

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2020 COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org
by noon on Thursday, September 17, 2020
Please note that all questionnaire answers
will be shared with the business community.**

Office Sought: Larimer County Commissioner	District: 2
Name: Kristin Stephens	
Home Address: 1911 Enfield Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80526	
Daytime Phone: 970-581-7589	Evening Phone: same
Email: kristin@kristinforlarimer.com	
Employment: Colorado State University and City of Fort Collins	
Length of Residence: In County: 30 years In District: 28 years	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

Education:	B.A. History, Colorado State University
Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:	Fort Collins City Council- 2015-present Mayor Pro Tem -2019-present Chair and member of Poudre Fire Authority-2015-present Vice-Chair National League of Cities Human Development Committee- 2018-present Representative to North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization and finance committee- 2019-present
Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:	Colorado State University Graduate Coordinator 2004-present Youth Orchestra of the Rockies-Executive Director- 2003-2004 Mother's Center Childcare Coordinator- 2001-2003 CSU Bookstore Manager 1998-2000 Barnes and Noble Assistant Manager- 1995-1998 Stone Lion Bookstore- Floor Supervisor- 1990-1995

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<p>Current Employment and Responsibilities:</p>	<p>Colorado State University- Graduate Coordinator and Office Manager Manage Statistics Office. Responsible for HR functions, and Graduate Programs.</p>
<p>Specific Qualifications For This Office:</p>	<p>I have served as a City Councilmember for 5 ½ years where I have worked on the city’s budget, regional transportation planning, and affordability issues. I have served in many leadership roles including Mayor Pro Tem, Chair of the Poudre Fire Authority, Vice Chair of the National League of Cities(NLC) Human Development Committee, and an appointee to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the NLC Homelessness Committee, and several City Council committees including the Ad Hoc Housing committee.</p>
<p>Why are you running for this office?</p>	<p>As a region we are facing tough issues including a lack of affordable housing and childcare, recovery from COVID-19, dwindling funds for transportation projects, and threats from extreme weather events due to Climate Change. I am running because I believe we can effectively address these issues at the county level and build more transparency and equity in county government.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>My 5 ½ years on City Council have prepared me for this office. During this time, I have worked on many issues with county leaders, including our waste shed program, behavioral health, and transportation planning. Recently I have met with county service directors to learn about their departments and have watched and attended county meetings. I have also met with residents across the county from Estes</p>

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	<p>Park to Wellington to listen to their concerns. My leadership experience and knowledge of regional issues make me qualified to serve.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Right now, people in our county are hurting. The first thing I will do is to help residents and small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. I will also work on affordability issues including housing and childcare. Finally, I will address Climate change and protect our natural resources. I will make sure that we are providing funding and staffing for programs that address these issues and will dig in with staff to find solutions. I will also bring in business, leaders, nonprofits, and municipalities to help solve our biggest problems; I know that county government alone can not solve these problems.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>As a county we need to work on COVID recovery, affordable housing, and affordable childcare. We need to help our small businesses recover and access loans and grants that can help them weather the economic downturn. We need to help people get back to work and get training if their jobs went away. I will make sure that the Economic and Workforce Development Department is funded and will advocate for relief dollars at the state and federal level.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Affordable childcare and housing are necessary for strong economic health; these are issues I have championed on City Council and I will continue to do so. I will also work with the county's Economic and Workforce Development Department to develop strategies to be more jobs friendly. I</p>

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	will engage business leaders and will invite them to participate in discussions about our economic health.
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?	Larimer County should be a leader in the region. Recovery from COVID, protecting our natural resources, and addressing affordability issues are the top issues facing our region. I have met with residents and business owners over the past few months, and I know that many people are struggling; I believe that our best days are ahead of us and that we can successfully recover from this difficult time with strong, empathetic leadership.
Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should Larimer County plan for growth, if at all?	We should plan for sustainable growth in our county. We need to make sure that we have enough water resources to grow especially with increased drought due to Climate Change.

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<p>What are the top two issues facing county government over the next 4 years and why do you believe they are the most important?</p>	<p>Helping residents and small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic are the top issues facing county government. Recovery is essential for our community's health and wellbeing. I have experience leading through the COVID crisis and will be a strong leader during this difficult time.</p>
<p>What economic tools should the County add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?</p>	<p>If we address affordable housing, affordable childcare, workforce development, and transportation issues we will attract employers. Local business leaders have spoken to me about the necessity of having affordable and attainable housing to attract and retain employees and I am committed to working on this issue.</p>
<p>What are the top three transportation improvements Larimer County should accomplish? What is your position on the Fix North I-25 effort? Why?</p>	<p>Every time I have visited Washington, D.C. with City Council, I have met with the Department of Transportation and our Congressional Delegation to advocate for more funding for the I-25 expansion. I believe that we must find funding to finish this project. I will work with municipalities to prioritize regional transportation projects and will work on transit options that connect communities and rural areas. I support Fix North I-25 because it will address the congestion and gridlock we see on I-25 but I also know we need to work on transit options that will carry us into a sustainable future.</p>
<p>What is your position on water storage in northern Colorado? Do you support the NISP project?</p>	<p>I do see a need for some water storage projects in Northern Colorado, but I have not supported the NISP project while on Council because I believe it will be detrimental to the health of the Poudre River.</p>
<p>A key role for a County Commissioner is serving as a</p>	<p>I have built strong relationships across the county with residents and municipal leaders.</p>

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<p>convener of resources. Share with us relationships that you have with various county resources that you will be able to access in the role of County Commissioner.</p>	<p>I have also effectively worked with county leaders and staff and have advocated for regional goals at the state and federal level. I am fully confident that I can convene people and assemble resources to solve the problems that we face.</p>
<p>Why would a business person support your election to office?</p>	<p>A businessperson should support me because I am an experienced leader, and I am willing to listen and work on economic issues.</p>
<p>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.)</p>	<p>No, there is nothing like this.</p>
<p>Signature: Kristin Stephens</p>	
<p>Date: 9/16/2020</p>	