

**FORT COLLINS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2021 CITY OF FORT COLLINS ELECTION**

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org
by noon on Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Please note that all questionnaire answers
will be shared with the business community.**

Office Sought: Mayor	District:
Name: Jeni Arndt	
Home Address: 1603 West Mulberry Street	
Daytime Phone: 970-231-5090	Evening Phone: same
Email: jenijamesarndt@gmail.com	
Employment: State Representative	
Length of Residence: In City: 2008 In District: 2008/1964	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

Education:	PhD, Literacy and Language, Purdue University; MA Special Education, Purdue University; MS Geography; BS Sociology, The Colorado College
Past and Present Community Service or Volunteer Positions Including Offices Held:	Chair, Council of State Governments-West National Co-Chair National Conference of State Legislatures Chair, Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee Chair (past) Water Resources Review Committee Board of Examiners, National Council of Teacher Education Commission on Disabilities, City of Fort Collins School Board Vice Chair, Maputo International School

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	School Board, Montessori School of West Lafayette
Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:	<p>Laureate Education, Inc—project manager (budget, marketing and strategy for international education firm)</p> <p>Walden University—program manager</p> <p>Walden University—Director, Office of Field Experiences</p> <p>Walden University—Faculty in special education and literacy master’s programs</p> <p>Teacher, Special Education—Jefferson High School, Lafayette, IN</p>
Current Employment and Responsibilities:	State Representative, House District 53
Specific Qualifications for This Office:	<p>Qualification for the office of Mayor? I have been representing west Fort Collins since elected in 2014 at the state level. I served on the business committee for six years and strove to represent the business interests of our city. I also serve on and Chair the Ag, Livestock and Water committee where I get to represent the interests of Fort Collins and Colorado State University.</p> <p>I have experience in and I understand how government works and have collaborated over the year with the Chamber, the City, stakeholders on every topic important to Fort Collins. I have earned numerous awards and recognitions for my work on policy issues that require working with</p>

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	<p>people with different viewpoints. The work of Mayor requires a similar skill set of pragmatic policy making based on the expressed values and opinions of stakeholders.</p>
<p>Why are you running for this office?</p>	<p>I am running for Mayor of Fort Collins to help guide policy, to collaborate with our city and regional partners, to set a tone and style of openminded, dedicated devotion to our city and good governance.</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>In order to run for Mayor, I have been a student of government and people. I have had meetings with a wide variety of groups in Fort Collins and individuals. Learning and listening never ends and in preparation for the office of Mayor, I have doubled the number of my usual meetings. My conduct in the office of Mayor will be exactly like my conduct in my current elected position—I am a person who is open, honest, available, authentic and true to my word. The Mayor of Fort Collins has a special responsibility to be a person of the highest integrity.</p>
<p>What do you think are the top 3 economic priorities city government should undertake during the next four years? What role should the City of Fort Collins have in economic development? How will you make the economy a City budget priority?</p>	<p>The first priority is to jettison our businesses out of our current situation due to COVID-19. We must work together (the city and our business partners) and the state to support business revival. The second priority would be to see what, if any, of our current city (and state) policies are holding back innovation and job creation. The third priority would be ensure that people who work in Fort Collins can afford to live here. That attracts business and builds a strong community.</p> <p>Ideally, the role of the city would be to stay</p>

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	<p>out of the way or partner (when it makes sense) with our business community for economic development. The city can do its part for economic development by providing world class city services.</p>
<p>How will you make the City of 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.</p>	<p>A jobs friendly community (somewhat discussed below) is absolutely critical to the health and welfare of our city and our residents. We need good businesses and good jobs. Together, we can create a community that is job friendly by partnering with PSD, CSU, big business, development, city services and our regional partners.</p> <p>Staying in touch with business leaders would be part of the overall job of Mayor. It would be an ongoing partnership. Solutions and collaboration come about via regular communication and conversation. The city and the business community are partners in our community’s health and the welfare of our residents.</p>
<p>What role should the City of Fort Collins have in the region? What do you believe are the top issues facing Northern Colorado in the next several years?</p>	<p>Maintaining the unique character of Fort Collins as city while working collaboratively with our regional partners will be the work of the future. We will be involved in discussions over transportation, water, land use, air quality, to name just a few. I am committed to good relationships and productive collaboration.</p>
<p>Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should the City of Fort Collins plan for growth, if at all?</p>	<p>We must plan for growth. That way, we can help shape our community to reflect our shared values. I like Fort Collins, because I think one of our shared values is that people like different ways of life. So, we offer the old town experience and the south of town experience. Growth is here and it will continue. Planning for it is the responsible</p>

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	thing to do.
What are the top two issues facing city government over the next 4 years and why do you believe they are the most important?	I think that our population growth in a limited space will be the driver of two big issues—how do we share limited land and limited water (both finite in quantity) in a growing city? We will have to make tough tradeoffs on how we plan for and share water and land. From these two issues we get the resulting dilemmas such as affordable housing, water use (and storage), residential zoning codes, etc.
What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?	I think a strong community with good schools, recreation opportunities, access to quality health care, clean environments, efficient and transparent local governance, and not a lot of local restrictions is a very powerful economic tool. Key employers will be attracted to our location, access to modern transportation and educated and talented workforce. As a city, we can work on all of these as tools in the tool box.
What are the top three transportation improvements the City of Fort Collins should accomplish? What is your position on the Fix North I-25 effort? Why?	North I-25 is on its way to being fixed. It can't come soon enough. The City of Fort Collins needs to continue to work on a comprehensive transit/transportation plan for all citizens to be mobile. The state is getting ready this year (finally) to pass legislation to fix roads and bridges and modernize our transportation system—including in rural areas. I am in favor of that.
Tell us about your understanding of water issues in Northern Colorado.	This might take a month! ☺ I would be happy to discuss this with you anytime. But it's complicated to write it all out here. My legislation in this area is extensive and can be found on the legislative website under "Arndt". Happy to discuss.

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<p>What is your position on water storage in northern Colorado? Do you support the NISP project? Do you support the Halligan project?</p> <p>Why do you hold these positions?</p>	<p>The climate is changing and getting warmer. The water cycle is speeding up and the snow is melting sooner. We need to have increased retiming of water to meet our needs in agriculture, municipal, industrial and environment areas. Retiming of water can include, using less, re-using water, plumbing for gray water, and increasing our storage capacity. Storage can be done by topping up existing reservoirs (Halligan) and I am in favor of that. It can also occur by building new reservoirs (Glade) and I am wondering if their might not be more modern technology than what has been proposed in NISP. It can also mean using existing aquifers for aquifer storage and recovery. I am in favor of this method of storage as a more efficient and environmentally sound way to store water.</p>
<p>Why should the members of your district support your election to office?</p> <p>Why should someone who is interested in a vibrant city economy vote for you?</p>	<p>I believe that I reflect the overall tone and style of Fort Collins. My personal values are well-matched to our collective values. Furthermore, I strive to understand the people of my district and vote accordingly.</p> <p>A vibrant city economy is created by great business small and large who are creative and innovative and inclusive. Fort Collins attracts and retains businesses because of our entrepreneurial spirit. That is what brought my parents here in 1964 and I don't think that has changed. I am in favor of government getting out of the way as much as possible to allow all the good thinking of individuals and businesses thrive. That's what makes for a vibrant and dynamic</p>

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	environment.
Do you have existing relationships with anyone on City Council or Staff? And how will those relationships help you serve the citizens of Fort Collins.	I have some friendships with people who work at the city as staff. And I know some of the city council as colleagues. To me, it's all about relationships and I believe I have positive working relationships with the city staff and city council.
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, discrimination, harassment, arrest, conviction, etc.)	No. As a public person for the last seven years, I have been thoroughly vetted.
Signature: Jeni Arndt	
Date: February 16, 2021	