

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

**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: City Council	District: 3
Name: Tricia Canonico	
Home Address: 3234 Muskrat Creek Dr	
Daytime Phone: (970) 672-6362	Evening Phone: (970) 672-6362
Email: <a href="mailto:triciaforfortcollins@gmail.com">triciaforfortcollins@gmail.com</a>	
Employment: Not employed	
Length of Residence: In City: 10 years	In District: 10 years

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

*Education:*

**Xavier University** - BA International Relations & Business minor, cum laude (1991)  
**The Sorbonne University of Paris** -Certificate: French Civilization Course (1990/1991)  
**University of Denver** - MA International Relations, Comparative Politics (2005)  
**University of Denver** - completed coursework, comprehensive exams & approved prospectus for PhD in Comparative Politics, International Relations & International Security (2005)

*Past and Present Community Service or Volunteer Positions Including Offices Held:*

**The Family Center:**

Board Secretary, Board Member, volunteer 2018 - present

**Feed the NoCo Frontline:** founder & organizer 2020 (raised \$40,000 to help local restaurants and feed healthcare workers during the pandemic)

**Colorado Coalition against Gun Violence:**

Co-chair 2020 - present

**Moms Demand Action:** Fort Collins chapter co-lead 2018-2020

**Zach Elementary Book Fair:** Committee Chair & Volunteer 2016 - present

**Homeward Alliance's One Village One Family:** volunteer 2015-2016

**Love for Lizzy:** Founder & Organizer 2015 (raised \$16,000 + in-kind donations for a local teen battling cancer to see & meet U2 and to cover medical expenses)

*Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:*

**Suburban Bees: Design and Web Publishing** - Cofounder 2013-2107

**Cocoa Daisy, Online Scrapbooking Retail and Events** - Founder and Owner 2006-2010

**Total System Services** – Project Manager 1993-1994

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*Current Employment and Responsibilities:*

Stay at home mom to my three children

*Specific Qualifications for This Office:*

Candidates must live within the District, been a registered elector within the city for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and be 21 year of age.

*Why are you running for this office?*

It is a critical time for our community and I believe I have the skills, experience and voice to navigate a successful COVID recovery that will positively embrace our future. I want to inspire Fort Collins to define our post-COVID challenges as opportunities - and for all of us to contribute our collective energy to guarantee our City remains a unique place where all people can thrive. I have always been a passionate problem-solver and believe that I can make a difference to our City.

*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?*

Through my history of civic engagement, leadership on nonprofit boards, and roles in impactful community initiatives, I have gained the experience needed to serve all families in District 3. My collaborative leadership style is to listen actively to others' perspectives and build consensus. I will continue to reach out to my constituents to learn about the issues that matter most to them and to be open to diverse opinions. It has been my experience that the people closest to the problems also have the best potential solutions. Through that listening practice, I will bring important knowledge to City Council.

*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?*

- Navigating Covid recovery - We need to ensure that our existing businesses survive and thrive. I plan to create a centralized business owner resource center (a/k/a a "one-stop

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shop”) utilizing the expertise available within the volunteer retired community of Fort Collins to easily access the support business leaders need to revive, modify and recreate their enterprises.

- Affordable housing – Our City benefits when we promote housing options that support the social, economic and cultural diversity that exists in our community. I will focus on convenient, energy efficient and well-located housing options. I will advocate for programs to enable our neighbors to age in place.
- Affordable childcare – We all rely, directly or indirectly, on affordable, quality childcare. Supporting working families is vital to a stable workforce and fosters economic prosperity. I will work to expand childcare options including development incentives, public-private partnerships and other creative solutions. I will also work with local businesses to incentivize more quality on-site childcare options.

*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.*

Engage with business leaders - I am currently talking with business owners concerning ways the city can help them navigate the challenges they are facing. In addition, I plan to create “listening sessions” with business owners to better understand issues and barriers. I believe collaborative brainstorming results in effective solutions that will promote successful recovery. I also intend to tap our talented retiree community to contribute their experience, knowledge and energy to the rebuilding of our businesses.

Workforce development – I will partner with PSD and Front Range Community College to expand technical and vocational offerings. I will also work on augmenting our partnership with the Fort Collins Chamber and local businesses to expand apprentice, internship and workforce training initiatives.

*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 is and needs to continue to be a leader in the region in terms of livability, including educational, professional, cultural and recreational opportunities. As the wildfires clearly illustrated, climate change and water issues are going to continue to present challenges to Northern Colorado.

In addition, we must fully explore transportation issues and work toward solving commuting issues, including expanding transit along the I-25 corridor with our neighbors to the North and the South while keeping our climate action goals front and center.

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*Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should the City of Fort Collins plan for growth, if at all?*

Planned growth is essential to viability. Without thoughtful planning, people and their businesses will relocate. New business analyses will not consider Fort Collins if we do not plan for the infrastructure required to provide economic support, health care, education and appropriate housing.

Planned Growth is on-going. We absolutely need to plan for growth now in a smart, balanced and thoughtful way. It is key to all those aspects of Fort Collins that make the city appealing to newcomers and that result in continuously being named as one of the most livable cities in the country. Planning for future growth allows us to be value-led in how we grow and ensures the challenges facing Fort Collins are addressed. I will strive to preserve a balanced mix of a robust economy, to include ample recreational opportunities, education, healthcare and housing to complement our wonderful cultural richness.

*What are the top two issues facing city government over the next 4 years and why do you believe they are the most important?*

Covid recovery - the impact on businesses and declining revenue for the city. We also need to ensure equitable recovery opportunities for all families in our community, including access to quality education and health care.

Affordable housing - the escalating cost of housing is making it impossible for employees to live in the city in which they work. We need quality, sustainable housing options available at different price points.

*What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?*

- Greater ability to work with regional partners to ensure outcomes that benefit Fort Collins and the surrounding communities when key employers initially consider northern Colorado.
- Accelerate workforce development by creating a pipeline of individuals prepared for available jobs through increased apprenticeships and vocational training programs.
- Listen to the business community to determine what they think are the important tools we as a city should be utilizing.

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*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?*

I support fixing I-25. It will be a great benefit to the Northern Colorado community. Additionally, we need to look at the feasibility of a train line running south from Fort Collins, and north to Cheyenne. A recent model presented to the Front Range Passenger Rail Commission predicts such a service could serve more than 3 million users annually and would greatly reduce the number of miles traveled by vehicles in the state. With a likely federal level emphasis on infrastructure, I believe we can expect to see greater support for Amtrak and for new routes. I will advocate for Northern Colorado and the Front Range to be identified as a high priority area in an Amtrak expansion. Within the city I also would advocate for more MAX routes running east to west to help ease congestion within the city (West Elizabeth and Harmony Road). Again, I believe we could leverage federal dollars to complete these projects.

*Tell us about your understanding of water issues in Northern Colorado.*

Water and the Mountain West has been a critical topic of discussion for decades. It is a complicated topic that encompasses Federal, regional, state and local considerations to ensure the ecological balance critical to all life in Northern Colorado. Because I believe in compromise, I look forward to joining the discussion concerning NISP, Montava and the ELCO/Fort Collins water district to explore solutions. This critically important debate and the increased impact climate change is having on water in our region is on-going. We must find a balance between water storage, a growing region, river health and climate change. I look forward to learning from experts of the recent past and contributing to value-based decisions backed by science to meet our future needs.

*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?*

I support the Halligan project. As a water storage project it is a cost effective solution and, based on my current understanding, will have a low environmental impact while meeting the city's water storage needs. I would like to meet with City Staff, and other experts to become more familiar with additional studies on how it will impact the health of the Poudre River.

As for NISP, previous Councils have chosen not to join this expensive and ecologically troubling water project. The Cache la Poudre River is Colorado's only designated wild river and is overworked now prior to any additional water projects. It is a vital resource for our region and we need to ensure its health. As a City Council Member I might be asked to examine details of the Northern Integrated Supply Project and city policy regarding the project in the future. If so, I would listen to the community during that process to determine how best to represent their interests. As NISP is still in court and the Corps of Engineers has not yet issued a permit I prefer

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to defer judgement at this time.

*Why should the members of your district support your election to office? Why should someone who is interested in a vibrant city economy vote for you?*

I have been a small business owner and recognize the challenges involved in running a business. It's that personal recognition of the struggles business owners face, especially during the pandemic, that motivated me to start and organize Feed the NoCo Frontline. In late March, I started a GoFundMe to purchase meals from local struggling restaurants to bring to our frontline healthcare workers. I coordinated with the UC Hospital System, Banner and Kaiser to create a schedule to deliver meals to all departments in eleven healthcare facilities throughout Northern Colorado. In less than six weeks we raised over \$36,000 in donations, delivered over 3,000 meals and helped 49 local restaurants. For the holidays I revived Feed the NoCo Frontline and we raised an additional \$4,000 to purchase gift cards from local restaurants to deliver to frontline workers.

I am committed to improving the interactions businesses have with the city by streamlining processes, listening to business groups and searching out innovative programs (like covering fees for NoCo Nosh) that can help all businesses recover. Healthy businesses are vital to a growing, thriving city and as a City Council Member I will always be their champion.

*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.*

Yes, I have existing relationships with most Council Members. Since choosing to become a candidate, I have reached out to current Council Members and will seek information from City Staff members to understand their perspectives on key issues. It is my intent to maximize all available resources to learn how I can best serve District 3. These relationships will allow me to work more effectively as a member of Council, enhance Council deliberations, and facilitate productive working relationships with Staff. I am a team player who promotes rich exchanges between colleagues which will result in making strong, informed decisions for our City.

*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.

Signature, Date

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Tricia Canonico 2/15/2021