

**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: Councilmember	District: 4
Name: Jessica Dyr Dahl	
Home Address: 2828 Silverplume Drive S 6, Fort Collins, CO 80526	
Daytime Phone: 701-388-9449	Evening Phone: 701-388-9449
Email: jess4foco@gmail.com	
Employment: Colorado State University	
Length of Residence: In City: 11 years In District: 2.5 years	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

Education:	Masters of Education - Higher Education and Student Affairs, Indiana University Bachelor of Arts - Political Science and Spanish, Colorado State University
Past and Present Community Service or Volunteer Positions Including Offices Held:	Leadership Fort Collins – Steering Committee Member Volunteer at the Larimer County Food Bank Volunteer at the Larimer County Jail Taste of Fort Collins Volunteer FoCoMX Volunteer Great American Beer Festival Volunteer Big Brothers, Big Sisters Catalina Island Trail Repair
Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:	Assistant Director for Student Government - Colorado State University Adjunct Faculty for President’s Leadership Program - Colorado State University Horse and Dragon Brewing Company - Tasting Room Server Site Director – Northeastern University (in Dublin, Ireland at the Dublin Business School) Leadership Coordinator – University of

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	<p>Alaska Anchorage Recruiter – Spherion Staffing Agency Office Manager – Lars’ Body Shop Beverage Cart Operator – Maple River Golf Course Student Organizations Coordinator – Indiana University</p>
<p>Current Employment and Responsibilities:</p>	<p>The Assistant Director for Student Government is a critical supervisory position, which provides leadership, vision, and supervision to the operational, fiscal management, administrative planning, and professional development of the student government, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly supervising one full-time State Classified Administrative Assistant, and 3 official student leaders elected annually by the Student Body. This position is also responsible for the recruitment, selection, and training of ASCSU departmental advisors, who are full-time University employees. • Overseeing the management of budgets totaling over \$1.3M in student fees, ensuring proper expenditures of allocated funds and that contractual obligations are met. • Acting as an advocate of diplomacy when interacting with student leaders involving decision-making and program development. • Establishing and maintaining effective and collaborative working relationships with multiple constituents including campus offices, students, staff, faculty members and various other community groups. • Possessing the ability to work in an environment with a high degree of trust and integrity. • Working in a fast paced, flexible environment with a focus on high quality individual and group interactions, and verbal and written communications and presentations. • Having expertise in student engagement and development, and a positive demeanor and strong work ethic, with an understanding and commitment to university shared governance.

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<p>Specific Qualifications for This Office:</p>	<p>Experience overseeing a large budget, understanding and direct experience with shared governance, ability to see challenges from multiple perspectives, extensive experience collaborating amongst different minded individuals. I also have a working knowledge of Robert’s Rules of Order, have served on a variety of committees from Parking Services to the Administrative Professionals Council and approach decisions through an equity lens.</p>
<p>Why are you running for this office?</p>	<p>As I have worked for one of the smallest and largest employers in the City, I have been privy to see how decisions made by the City can impact those in our community . I have connected with residents across the community and can be a voice for others. The Fort Collins community and surrounding areas are extremely important to me and I want to ensure those in service to the City have everyone in mind when making decisions, as when we take care of our most vulnerable populations we help to ensure everyone is taken care of.</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>I personally connected with everyone currently on the Council in addition to past Council members to see what is required of the office. I will conduct myself with the highest integrity and always with the residents of Fort Collins in mind. My experiences in a variety of industries, from higher education, to staffing agencies to the brewery industry help to give me the qualifications of being able to see multiple perspectives. I have interned at the State Capitol and have experience working directly with constituents, I have also done a lot of outreach the past few months to</p>

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	<p>people in my District to hear their concerns and successes, whether through canvassing, email outreach or texting/phone calls. In my role as Assistant Director to Student Government at CSU, my job revolves around connecting our community to the City Council, and how to solve our collective challenges.</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>I agree with the City’s Strategic Plan and having Economic Health as one of the top 7 priorities. As we are continuously reimagining what work looks like over the past year and in going forward, I think we need to stay focused on understanding the local labor market and diversifying employment opportunities. Another top priority of the City’s that I support is to continue to focus on infill and redevelopment opportunities. The last priority is focusing energy and resources to starting and sustaining new businesses. The City should have a role of continuing to invest in and promote economic development in the region. In the current Strategic Plan, economic health is receiving a strong focus and resources of the City budget and I would continue to make the economy a budget priority.</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>I would communicate with current business owners to see what their needs are and if they are being met. I would be more than willing to engage with business leaders as connection and outreach are important to me as a City leader. I would stay in touch with business leaders by continuing to be accessible, whether it be through formal or informal connections. One example of outreach to business is I reached out to all of</p>

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	<p>the small businesses in District 4 in January to make sure they were aware of the Small Business Relief Program and share more information if they had not applied.</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>The City of Fort Collins is the business Center for the Northern Colorado region and will continue to do so for the future. An issue that is not new but will continue to be a top issue is access to affordable and attainable housing in Northern Colorado. As a member of the Leadership Fort Collins Steering committee, in my daily conversations with Fort Collins residents and my work with CSU students, this is often the top issue that comes to mind for people. With the past year, we have seen a top issue being the mental, social, physical and economic impacts of COVID that will continue to be felt for years to come. We have also been directly impacted by environmental impacts as seen from the wildfires this Summer and Fall and we need to keep environmental sustainability as one of our top priorities in the City and region.</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>Fort Collins as a world class city will continue to attract people to move here, and we need to plan for the growth. A big step we are currently making is with the Land Use Code Audit, to ensure we are working toward the vision of the Fort Collins Community while diversifying our approach to make sure we are planning for the projected growth.</p>
<p>What are the top two issues facing city government over the next 4 years and why do you believe they are the most important?</p>	<p>A top issue facing city government over the next 4 years will be the Housing Strategic Plan, as some of the implementation steps will take many years to be in place. This is one of the most important as access to</p>

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	<p>affordable and attainable housing is a top concern for residents in the region. Another issue area will be COVID Relief, especially for our small businesses, and I believe this is the most important as we are currently still battling the impacts of COVID every day and believe we will continue to see the impacts for years to come.</p>
<p>What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?</p>	<p>The City has done a great job of attracting a diverse set of employers to the region and by continuing to focus on bringing in employers who are innovative, entrepreneurial and will ensure additional employers will choose to make Fort Collins their home base. Our current toolbox is robust and I appreciate how we work with surrounding communities to attract key employers. Luckily, we have a lot of attractive qualities in the City so naturally people are drawn here as a place to live, work and play.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Transportation is a top issue for residents in the region and I am glad it is in the City's Strategic Plan. The City of Fort Collins can improve transportation by expanding access to sustainable modes of travel, managing traffic congestion, and managing impacts of train operations in the City. I support the Fix North I-25 effort as it is vital to the success of our region and if we do not improve it, it will continue to be unsafe and a challenge to our success as a City.</p>
<p>Tell us about your understanding of water issues in Northern Colorado.</p>	<p>Water and access to water is a top priority in Northern Colorado, as we are limited in supply, the demand is high, and there are a lot of factors that exist in our state that water issues very complex. From water</p>

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	<p>rights, to population growth, to a focus on environmental impacts, access to water does not come easy in our state. With the impacts of the wildfires from this summer, access to clean water is going to be an even higher priority looking forward to the future. Water prices keep going up and in the near future, the demand could easily exceed the supply.</p>
<p>What is your position on water storage in northern Colorado? Do you support the NISP project? Do you support the Halligan project? Why do you hold these positions?</p>	<p>With water it has to be about balance. With our population growth in the front range and living in a high desert coupled with impacts of Climate Change, droughts will continue to be the norm. As our supply of water is seasonal, we need space to store water as we would lose more water due to evaporation. If we do not conserve our water, it will continue downstream unused by its residents. I also understand many City’s residents want a free, flowing Poudre that is unobstructed and in its natural state. For me, any water supply project must have benefits that outweigh the impacts. For NISP, the City has found at this point that the benefits would not outweigh the impacts and therefore I would not be able to support the project. I do support the City to continue engaging in conversations with the public and with representatives from NISP to see if there can be a plan that works best for all involved. For the Halligan project, it would not have the same impacts as NISP and although costly, it would be more cost effective than alternative options and would help us better plan for the future to protect against drought and to meet the demand of population growth.</p>
<p>Why should the members of your district support your election to</p>	<p>I will be a steadfast advocate for residents in District 4. I have gone door to door to hear</p>

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<p>office?</p> <p>Why should someone who is interested in a vibrant city economy vote for you?</p>	<p>their concerns and I will work hard to share their voices with other City Leaders. I have strong ethics and values and I will bring the utmost integrity as a City Leader. Someone who is interested in a vibrant city economy should vote for me as I look at all issues in the city from multiple viewpoints to ensure we have balance and have the City's long term goals and vision in mind.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>I have personally met with all current members of City Council and have many connections in various City Departments. These relationships will be a great resource when trying to solve the challenges and demands the City faces as I will be able to connect directly with people that have the knowledge and experience regarding specific areas.</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, discrimination, harassment, arrest, conviction, etc.)</p>	<p>There is none.</p>
<p>Signature: Jessica Dyr Dahl</p>	
<p>Date 2- 16- 21</p>	