

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

**Questionnaires are due back to [ahutchison@fcchamber.org](mailto:ahutchison@fcchamber.org)  
by 5pm on January 16, 2017.**

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

Office Sought:Councilmember	District (If Applicable):5
Name:Ross Cunniff	
Home Address:2267 Clydesdale Dr. Fort Collins CO 80526	
Daytime Phone:420-7398	Evening Phone:420-7398
Fax:n/a	Email:ross@rosscunniff.com
Employment:NVIDIA	
Length of Residence: In City: 30 years In District: 29 years	

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

(1) Education:

BS, Mathematics, New Mexico State University, 1985  
BS, Computer Science, New Mexico State University, 1985

(2) Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:

Fort Collins City Council District 5 Councilmember, 2013-present  
Housing Catalyst (formerly Fort Collins Housing Authority) Board Member, 2014-present  
Fort Collins Energy Board, 2012-2013  
Fort Collins Energy Board Chair, 2012  
PSD Board of Education, 1999-2007  
President, PSD Board of Education, 2003-2005  
Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Board, 1999-2003

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

Hewlett-Packard, 1985-2001 – software engineer  
NVIDIA, 2001-present – software engineer, manager, director  
Stylus, Inc., 1987-1991 – President, chief technology officer  
Poudre Digital LLC, 2010-present - owner

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(4) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

I am the current District 5 councilmember. Additionally, I have significant public service experience (PSD BOE, two City Boards), a long business career, including management and leadership experience, and a wide variety of volunteer and community service and outreach experiences

(5) Why Are You Running For This Office?

I want to continue to serve and represent the citizens of Fort Collins

(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?

I continue to have the same three objectives as in 2013; although much has been accomplished with them, there remains more to do. I want to make sure: that people feel their concerns have been heard and discussed - that we have good diversity and strength in our local economy – and that Fort Collins remains a great place to live

(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?

The top three priorities should be: support local businesses; make sure the benefits of City spending touch all parts of town; and ensure inexpensive, reliable access to high-quality internet services to enable the development of new business opportunities. I will continue to support budget offers which advance these goals.

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- (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.

Although significant progress has been made toward streamlining Fort Collins' electronic access (one of my 2013 goals), more remains to be done, especially in development review. We need to make our development review processes more efficient while ensuring high-quality analysis is being done so that development predictably conforms to the land use code. I will continue my history of accessibility to all, including individual business owners as well as business groups. I will be glad to meet with anybody who wants to talk with me. I will also institute quarterly business outreach roundtables to hear ideas and concerns.

- (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 and will continue to be the largest city in the region. We should continue to have a strong leadership role. I believe we have the responsibility to engage with other communities to help the region provide economically and environmentally sustainable infrastructure, housing, energy, and development policies.

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

City Council should ensure that development rules are fair, understandable, and consistently applied, with timely and efficient implementation. Development fees should be right-sized to ensure the impacts of growth on Fort Collins' infrastructure and public services are appropriately financed.

- (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?

Ensuring that we have a diverse and sustainable revenue stream and making sure that we are responsibly and wisely allocating that revenue to benefit the citizens.

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- (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?

Trash Districting itself is an issue that was settled several years ago. I would continue to make sure that adequate time is always given for inquiry, education, debate, and decision on any issue, both for city council members as well as for members of the general public.

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

The City should lead by ensuring its own operations approach carbon neutrality at a responsible rate. We should find ways to help individuals and businesses increase their energy efficiency, including underwriting loans to help those who do not have the resources to improve their buildings. We should engage and advocate with state and federal government to promote wise climate policies. We should continue to enable transportation alternatives which are more sustainable. We should continue to engage with the public to explain the need for climate action and the financial and other benefits that will accrue to the public when our goals are met. And we should partner with innovative businesses to help achieve these tactics.

- (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?

I support the already-committed expansion of some of our existing storage, such as Halligan reservoir. I support enhancing the reliability of our infrastructure, such as the new Michigan Ditch tunnel. And I support continued attention to water conservation, which will make our resources significantly more resilient.

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- (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 expand our information awareness so we can actively manage traffic lights to promote efficient use of our intersections. We should start working with Larimer County and CDOT to make sure the probable future annexation of East Mulberry does not come with an unfair burden on taxpayers. We need to find sustainable means to providing 365-day access to transit. I supported the current I-25 expansion program, including the budget offer for 2017-2018.

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

I believe my years of leadership and management experience both in small local businesses as well as large global companies, as well as my experience in public service, combined with business and community outreach will serve the business community and also the general population of Fort Collins.

- (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.)

No.

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Signature

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Date