

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

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fchamber.org
by 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 30, 2019**

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

Office Sought: City Council	District (If Applicable): 2
Name: Julie Pignataro	
Home Address: 3201 Silverwood Drive, FC, CO 80525	
Daytime Phone: 970-481-2751	Evening Phone: 970-481-2751
Fax: n/a	Email: Julie@JulieForFC.com
Employment: Contract Program Manager to USDA OCIO EAS	
Length of Residence: In City: ~27 years In District: 6 years	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

- (1) **Education:** CSU, Bachelor’s degree of English; Drexel University, Master Degree of Library and Information Science

- (2) **Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:** Citizens Review Board member, League of Women Voters Team Lead, Larimer Humane Society volunteer, PMI Mile Hi Volunteer, Poudre River Public Library District Volunteer, City Works 101 graduate, member of 2018-2019 Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado class

- (3) **Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:** Contract Program Manager to USDA OCIO EAS; Senior Project Manager at 10-4 Systems; Quality Manager and Team Lead at CACI International; Supervisor at Fort Collins Coloradoan; Graphic Designer at various print shops in Northern Colorado

- (4) **Current Employment and Responsibilities:** Leadership, project, program, and team development expertise. Develop and improve processes, identify issues, and implement strategies to improve and drive performance. Establish solid partnerships with employees and stakeholders. Primary contact for government and contractors. Designed new processes, task orders, and marketing materials. Resolved PTO, pay, and benefit issues. Spearhead communications and acted as liaison between contractors and government for software development projects. Develop new task order process and template for contracts. Reengineer performance review process, reduce 12-month backlog and provided in-depth and meaningful feedback for employees. Orchestrate and schedule training, travel, and performance evaluations. Approve time reporting, expense reporting, contractor invoicing, and personnel requests. Analyze and review contract performance by managing task

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descriptions, personnel, reviewed work discrepancies, and identify areas in need of improvement. Maintain records of personnel, equipment, requests, and project improvements. Apply Continuous flow, Kaizen, Kanban, Muda, PDCA, Root Cause Analysis, SMART goals, and value stream mapping to produce exceptional results.

- (5) Specific Qualifications For This Office: Exceptional communication skills; ability to remain objective and calm in the face of adversity; I know what it takes to find solutions, navigate and collaborate with multiple governmental agencies, and get things done.
- (6) Why are you running for this office? I come from a family that instilled in me early a love for volunteering and giving back to the community. Public service runs in our blood. The issues closest to my heart are preserving the community that we have – keeping it that special place enjoyed by all of our citizens and to apply forward-thinking initiatives to our challenges as we continue to grow.
- (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 learned everything I could about how our city works, how elections work, and talked to as many people as I can about their concerns regarding our city and its future. My work experience and experience as a thoughtful and engaged community member have adequately prepared me to represent our citizens.
- (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? I want to make sure that we tackle our transportation issues intelligently and with future modes of transportation in mind. I want to broaden the down payment assistance homebuyer's program to better reflect the needs of our community. I want to make sure we take seriously our goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030. By being fiscally responsible, this should not come at extra cost to our taxpaying citizens.
- (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? As indicated in the Talent 2.0 study, we are facing an issue with the available talent in our city. The city also needs to be sure it is promoting and fostering the small business community so that they are not left behind as the city grows. Lastly, the city should be sure that it is balancing economic growth with preserving the fantastic surroundings that we all get to enjoy.

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- (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. In my current position we face a true issue of finding appropriate talent to fill our positions. These are some of the highest paying jobs in the area and it pains me that we cannot find local talent with the skillsets to do them. I would love for our local schools, the City, and local businesses to form a more collaborative solution to filling these talent gaps. I will always remain open to business leaders who would like to discuss solutions.
- (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? Water has been and will continue to be an issue in Northern Colorado. It is up to our city to be a good neighbor to collaboratively find solutions to these water issues.
- (12) Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should Fort Collins plan for growth, if at all? Fort Collins needs to make sure that the continue and planned growth are thoughtful, purposeful, and multi-solution oriented to benefit our community, our businesses, and our environment.
- (13) Tell us about your participation in the City Plan process. I was part of the original cohort of city plan ambassadors and have followed the process closely over the past year plus.
- (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? The city government will need to consider re-districting as our Northern districts have become more populated and will also need to look at if the current form of government continues to suit the community well with respect to representation, diversity, and inclusion.
- (15) What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract, retain and expand key employers? The city needs to be transparent to key employers what the city's vision – as well as the vision of our community members –

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expects of our businesses. This can easily be accomplished with the adoption of the city plan and providing a copy of it to any employer that wants to move into the area.

- (16) What is your position on the Fix North I-25 effort? Why? I do not have a position on this effort because I have not spent to time to look intensely in to it. I can tell you that I avoid I-25 whenever possible.
- (17) Why would a business person support your election to office? Our community has achieved an excellent balance of economic stability, environmental stewardship, and citizen satisfaction and it will take representatives that understand that the success of all three of those factors depend on the success of each factor individually. I am an evangelist of systems thinking and am well-equipped to serve as that representative.
- (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

Julie Pignataro January 26, 2019

Signature, Date