

**Questionnaires are due back to [ahutchison@fcchamber.org](mailto: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: <b>Re-election to Fort Collins City Council</b>	District: <b>One</b>
Name: <b>Susan Gutowsy</b>	
Home Address: <b>1418 Stonehenge Dr.</b>	
Daytime Phone: <b>970-215-6308</b>	Evening Phone:
Email: <b>susan.gutowsky@gmail.com</b>	
Employment: <b>District One City Council Representative</b>	
Length of Residence: In City: <b>41 years</b> In District: <b>41 Years</b>	

***Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.***

Education:	<p><b>B.A from the University of California-Irvine I spent my junior year as a Study Abroad student in Madrid, Spain. M.Ed from Colorado State University</b></p>
Past and Present Community Service or Volunteer Positions Including Offices Held:	<p><b>Current positions held:</b></p> <p>City Councilmember District 1</p> <p>Urban Renewal Authority</p> <p>Downtown Development Authority</p> <p>Larimer County Behavioral Health Policy Council</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission- Liaison</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee for Community Impact</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee for Benefits &amp; Compensation</p>

	<p>Recent Graduate of the Water Literate Leaders Program.</p> <p>Museo de Tres Colonias Executive Board</p> <p>Member of Rotary Club of Fort Collins – Current Chairman of Scholarship Committee</p> <p>Outreach volunteer with Larimer Humane Society</p> <p><b>Other Community Service</b></p> <p>Director on the Poudre School District Board of Education 2011-2019</p> <p>Former Project Smile Boardmember</p> <p>Former Poudre School District Foundation Boardmember—Chairman of the Recognition Committee</p> <p>Election Judge &amp; Supervisor for Larimer County for seven years.</p>
<p>Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:</p>	<p><b>Present-</b> City Councilmember District 1</p> <p><b>Past:</b></p> <p>Teacher - Poudre School District 1979-2004</p>
<p>Current Employment and Responsibilities:</p>	<p>I serve on the City Council to represent the people. I listen to my constituents' needs and concerns and am a strong voice for the community- representing their values in City Council decisions.</p>
<p>Specific Qualifications for This Office:</p>	<p>I am the current District 1 Councilmember. Additionally, I have significant public service experience--PSD BOE and multiple City and community boards--a 34-year long career in education, and a wide variety of</p>

	<p>volunteer, community service, and outreach experiences.</p>
<p>Why are you running for this office?</p>	<p>I want to continue to serve the residents of Fort Collins.</p>
<p>What have you done to prepare for election to this office, and how will you conduct yourself if elected to this office? What experiences have you had that make you qualified to serve in office?</p>	<p>What many do not realize is that city council work is a full-time job. We do not show up at City Council meetings, vote yes or no, then go home to our "day job." Council is an elected legislative body with the authority to pass municipal ordinances and budgets, make appropriations, and even set local tax rates in many cases, which requires a thorough and mindful approach.</p> <p>To prepare adequately, I read hundreds of pages in my read before packet, last-minute memos, and updates to our packets.</p> <p>I had the good fortune to be selected to participate in the Water Literate Leaders Program and learned about regional water issues from local experts. I have attended conferences, both state and national, to learn best practices from around the country. I have taken classes in racial equity and civil discourse. I also pay close attention to maintaining positive relationships with my fellow Council members, City staff, and constituents.</p> <p>My two years on City Council have given me the training and the governing skills I need to continue to be an experienced and competent leader for the people I serve. What I bring to the table far exceeds what an inexperienced and untrained newcomer might offer. There is no substitute for lived experience and a proven track record for voting the values of my constituents.</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?</p>	<p>This would have been a great question a year ago, but today it can be summed up in two words: COVID RECOVERY. The pandemic laid waste to our economy in Fort Collins. Residents were told to take shelter in their homes. Businesses, restaurants, and hotels shut down. People turned to online buying, and Amazon made a fortune. However, the revenue flow from sales tax decreased dramatically, causing the City to implement budget cuts that reduced services to the community. Federal and State stimulus money has helped, but much needs to be done. Nothing will change until we beat the virus.</p> <p>As a community, we are moving back and forth between levels red, orange and yellow. There is no stability--no predictability. In my</p>

<p>How will you make the economy a City budget priority?</p>	<p>opinion, the way to ensure that our businesses will one day thrive in a vibrant economy is to abide by the LC Health Department's recommendations--they are based on accurate data and updated daily. Fort Collins City Council was among the first in the state to mandate masks throughout the city when entering businesses and public buildings. I believe it made a significant difference in the severity of the COVID impact on our community. We need to continue to wear masks, maintain safe distances and avoid gathering in groups other than our "bubble." Vaccines will help protect us, but we have to keep wearing our masks and practicing our safe behaviors. It will take time, but I believe we will drive our infection numbers down, and businesses and restaurants will increase their capacity and return to sustainable revenues. We need to work together to make this happen. In the meantime, the City will continue to seek out resources (state and federal stimulus money) and develop creative strategies (like FOCO NOSH and extended patio dining) to help businesses sustain themselves as we recover from the pandemic.</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>To have a job-friendly community, we need to have diversity among those who own the businesses and the people they are hiring. I am in favor of providing more opportunities for Latinx and women-owned business startups. I am, and always have been, willing to engage with business owners to discuss ways to ensure that people who want to start businesses have the resources to do so and provide resources to sustain them during the difficult few years after startup. I attend the NFCBA monthly meetings to keep in touch with what's going on in Fort Collins' northside and am always attentive and accessible to our local businesses.</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>We are a regional leader, and we should facilitate partnerships with other communities to collaborate in solving pressing issues that we share as communities in Northern Colorado. An excellent example of this is our 4-way partnership with PRPA, which provides electricity to Fort Collins, Estes Park, Loveland and Longmont. Other examples of regional partnering are the joint development of the Northern Fort Collins Regional Airport and the new Northern Colorado Law Enforcement Training Center that will provide state of the art training for law enforcement officers across the region and our participation in the North Front Range Regional Wasteshed project.</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>I will always advocate to make sure that we maintain safe, clean, livable neighborhoods. <b>As we grow, we must be mindful of our commitment to protect the quality of life we enjoy.</b> As a city, <b>we must ensure that growth does not outpace our ability to support it</b> with water and utilities and that <b>development pays its OWN way.</b> The City of Fort Collins sets a high bar for quality, energy efficiency and affordability.</p>
<p>What are the top two issues facing city government over the next four years, and why do you believe they are the most important?</p>	<p><b>Covid Recovery</b> - of course!  <b>Social Justice</b> - equity touches every aspect of life in our community  <b>Climate action acceleration</b> - if we can't breathe, we can't live.</p>
<p>What economic tools should the City add to its "toolbox" of resources to attract key employers?</p>	<p>I would like to hear more from the business community about what they feel the City should add to its "toolbox."</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>As <b>growth</b> continues, we must facilitate sustainable transportation to reduce <b>congestion</b> and protect our <b>air quality</b> as more people move to our city. We need to continue working to provide a <b>safe and reliable multimodal transportation</b> network for <b>all residents</b> and <b>advance mobility solutions</b> to <b>increase</b> walking, bicycling, transit use, and <b>environmentally sustainable modes.</b> Paying particular attention to <b>connectivity to all areas of the city that have been disconnected, such as bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to Northeast Fort Collins.</b> Looking to the future, we must as the transportation Master Plan details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Expand Bus Rapid Transit, frequency, and coverage.</b></li> <li>● <b>Modernize</b> Transfort's operations by adopting new autonomous and electric vehicle technologies, partnerships with</li> </ul>

	<p>mobility providers, and the latest information-sharing platforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in northwest/east Fort Collins</b></li> </ul> <p>I do support the work to add an additional lane to I-25. However, that addition is not a sustainable solution. <b>We must develop a multimodal transportation system that includes commuter rail</b>, which connects the downtown areas of Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont, and Denver.</p>
<p>Tell us about your understanding of water issues in Northern Colorado.</p>	<p>Water issues are a key challenge especially due to climate change. Some support out-dated storage approaches, but <b>the future of water in Northern Colorado will be solved by demand management</b> and collaborative agreements between water users. I support robust water efficiency solutions and water sharing agreements between cities and farms, among other <b>conservation measures</b>.</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><b>No, I don't support NISP.</b> Our city council has voted unanimously to oppose the project based on our River's severe environmental damages. Our citizens have repeatedly and strongly opposed this project, and I agree with them. There are other alternatives for water supply that will protect and preserve the Poudre.</p> <p><b>I support the Halligan project.</b> Unlike NISP, which would primarily serve Denver suburbs, <b>Halligan will provide drought protection for Fort Collins.</b> Its small size, its expansion of an existing reservoir, and its use for infrequent drought means <b>it will have significantly fewer impacts upon the river.</b> The project will also improve the ecology of a neglected river segment.</p>

<p>Why should the members of your district support your election to the office?</p> <p>Why should someone interested in a vibrant city economy vote for you?</p>	<p><b>As an incumbent, I have the expertise to tackle the challenges we are facing</b> – from our local businesses' struggles to our working families' financial hardships. This job is about people, and my goal is to make sure that everyone in Fort Collins has the opportunity to thrive. There is so much work yet to do. I am confident that, working together, our community will not only recover but emerge stronger.</p> <p>As your City Council Representative, my number one priority is to serve <u>you</u>.</p>
<p>Do you have existing relationships with anyone on City Council or Staff? And how those relationships will help you serve the citizens of Fort Collins.</p>	<p>Each of our current City Council members is an esteemed colleague of mine. I have come to know many staff members for the City of Fort Collins and have an amicable working relationship with them, and I value their work.</p>
<p>If business groups endorse you, is there any important 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 Susan Gutwosky</p>	
<p>Date 2-16-2021</p>	