

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

**Questionnaires are due back to [ahutchison@fchamber.org](mailto:ahutchison@fchamber.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: Councilmember  | District (If Applicable): 4 |
| Name: Kristin Stephens  |                             |
| Home Address: 1911 Enfield Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80526                            |                             |
| Daytime Phone: 970-581-7580   | Evening Phone: same         |
| Fax: none   | Email:                      |
| Employment: CSU Department of Statistics-Graduate Coordinator                     |                             |
| Length of Residence: In City: 26 years                      In District: 24 years |                             |

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

(1) Education:

B.A. History, Colorado State University

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

Civic Service:

Fort Collins Women’s Commission Co-Chair- 2002-2004

Community Development Block Grant Commission- 2010-2015

Larimer County- Citizen Review Panel- 2011-2015

City Councilmember-District 4-elected April 2015

Vice-Chair, Poudre Fire Authority- served on PFA since 2015

Member of National League of Cities Human Development Federal Advocacy committee 2018-present

City Representative to the Larimer County Behavioral Health Policy Council-  
January 2019-present

Other volunteer work:

Board Member- Think Humanity-2018 present

4-H Leader- 2005-present

Additional volunteer work with the Mother’s Center, Little Shop of Physics, Meals on Wheels, Youth Orchestra of the Rockies, and Poudre School District.

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

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Graduate Coordinator-CSU- Statistics 2011-Present  
Grant Coordinator- CSU-Statistics/Math-2007-2011  
Executive Director- Youth Orchestra of the Rockies- 2006-2007  
Fundraising and Childcare Coordinator- Fort Collins Mother's Center 2002-2006  
Manager-CSU Bookstore-1998-2000  
Assistant Manager- Barnes and Noble- 1995-1998  
Manager-Stone Lion Bookstore-1990-1995

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

Graduate Coordinator-CSU- Duties include managing office staff, hiring and onboarding of faculty, and assisting with graduate students.

(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

Candidates must live within the District, been a registered elector within the city for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and be 21 year of age.

(6) Why are you running for this office?

I have served as a Councilmember for the past 4 years, and our Council has accomplished a lot of great work in the past four years including funding 365 day/year transit, creating more affordable housing units, implementing income qualified rates for utilities, launching our Broadband program, getting support for I-25 expansion, and progress towards the expansion of Halligan Reservoir.

(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 hold this office. I continually prepare by reading materials from city staff, seeking input from people in my District, and keeping abreast of best practices from around the country. I was accepted into the inaugural Water Literate Leaders program where I learned about regional water issues from local experts. I attend statewide and national conferences and have taken classes on racial equity, water issues, and civil discourse.

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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? Just 3?

1. I would like to successfully launch and implement our Broadband program. Bonds have been issued to start this program and we need to ensure it is successful.
2. I would like to continue to work on issues of livability and sustainability in our community. For me this includes affordable housing and childcare, neighborhood engagement, achieving our CAP and renewable energy goals, and equity and inclusion. This can be funded through a variety of means including public/private partnerships, local tax dollars, and federal and state funds.
3. I want to work on transportation challenges in our community including fixing I-25, ways to mitigate congestion on city roads, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and expanded Bus Rapid Transit options in the city. This can be paid for with local tax dollars, and federal and state funds.

(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. More engagement with the business community.
2. Working on affordable housing and childcare which can be a barrier for those seeking employment in our city.
3. Working on transportation challenges in our city.

We need to engage with the business community to see how the economy should be addressed in the City budget. If we are going to spend money to improve our economic health, we need to make sure it is done judiciously.

(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 am willing to engage with business leaders, and have asked the city manager to facilitate more interactions for Council with the business community. I have held regular listening sessions, and am open to meeting with business leaders at any time.

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During my time on Council, I have met with business leaders, attended functions with business leaders, met with the Chamber LLAC, and worked with businesses in my District on issues such as homelessness and panhandling, graffiti and crime, and protestors.

(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?

We are a regional leader, and we need to facilitate partnership with other cities in our region. We need to work on transportation issues, including I-25 expansion, and transit to connect Northern Colorado cities. We also need to work on workforce development, and affordable housing options. Finally, we need to plan for the impacts of Climate Change including drought and extreme weather events.

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

I think we should absolutely plan for growth, and feel we have already done so. This means looking at transportation, utilities, land use, water issues, and affordable housing in Fort Collins.

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

On Council we will be making decisions on City Plan. Thus far we have had updates at Work Sessions. I have also talked to residents and Board and Commission members about the process.

(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?

Broadband implementation. We have to get this right because we issued \$140 million in bonds, and this program will help attract and retain businesses.

Affordable housing. We have to find ways to provide affordable and attainable housing in our community.

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

I think this is a discussion we need to have. I think workforce development,

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transportation, infrastructure, and housing are important, but I would like to hear more from the business community about what they think our toolbox should look like.

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


Let's fix it. The congestion on I-25 is frustrating to residents and impedes business and commerce in Northern Colorado. Also, in seeing how difficult it has been to add a third lane, we should start having discussions about other forms of transit along I-25.

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

I have served for 4 years, and have been honest and hardworking. I have tried my best to be balanced and open minded. I feel I have done a lot of engagement in the community, and have made pragmatic decisions that I felt were best for my District and our city. I have promoted civility, and respect during my time on Council.

(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.



January 22, 2019

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Signature, Date