

**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: City Council	District: 4
Name: Sidna Rachid	
Home Address: 1002 Alexa Court	
Daytime Phone: (970) 215-9343	Evening Phone: (970) 215-9343
Email: sidnarachid@hotmail.com	
Employment: Retired Accountant	
Length of Residence: In City: 20 years in June In District: same	

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

Education:	1990, MBA Accounting cum laude - Rutgers
Past and Present Community Service or Volunteer Positions Including Offices Held:	Most recent – Board member – Front Range Forum Chair of Northern Colorado Chapter of the ACLU of Colorado
Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:	Retired in 2000 as Chief Accountant Maersk Oil Qatar.
Current Employment and Responsibilities:	Retired twenty years ago at the age of 50
Specific Qualifications for This Office:	My background in accounting will help with budgetary issues in the coming year.
Why are you running for this office?	I would like to give back to a community which has given me so much pleasure.
What have you done to prepare for election to this office and how you will you conduct yourself if elected to this office? What	Preparation – I have been engaged with non-profit groups in the community. Conduct - I will ask a lot of questions and will strive to understand both sides of an

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<p>experiences have you had that makes you qualified to serve in office?</p>	<p>issue. I am persistent and will seek out facts not feelings. Experiences – I worked as an accountant analyzing expenses and income. Recently, I have become interested in data analysis. Both of these experiences/skills are unique when compared to the experiences my fellow candidates have had.</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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Helping small businesses survive and get up and running again is the top priority. A city with boarded shops is not attractive or welcoming. 2) Evictions is my next biggest concern. When the moratorium is lifted it will be difficult for many families and landlords. 3) Affordable child care and affordable housing are the third. They ensure a functioning work force. <p>Role in economic development – The focus needs to remain on small businesses. There should be a mechanism for small businesses which face difficulties to reach out to the city for financial help, as well as advice on how to weather a difficult period. This is often all that is needed. Budget priority - I will ensure that funds are spent on investing in services for the community which serve the public good.</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>Affordable housing and child care are the best way to ensure a jobs friendly community. If your work-force has to commute long distances and are continually worrying about their children, they can't focus on their work. I would enjoy engaging with business leaders. They are successful and are a fount of information. A monthly meeting would</p>

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	be a good way to stay in touch with business leaders in the city and my district.
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?	Fort Collins' role is to provide a wonderful place to live – which it already does. The top issues facing Northern Colorado in the next several years are the drought and building new developments to an extent that puts pressure on infrastructure – water, roads, electricity and sewage.
Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should the City of Fort Collins plan for growth, if at all?	If the goal is to preserve the community that Fort Collins is today, the present building boom needs to be carefully managed. Two ways to increase housing is to make it easier for people to add rental units to their homes, and loosening land use code to allow multi-family homes. These methods would use the existing infrastructure.
What are the top two issues facing city government over the next 4 years and why do you believe they are the most important?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The fall-out from the pandemic which includes empty buildings and bankrupt businesses. (The Foothills Mall could be an issue depending on what happens with it.) 2) Climate change issues which include forest fires and water will continue to affect our city.
What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?	Affordable child care – Portland just passed a ballot initiative which provides preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children. I would like to see something like that pass in Fort Collins.
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?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) One of my biggest pet peeves is how many families in Fort Collins don't use the school bus system. The traffic jams outside of schools is annoying and dangerous. An effort should be made to encourage the use of the school buses. 2) Bike paths have been improved and

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	<p>you can get many places in Fort Collins using them. This effort should continue. Some of the busier streets in Fort Collins are dangerous to ride a bike on – even if there is a bike lane. One example of this is Shields.</p> <p>3) Railroad crossings continue to be a transportation nightmare. Efforts are taking place on Vine Street. I’m not sure what the solution would be.</p> <p>I am totally in favor of the Fix North I-25 effort. Driving to Denver is dangerous now, and a third lane would make it less of a hair-raising experience.</p>
<p>Tell us about your understanding of water issues in Northern Colorado.</p>	<p>Water is a complex issue which boils down to the fact that you either have enough or you don’t. What makes it sticky is that people located upstream of a water source that is used downstream, can affect the flow of water. An aquifer can be accessed by many landowners and the rate at which individuals land-owners drain the aquifer creates problems. Another complicating issue is the rate of development along the Front Range which will put pressure on the need for water.</p>
<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>Reservoirs are an inefficient way to store water. The surface is greater than a natural lake since the water is shallower making the rate of evaporation higher. When water storage is needed, it should done below ground. I therefore don’t support the NISP project. The Halligan project looks like it is a better solution since it is an existing reservoir and the surface area won’t increase as much since the height of the</p>

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	<p>dam will be raised. The devil is in the details so my support is lukewarm. I don't know enough now to form a firm opinion. Why? I favor sustainable growth.</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>The members of my district should support me since I bring very specific skills to the job. As a retired accountant, I understand budgetary issues. I have a clear vision how I'd like to see funds invested in services in Fort Collins. Members of my district will never be surprised by any of my votes. I am quite clear on what I think should be done.</p> <p>I am interested in the long-term health of our city. Too often short-term gains are sought while long-term harm is ignored. I will support small businesses since they are vital to the health of our community. I will not support open-ended tax breaks for big companies which might lead to Fort Collins having to make up the difference in revenue from residents.</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>N/A</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>No.</p>
<p>Signature Sidna Rachid</p>	
<p>Date 2/24/2021</p>	

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