

**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: Fred Kirsch

Home Address: 237 Lyons St. FTC, CO
80521

Daytime Phone: 970-412-6295

Evening Phone: 970-412-6295

Fax:

Email: fredfortcollins@gmail.com

Employment: Community for Sustainable
Energy

Length of Residence: In City: 16 yrs
In District: 4yrs

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education:

(2)

(3) Bachelor of Arts, Eco-Tourism Management, Colorado State University 1999.

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

FTC Climate Action Plan Citizen Advisory Committee

CityWorks 101

12 years leading door-to-door canvassing in Fort Collins and meeting with
City staff and leadership to influence energy and transportation policy

(1) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

Founder and 12 years director of Community for Sustainable Energy.

(1) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

Director, Community for Sustainable Energy

Responsibilities include:

Everything!

Administration including budgeting and accounting

Staff management - recruitment, retention, firing

Campaign management - researching, networking and coalition building, outreach design, canvass management, advocacy

(1) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

*12 years experience:

-Communicating with and working with citizens from all demographics

-Getting to know City functions and politics

-Building relationships with City staff and leadership

-Running a business focused on public policy concerns

*Heart and soul for Fort Collins. Here is where I plant my flag. I believe that Fort Collins has the potential to become a model mid-sized city for America. Within our community we have enormous resources, brain power, and the general desire to make Fort Collins the best city we can be. With strong leadership we can get there. I won't back down from pursuing the goal of making Fort Collins as economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable as possible.

*Mayor Troxell said I would be a "natural".

(1) Why are you running for this office?

Community service is my life's highest purpose. I've dedicated my career to working to make Fort Collins and the world a lit bit better for future generations. I want to serve on City Council because I believe that my talents and my experience working in our community can be best put to use through City Council service. I believe that those talents and experience make me the best candidate for the job.

(1) 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?

In some regards I feel like my entire life has been preparing me to serve on City Council. I've always had a concern for the Earth and for humanity and for my neighbors. More specifically, as stated, I've been working in the community for 12 years to shape City policy. Over that time I have learned how to communicate with various stakeholders and seek "win-win" solutions. In the past couple of years I've been learning about a variety of issues in Fort Collins and discussing these issues with stakeholders.

If elected I will continue to work with Fort Collins citizens, our dedicated City staff, and leadership to make Fort Collins a little bit better. **Civil discourse in the**

pursuit of passion is how we progress.

- (1) 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?

Fort Collins Utilities or PRPA leasing large roof space for the installation of utility owned solar panels. This is paid for by the energy generated from the solar panels. Preliminary calculations show that the utility can break even offering rent over **\$2k per month** for space for 1 MW of solar (about a football field in size). We will accomplish this by first demonstrating the feasibility through a pilot project on a school. To do this we need to collaborate with PRPA, FCU, and the Poudre School District.

Establish quarterly meetings between City Council and City department heads to review progress and status on budget funded projects and programs for the purpose of insuring that council is familiar with programs and that the budget is efficient. This should result in nominal cost increases to be offset by improved budgeting and will be accomplished through council member powers as prescribed in the City Charter Article 2 Section 5 (e).

Take steps to address housing affordability in Fort Collins by repealing the "U+2" Occupancy law, taxing out-of-town short term rental owners, and *exploring* rental licensing and taxing foreign landlords. Repealing U+2 will save enforcement costs. Taxing out-of-town landlords will be paid for through the tax. Each of these can be accomplished by working with fellow council members.

- (1) 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?

Economic leakage and inflated housing cost due to foreign investment.
Attracting median income employers.
Investment in local distributed energy resources.

The City budget and taxing policy should be geared towards maintaining our economic health and equitable distribution of economic resources. I will invite Fort Collins stakeholders (including the Chamber) to participate in work-sessions advising City Council on budget items related to economic health.

- (1) 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 stay engaged with all stakeholders. I believe that we need more median income jobs and I will be soliciting business leaders to help with that. I will pick up the phone and call you, and attend business meetings that I am invited to. I will invite business leaders to participate in relevant work-sessions. As part of a "Jobs Friendly" community I hope that we develop a circular agricultural economy leveraging the Larimer County waste management plan. Another possible industry could come from local processing of plastics recycling into fuel and other products. We should continue to build on our progress supporting our creative community and entrepreneurship.

(1) 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?

Growth is obviously the issue. Fort Collins plays a vital leadership role in the region. We can help with regional transportation planning. I'd like to explore an RTD (not the Denver RTD!) for the NFRMPO region. Water conservation is major issue that we keep kicking down the road. FTC can lead by adopting creative programs like the "Cash for Grass" program. We may be able to help other communities attract primary employers to relieve commuter and traffic pains.

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

City Plan seems to be getting pretty good result (even if the process seems inefficient). I think we need to plan for more density. We need to actually develop to the plan. We can't allow projects that don't adhere to the plan and our plans need to be congruous. We should be gently slowing growth by targeting development around median income households and allowing other communities take some of the upper income job potential.

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

I went to the City Plan ambassador trainings. I did not become an ambassador. I participate through the City website. I read the reports and watch the work-sessions.

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

City Council is having difficult time keeping up with the growing complexity of

issues. As Council falls behind on knowledge and engagement, City staff becomes more relied upon to lead the City and community. Council is elected to lead the the staff and represent the citizens. They can't do that if they can't keep up with the issues.

Similarly, the City internal decision making process and execution needs to operate more efficiently and nimbly to stay ahead of these challenges.

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

We'll have to talk about that. I'm not in favor of out of control TIFs or subsidies just to attract employers. We should be attracting employers based upon our quality of life and community. We've done a good job of attracting primary employers; so much so that we don't have the housing to keep up. We can ease off the gas a little. I look forward to continuing this discussion.

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

I-25 should be a toll road. We are already running out of fuel tax dollars and EVs haven't even hit yet. We should be investing in better transit and car-sharing options instead of expanding the highway. Highways fuel growth and congestion in a self-perpetuating loop. Let's explore Amtrak on the BNSF line.

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

(2)

- (3) I started and manage a business. My father was a home builder. I grew up learning business. I understand a lot of business needs and I understand that business plays a vital role in our community. More importantly, I'm a listener, a negotiator, and a collaborator. I can put political labels and differences aside to work together on issues we agree upon. Councilman Summers can attest to my character in that regard. As long as you are supporting the health of Fort Collins then I will fight with you in the City Council.

- (1) 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

Fred Kirsch 1/23/19