytime Phone: 303-725-4765	Evening Phone:
Fax:	Email: ken@kensummers.us
Employment: Self Employed	
Length of Residence: In City: 3.5 years	In District: same

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

- (1) Education:
 B.A. University of Northern Colorado Business/Education
 Master of Nonprofit Management, Regis University

- (2) Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:
 Board member, Willow Springs Community Association (Vice-President)
 Chaplain, Morning Star Assisted Living & Mackenzie Place
 Board Member, G.L.O.B.A.L. Justice (Treasurer)
 Chair, Northern Colorado National Day of Prayer Breakfast
 Rotarian since 1991, Past-President and Paul Harris Fellow
 Colorado Alzheimer Coordinating Council
 Attorney General's Drug Trends and Response Task Force
 Governor's Commission on Homelessness
 Poverty Reduction Task Force
 Founder of Colorado Gives Day Rally at State Capitol
 Board member, Arapahoe Credit Union
 Board member, School District 31J
 Board member, Strasburg Parks and Recreation District

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- (3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:
KGS Consulting, Government Affairs
Executive Director, Teen Challenge of the Rocky Mountains
Colorado State Representative
Senior Pastor, Dakota Ridge Assembly (Littleton, CO); College Drive
Assembly (Colby, KS); High Plains Christian Center (Strasburg, CO)
Distributive Education Teacher/Coordinator – Englewood High School
Partner – Able Sign Company, Denver
- (4) Specific Qualifications For This Office:
History of serving in elective offices and on boards
Objective
Consensus builder
Principled leader
History of gaining respect from a cross-section of constituencies
Listener
Focused on progress
Organizational leader
Depth of life experiences
History with Fort Collins

Why Are You Running For This Office?

I have a commitment to service and working with other leaders in solving problems. I want to make sure that all voices and perspectives are taken into consideration and reflected in the decisions that shape the future of Fort Collins.

- (5) 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 would word this question differently. But here goes at this point.

I want to lend my voice and personal experience in addressing public health by pointing out the flaws of the current spraying guidelines for West Nile Virus

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I want to review the cities approach to poverty and homelessness and ensure that the city of solving the issue and not contributing to it.

I want to address issues most critical to Fort Collins: Business-friendly environment; infrastructure (including I-25 issues) water storage and conservation; and unrealistic “climate change” plans that cost much but promise an unreliable and unproven benefit.

We need a consistent voice, patience and citizen’s involvement that will speak to these and other issues that often get lost in the “wind tunnel” of the same people, speaking to the same issues.

- (6) 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?

Keeping taxes low; fiscal responsibility and transparency; reducing redundant or overbearing regulations on business and the timeline and costs for business development.

The best thing that local governments and state governments can do is “stay out of the way.” Regulations should be adequate (not overbearing) clearly communicated and consistently enforced.

I do support TIF’s and public-private partnerships in addressing key issues.

We need leaders who will listen to business leaders, more than have ideas and regulations that are **placed upon** business.

My question is, “what does the business community need from the city?” “What is the greatest frustration for businesses here and what are the deterrents from businesses relocating to Fort Collins. My commitment is, “I will listen, and I will do what I can to uphold the principles of free enterprise.” Business issues are best addressed in partnership with the business community.

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- (7) 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.

(See last sentence above) District 3, is a vital business corridor in Fort Collins, I am looking forward to personal connections with as many business owners and leaders as possible. That will be a key focus of my campaign. My sense is that the business community feels more on the periphery, whereas the business community is the key to a healthy community. I would like to have regular meets and or communication with key chamber committees and personnel.

- (8) 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 leading city on Northern Colorado. The key issues in our region will be I-25 congestion, water storage as well as the development of the local Fort Collins/Loveland airport.

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

The city needs to continue to evaluate its growth plan and evaluate areas that are open for development and redevelopment. In a city like Fort Collins you have both dynamics taking place. Growth is natural, healthy growth is optional. In my observations over the last 40 years, I believe Fort Collins has grown in a positive way. That trend needs to continue.

- (10) 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 am concerned about the impact of the “Climate Action Plan.” We can address environmental issues and concerns without doing overburdening businesses and citizens in the process.

A final decision about water storage projects will be vital for our future.

- (11) 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?

It is important for Council members who represent various areas of the city to know the priorities and the potential impacts on their constituents and the city as a whole. In making decisions basic questions are often neglected, like, “what is the problem being solved?” Why is this the best solution to this real or perceived problem?” “What are the potential ramifications to our actions?” It takes courage, but shows leadership, to reverse a bad decision. Making a bad decision is one thing, staying with a bad decision when it can be reversed is pride, arrogance or foolishness; or all three.

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

I have questions about the legitimacy of the goals that have been established and the costs associated with meeting the goals. Northern Colorado enjoys good air and water quality. Energy development and conservation are important issues and the city can promote those goals from a business and citizen perspective. I prefer incentive and rewards opposed to mandates.

- (13) 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?

The solution to a lack of water storage is...more storage. Storage and conservation are both important in addressing water issues. In most years, Colorado has more of a water storage issue, more than a water supply issue. It is important to consider options for increasing current storage facilities and strategies as well as planning for new water storage projects. We do live in a high desert and water, especially on the east slope, and that presents a challenge. We are in an agricultural community and that important arena is dependent upon water for crops and livestock.

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- (14) 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?

Northern Colorado communities will need to take the lead in addressing Northern Colorado issues, such as I-25. The city also needs to plan road construction to accommodate growth areas. I support public transportation and believe Fort Collins is a national leader in BRT. Traffic flow is also an issue the city needs to consistently monitor. We have the historic challenge with the train tracks and that needs to still be addressed in the best possible manner. Stopped and idling cars is significant contributor to air pollution.

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

I have an established track_of being a pro-business legislator. In the past I have received the endorsement of all major business groups on the state. I understand that, especially in a local community, business drives the economy and provides through sales tax the greatest revenue for the city budget. I have sponsored and supported legislation to address specific business issues.

- (16) 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.)

None -

Signature

Date