

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2018 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fchamber.org
by noon on Monday, September 10, 2018**

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

Office Sought: County Commissioner	District (If Applicable): District 1
Name: John Kefalas	
Home Address: 604 Sycamore Street	
Daytime Phone: 720-254-7598 (c)	Evening Phone: 970-221-1135 (h)
Fax:	Email: johnk1@frii.com
Employment: State Senator (SD-14)	
Length of Residence: In County: 42 years	
In District: 42 years	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education:

Certificate-Senior Executives in State/Local Govt, Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2011)
Certificate-Western Legislative Academy, Council of State Governments, West (2010)
Master of Arts-Secondary Science Education, Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ (1982)
Bachelor of Science-Botany, CSU (1978)

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

State Senator, SD-14 (2013-present)
State Representative, HD-52 (2007-2012)
Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance Health Care Working Group (2018-Present)
North Fort Collins Business Association - Coats and Boots, Project Smile
Governor's Task Force on Welfare Reform (1999-2000)
Affordable Housing Coalition-Larimer County
Martinez Park Neighbors Association
Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council
Los Ancianos Unidos – Aztlan Community Center
Northern CO Cross-Disabilities Coalition
Fort Collins Housing Authority, Board Member (Vice-Chair)
New Bridges Daytime Homeless Shelter
Citizen Advocate for Person with Down Syndrome
Peace Corps Volunteer, Agriculture Extensionist, El Salvador (1979-1980)

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

Adjunct Faculty Member, CSU School of Social Work, (2013-2017)
Tax Fairness Project Coordinator, CO Progressive Coalition, Denver (2004-2006)

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2018 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

Public Policy Advocate/Community Development, Catholic Charities, Fort Collins, (1997-2004)
Self-Sufficiency Advisor, Project Self-Sufficiency, Fort Collins, (1994-1997)
Employment/Training Counselor, Larimer County Employment/Training Services (1987-1994)
Migrant Health Outreach Worker, Larimer County Health Department (1987)
Hispanic Student Mentor, Leshar Junior High School (1986-1987)
Secondary Teacher - Science & Substitute, Poudre, Thompson R2-J, Weld County 6 (1982-1986)
Independent Living Counselor, Martin Luther Homes, Loveland (1980-1982)
Recycle Something, Fort Collins (1978-1979)

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

State Senator (SD-14): policy and law maker), constituent support and assistance, civic engagement; member of the Capital Development, Local Government, Health & Human Services, Health Insurance Exchange Oversight, Art in Public Places (CSU) Selection Committees.

(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

- State Senator (SD-14): 12 years legislative experience with associated skill sets and relationships translate directly to county and regional approaches for collaborative problem solving.
- During the 2017 session served on the Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee.
- My participation in various committees, including House Committees such as Finance and Appropriations give me specific experience and qualifications regarding budget and fiscal matters and other transferable skills. CDC is relevant for addressing 20-year, \$600M capital improvements outlined in the Larimer County Strategic Plan. LG is relevant for improving collaboration between state, county, municipal governments, special districts and private sector; HHS is relevant for effective and coordinated delivery of services - child care, child well-being, self-sufficiency and aging.
- 42 years in Fort Collins and Larimer County: extensive community, professional and volunteer experience working with all sectors of our community – private, public, business, non-profit and faith communities; taught public policy analysis graduate courses at CSU, School of Social Work to 2nd year MSW students and PhD candidates (critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills).
- The critical issues facing Larimer County from workforce development to smart growth, affordable housing to healthcare, clean energy to transportation are the same ones I've worked on in the State Legislature; track record of successful and bipartisan collaboration to pass meaningful laws that make a difference in people's lives.

(6) Why are you running for this office?

My Greek immigrant father Mike taught me to work hard, be honest, and serve others. I tried to keep those values close to heart as I served the people of Fort Collins in the state legislature. Now I want to bring those values home and serve all the people of Larimer County as a county commissioner. I know how to bring people together, using common sense to find common ground and come up with solutions to vexing community problems such as the lack of affordable and workforce housing. I believe I have the leadership, listening and deliberation skills to engage the county and all stakeholders within a regional, collaborative, problem-solving framework that helps preserve quality of life and quality jobs.

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2018 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

(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?

I have done a lot of homework - reading/reviewing documents such as strategic and master plans, land use code, special review and 1041 permitting processes - to better understand the intricacies and details of Larimer County government. I have attended County Commissioner Citizen and Administrative Matters Meetings; land-use and planning commission hearings, planning advisory committee meetings and work force development board meetings to name a few. I have met with current and former Larimer County employees, community members that represent different sectors of our county – urban and rural and visited Estes Park, Berthoud, Loveland, Livermore, Red Feather Lakes, Wellington and Waverly to better understand their specific issues. Of course, this is an ongoing process of learning and discerning. In office, I will conduct myself with civility and respect for others and their opinions and ideas. I've already answered experience question.

(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?

- Bring together regional stakeholders to plan for smart growth that helps preserve our quality of life – urban and rural; focus on addressing safe, decent and affordable housing, quality jobs and workforce development, multi-modal transportation, public health and safety; engage incorporated cities and towns, counties, school districts, universities and colleges, small business and employer organizations, labor unions, faith communities and non-profits.
- Enhance community behavioral and physical health services. We must make sure the sales tax ballot measure for behavioral health services passes, and work in a collaborative way with all our community partners to ensure its success and implementation. With health care, we need to achieve triple aim – lower costs, better value and healthier outcomes.
- Advance affordable housing - work with community partners to leverage resources/creativity in rental and homeownership markets; conduct comprehensive review of regulations that inhibit housing affordability; consider innovative approaches that incentivize affordable housing development such as: a regional housing investment trust fund, effective-voluntary inclusionary zoning policies, density bonuses, transferable development rights, transit-oriented and mixed-income/use multi-family development, land use codes to preserve and build manufactured and modular housing, smaller/more sustainable homes, co-housing and resident-owned communities, community land trusts; build on already-existing programs such as the Larimer County Home Ownership and Home Improvement Programs.

(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?

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2018 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

- Talent 2.0: Regional Workforce Strategy provides a good roadmap describing challenges and opportunities – 20,000 jobs added over next few years – new and replacement jobs; not enough qualified workers; barriers include housing, child care and transportation.
- Demographers tell us that Larimer County and the other north Front Range counties are poised for major growth over the next two decades due to a good economy and desirable quality of life. Residents responding to a recent county survey listed their #1 priority as regional cooperation to manage growth.
- Infrastructure for the 21st century is a critical economic priority - transportation, education, residential and commercial development, natural resources; public-private partnerships.

The county has a significant role in economic health and business development such as helping to address rural broadband and regional transportation needs. Larimer County needs to become a leader in bringing the region together, both the public and private sectors, to solve problems collaboratively.

(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.

Businesses and industries indicate they have difficulty finding workers who are properly trained to meet their workforce requirements. People with disabilities have high rates of unemployment and underemployment. Many working families live paycheck to paycheck.

- Foster regional collaboration with cities, universities, community colleges, high schools, companies and non-profits to better align training programs with the needs and requirements of businesses and industries; assess our customized and short-term training programs.
- Implement “Employment First” evidence-based, best practices to assist/support people with disabilities to secure and maintain meaningful jobs in the community.
- Support work of LC Economic and Workforce Development Center as it collaboratively implements the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Colorado Works (TANF) - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; advocate for stable, adequate state and federal funding for county workforce, health and human services programs.
- Promote primary jobs that pay higher wages and secondary jobs that are often in the service sector, implement innovative and creative work supports that address cost-of-living issues such as affordable housing, child care and transportation; advance rural broadband and renewable/clean energy jobs.

Yes, more than willing to engage with business leaders – NFCBA, NCLA, FC Chamber, DDA, DBA, SBDC, RM Innosphere, community meetings and listening sessions....

(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?

LC has a significant role as a convener and facilitator of regional cooperation. We need “out of the box” thinking and creative, innovative, collaborative, comprehensive solutions. We need to work together to develop good, high-paying jobs, housing options along the housing continuum,

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2018 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

and multi-modal transportation networks that allow people and commerce to move efficiently and safely across our region. Sustainable growth, clean air, water and land are top issues.

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

We know that our population will continue to grow as people move to our beautiful area to work, play or raise a family. We need to plan for smart growth. Let's decide where we want to be as a county in 50 years and steer development towards that vision.

- Collaborate as a region to guide the housing, jobs and transportation networks of the future; minimize urban sprawl; consider innovative local sales tax revenue sharing as a tool to incentivize smart growth policies and regional development planning.
- Implement creative, innovative and effective ways to address the loss of agricultural land like water-sharing partnerships known as Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs), and consideration of farm and ranch productivity when assessing ag land valuations for property tax purposes; promote Community Supporter Agriculture Farms (CSAs) and Farm to Table practices such as Farmers' Markets, food banks and greater collaboration with schools and other institutions.
- Do a better job of protecting existing neighborhoods, our environment and quality of life while encouraging economic development; sustainability, job creation and environmental protection can coexist.

(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?

The two top issues facing the county perhaps can be boiled down to two overarching themes – preserving/expanding a decent/secure quality of life and quality jobs. The County Citizen's Survey indicates that quality of life – urban and rural is of paramount importance. County has a role in helping with diverse economic development to achieve quality jobs that can be filled by qualified workers, which is fundamental to family and community well-being.

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

In addition to my answers in question #10 and throughout this questionnaire, and the specific policy ideas in the Talent 2.0: regional workforce strategy report, the County can deploy business incentives such as URA tax increment financing and metro districts where and when appropriate. Data that informs economic analysis is a critical tool as are creative marketing and outreach strategies to potential employers. It is equally important that we support existing businesses and entrepreneurs, especially small businesses.

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

There are serious problems with traffic congestion and public safety on our roadways. We need to continue improving and maintaining our local and state roads and bridges, continue the

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2018 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

progress on I-25 lane expansion and Hwy 34 repair work through the Big Thompson Canyon so people can get to work and school on time.

- Develop multi-modal transportation systems that serve everyone, including people who can't or don't drive, to connect our cities, towns and counties efficiently and conveniently.
- Support state efforts to establish a phased-in front range commuter/passenger rail system.
- Work with our partners across northern Colorado to establish a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) that could include a light-rail system and other effective mass transit options; promote Transit Oriented Development (TOD) that includes affordable housing.

I support the Fix North I-25 effort and have been very involved with transportation legislation and funding that is advancing the North I-25 highway expansion. As stated, a sound transportation infrastructure is paramount to a thriving regional and state economy.

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

Throughout my time in the legislature, I have done my best to support businesses through business-friendly policies such as increasing the threshold for the business personal property tax and passing the state earned income tax credit and the child care contribution tax credit – more money in people's pockets means more money invested in local economies. I listen and have a track record of working collaboratively to solve complex problems to make to promote the common good and shared prosperity.

(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.



September 10, 2018

Signature, Date