

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2019 CITY OF FORT COLLINS ELECTION**

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org
by 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2019**

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

Office Sought: City Council	District (If Applicable): 6
Name: Emily Gorgol	
Home Address: 817 Ponderosa Dr.	
Daytime Phone: 970-769-6446	Evening Phone:
Fax:	Email: emily.gorgol@gmail.com
Employment: The Family Center/La Familia	
Length of Residence: In City: 23	In District: 1

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education:

Colorado State University, Bachelors of Science: Natural Resources
Portland State University, Masters of Public Health

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

City of Fort Collins Women's Commission
Larimer County Dept. of Human Services Health Instructor

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

The Family Center/La Familia: Special Projects Manager (Present)
Volunteers of America: Senior Nutrition Programs Manager (2015-2018)
Head Baker (2013-2015)
Cafe Manager: Various Businesses (2012-2015)
Portland Community College: Health Instructor (2013-2014)
Community Alliance with Family Farmers: Farm to School Program Coord (2011-2012)
City of Fort Collins: Bicycle Coordinator (2009)

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

The Family Center/La Familia: Special Projects Manager
Develop strategic plan and long term visioning to ensure affordable housing options for Latinx residents through coordinating work with subcontracted partners, communicating regularly with community and municipal leaders, and monitoring local opportunities for engagement.

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- Help facilitate agency and community meetings across a variety of sectors including business, government, and non-profit
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with City, County, and agency employees and members of the community
- Help resolve and mediate conflicts between mobile home residents and managers
- Build relationships and work with City Council and County Commissioners to work towards permanent affordable housing options
- Facilitate civic engagement opportunities

(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

Understanding of district population- CSU graduate and homeowner has led me to know and understand the unique problems of each group and the importance of finding common ground in issues such as U+2.

Experience with a variety of business sectors: Long history of working with and across sectors including business, nonprofit and government.

Understanding of community needs across the age spectrum: Worked with a variety of constituents from seniors to children to develop a solid understanding of the needs of community members across the spectrum of age.

Civic Engagement Experience: Currently working to create equitable opportunities for civic engagement ensuring all community members have the opportunity to engage with municipal leaders.

(6) Why are you running for this office?

Fort Collins is an innovative City and it is important to keep it in the forefront, however it is also important to balance the future and current needs of our city. City council has the opportunity to address the most pressing issues raised by community members including; affordable housing, employment opportunities, and transportation. I am running for office because I believe I bring experience and a unique perspective to council to work towards solving these issues and my strengths lie in bringing groups together to find community solutions.

(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 currently serve on the City of Fort Collins Women's Commission. The WC is a very active advisory commission to city council, providing input to council on all issues affecting women. In addition I have met with many residents and groups to learn about the issues they are facing and care most about and finally I have extensively participated in city and council processes. If elected I will conduct myself with honesty, integrity and most importantly transparency.

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- (8) If you are elected, what are the top three accomplishments you want to have completed by the end of your term, how will you pay for them and how will you get them done?
1. More diverse economic opportunities particularly for low and middle level employment: work with FRCC, business owners to facilitate solutions.
 2. More affordable housing options: convene across sectors to create innovative solutions to affordable housing including more strategic policies.
 3. More transparency and engagement: provide more opportunities for input from community members so that the city reflects the communities priorities.

- (9) What do you think are the top 3 economic priorities the city government should undertake during the next four years? What role should Fort Collins have in economic development? How will you make the economy a City budget priority?

1. Diverse job opportunities: The city's job is making this a priority and facilitating discussions and partnerships, removing barriers.
2. Small Business support: reviewing processes and requirements for small businesses and removing barriers to encourage more small businesses to open and stay in Fort Collins.
3. Child Care: Working across sectors to create more physical locations and staff for child care. Lack of child care is a huge barrier to economic success.

Broadening view of “economy” in the City budget will help make this more of a priority. For example including child care as an economic priority as highlighted in the Talent 2.0 report.

- (10) 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.

I plan to engage with business owners to learn about the issues they are facing and help facilitate solutions. I currently engage with the North Fort Collins Business Association and have heard some of the issues they are facing including lack of employees trained in a trade . It is important to learn and hear from a diverse group of business leaders to understand goals and challenges of the business community. I plan to continue my engagement with the NFCBA and engage with other groups as well including the DBA.

- (11) What role should Fort Collins have in the region? What do you believe are the top issues facing Northern Colorado in the next several years?

From employment growth to climate action Fort Collins is seen as a leader in Northern Colorado. The top issues facing Northern Colorado are: affordability, connectivity and maintaining a unique identity and sense of place.

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

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Fort Collins will continue to grow and if we stop planning for growth we close the door to people that could contribute great things to our city. People from all backgrounds, income levels, experiences, histories and more have made Fort Collins a great place to live. Not planning for growth means we are limiting who can live here which limits our growth as a people. We should plan for smart, holistic growth that meets the needs of both our current and future city.

(13) Tell us about your participation in the City Plan process.

The Family Center is a City Plan ambassador, meaning I am responsible for holding community meetings and facilitate input from community members. I have helped create, plan and execute City Plan meeting for the Latinx community members. Working with city staff we were able to create a unique experience that was culturally appropriate for the community we work with.

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

1. Input/Responsiveness: through my engagement with community members I have heard that the city government has provided ample opportunities for input in the future of our city. One example is the City Park refresh. In conjunction with input opportunities community members feel that the city is not responsive to community needs such as affordable housing. It is important to address these issues because city council should be the voice of the people and second decisions should be made to reflect the voices of the people who live there.
2. Widening Economic Gap: the escalating cost of living in Fort Collins is pricing out residents. It is important the the city find ways to create housing, employment opportunities, and economic opportunities at a variety of price points so all current and future residents are able to live a high quality of life in Fort Collins.

(15) What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract, retain and expand key employers?

Engagement with current and future business owners to understand barriers and facilitate solutions that will support the economic sector.

(16) What is your position on the Fix North I-25 effort? Why?

With employment growth and lagging housing options more residents are commuting to work in Fort Collins. I think it is important to balance expansion of highways and roads while also implementing alternative modes of transportation that connect between long distances.

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

With a background in human services I do not represent a special interest group. My intentions are to support and lift all residents. When community members have a high quality of life the economy improves, less burden is placed on services, conflicts decrease

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and the community thrives.

- (18) 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

Signature, Date

Emily Gorgol 1/23/19