



COLORADO SPRINGS

2021 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

501c3-Compliant, Nonpartisan

VOTER GUIDE | DISTRICT 2

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION | April 6, 2021 | All Mail-In Ballot/Drop Off
Ballot Only Election



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**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**

March 12 - April 6, 2021

CONTACT: Church Voter Guides | Email: info@ChurchVoterGuides.org | Updated 3/15/2021

For more information on the Colorado Springs City Council Election please go to our website.

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

The Voter Guide information contained in this document is being provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501c3-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

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Church Voter Guides, what is a 501c3-Compliant, Nonpartisan Guide



Church Voter Guides

Church Voter Guides is an independent 508c1a faith-based nonprofit organization. We serve the public by providing objective research and education on matters specifically of interest to Christians, primarily through the production and distribution of 501c3-compliant, nonpartisan Voter Guides.

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

We are based in Colorado Springs, and the 2021 City Council election in our hometown is our inaugural project. Our Voter Guide for this election is being distributed electronically, both through our interactive website and by downloadable and printable PDF files, one for each electoral district. It is being promoted through a wide-ranging network of area churches, faith-based non-profit organizations, mainstream and social media, and other means.

What makes a Voter Guide 501c3-Compliant and Nonpartisan?

Federal tax law permits nonprofit 501c3 organizations to develop and distribute materials about political candidates' positions on issues, in order to educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis, meaning that it is free from party affiliation, bias, or designation. The IRS states that 501c3 organizations may conduct any range of activities to promote voter participation and educate voters so long as it is nonpartisan. But, 501c3 organizations are explicitly prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

501c3 nonprofits MAY:

- Conduct or Promote Voter Registration
- Educate Voters on the Voting Process
- Distribute Nonpartisan Sample Ballots, Candidate Questionnaires, or Voter Guides
- Organize Get-Out-the-Vote Activities
- Encourage and Help People to Vote
- Educate the Candidates on Issues Important to Your Organization
- Continue to do Issue Advocacy During an Election



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INTRODUCTION TO THE VOTER GUIDE

So, first and foremost: Church Voter Guides does NOT endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Second, all of our staff and volunteers are required to act in a nonpartisan manner when working for or representing the organization and the creation of the Voter Guide.

Third, we do not edit, revise, or editorialize candidate responses to our Questionnaire. We do not even correct typos. Candidate answers are published verbatim, ensuring that their responses accurately represent their positions and perspectives on these issues. We then simply share this information through the Voter Guide, and you decide whom you believe to be the best candidate.

The purpose of our Voter Guides is to educate and inform voters of each candidate's positions on a variety of policy issues that they are likely to address if elected. As a Voter Guide designed to be distributed through Churches, we ask the candidates questions on topics that are of utmost interest to the Christian voter.

To be fair and impartial, we reached out by email and phone to all 21 candidates running for City Council in the 2021 Colorado Springs Municipal Election to be held on April 6th, inviting them to answer our Questionnaire. Two never responded; of the rest, most chose to participate, while some did not. Candidate information is presented in the same order as the Candidates are listed on the ballot. If a Candidate did not respond at all, or did not choose to participate, or did not choose to respond to certain answers in the Questionnaire, then that is noted where applicable.

**Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens,
Churches/Nonprofit Organizations, and Media Partners
Committed to Promoting the Voter Guide**

Let's get the word out!

It's simple. Just share our website URL all around Colorado Springs:

www.ChurchVoterGuides.org

Tell your friends and neighbors. Post on social media. And ask your Pastors to promote it to your congregation

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to colabor with you: Info@ChurchVoterGuides.org

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CITY COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES / DISTRICT CANDIDATES

As the legislative branch of government for the City of Colorado Springs, council members are elected to four-year terms and are paid an annual stipend of \$6,250. They are responsible for:

- Appointing the city auditor and the council administrator
- Approving the city budget
- Establishing tax rates
- Serving as the governing board of Colorado Springs Utilities
- In its role as Colorado Springs Utilities Board of Directors, appointing the Chief Executive Officer
- Setting policies and passing ordinances and resolutions to govern the city
- Performing the Mayor's duties in his/her absence (President of council)
- City Council Rules and Procedures

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION | APRIL 6, 2021

The City Clerk will be mailing ballot packets for the April 6, 2021 General Municipal Election to registered, active voters who reside within the corporate boundaries of the City of Colorado Springs on Friday, March 12, 2021. If you do not receive your ballot packet by March 17, 2021, please contact the City Clerk's Office. The April 6, 2021 election is an all-mail ballot election only. City elections have been mail ballot only since 2005.

WHAT'S ON THE APRIL 6, 2021 BALLOT?

The six (6) City Council District races are up for election this time. Each voters' ballot will contain the specific City Council District race for his or her area and one ballot issue question.

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6
Michael Seeger	Jay Inman	Henry McCall	Regina English	Nancy Henjum	Garfield Johnson
Glenn Carlson	David Noblitt	Richard Skorman	Yolanda L. Avila	Matt Zelenok	Mike O'Malley
Dave Donelson	Dave Geislinger	Arthur Glynn		Karlie Van Arnam	
	Randy Helms	Olivia Lupia		Justin James-Fletcher Hermes	
				Mary Elizabeth Fabian	

Source: <https://coloradosprings.gov/city-council#:~:text=Council%20Responsibilities&text=Approving%20the%20city%20budget,appointing%20the%20Chief%20Executive%20Officer>

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SAMPLE BALLOT FOR 2021 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS GENERAL MUNICIPAL MAIL BALLOT ELECTION APRIL 6, 2021

Sarah B. Johnson
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk
City of Colorado Springs

WARNING:

Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both. 5.1.116(C) City Code

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Completely fill in the oval to the left of your choice like this: ● (Use a blue or black pen.)

MUNICIPAL OFFICES	MUNICIPAL OFFICES
<p>City Council District 1 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jim Mason <input type="radio"/> Michael Seeger <input type="radio"/> Glenn Carlson <input type="radio"/> Dave Donelson</p>	<p>City Council District 5 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nancy Henjum <input type="radio"/> Matt Zelenok <input type="radio"/> Karlie Van Arnam <input type="radio"/> Justin James-Fletcher Hermes <input type="radio"/> Mary Elizabeth Fabian</p>
<p>City Council District 2 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jay Inman <input type="radio"/> David Noblitt <input type="radio"/> Dave Geislinger <input type="radio"/> Randy Helms</p>	<p>City Council District 6 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Garfield Johnson <input type="radio"/> Mike O'Malley</p>
<p>City Council District 3 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Henry McCall <input type="radio"/> Richard Skorman <input type="radio"/> Arthur Glynn <input type="radio"/> Olivia Lupia</p>	<p>ISSUE</p> <p>Issue 1</p> <p>Shall Section 7-90 (c) of the Charter of the City of Colorado Springs be amended to allow ballot titles for tax or bonded debt increases to exceed thirty (30) words?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p>City Council District 4 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Regina English <input type="radio"/> Yolanda L. Avila</p>	

Voters' ballots will only include the candidates for your specific City Council District. All voters' ballots will include the Issue question.

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BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Ballots may be dropped off at all drop-off locations listed below beginning March 12, 2021. Ballots must be received (not just postmarked) by the City Clerk's Office or a designated drop-off location listed below by 7:00 p.m. on election night, Tuesday, April 6, 2021. We highly encourage you to drop-off your ballot in one of our many 27/7 ballot drop-off boxes across the City. However, if you choose to mail your ballot, please affix proper postage and allow at least 9 days transit time to be received by the City Clerk's Office by the deadline.

LOCATION	ADDRESS	HOURS OF OPERATION	ELECTION DAY HOURS
(Main Location) City Clerk's Office City Administration Building	30 South Nevada., Suite 101	Mon-Fri 8:00AM-5:00PM 24/7 Ballot Box	7:00AM - 7:00PM
Bear Creek Park, Community Garden	2002 Creek Crossing	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Black Forest Park-n-Ride	7530 Black Forest Rd	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Boot Barn Hall at Bourbon Brothers	13071 Bass Pro Dr.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Broadmoor Towne Center at Southgate	2007 Southgate Rd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Citadel Mall North side	50 Citadel Dr. E.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Colorado Springs Senior Center	1514 North Hancock Ave.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Cottonwood Creek Recreational Center	3920 Dublin Blvd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
El Paso County Citizens Service Center	1675 West Garden of the Gods Rd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
El Paso County Downtown-Centennial Hall	200 S. Cascade Ave.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
El Paso County Fort Carson Branch	200 South Cascade Ave.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
El Paso County Fort Carson Branch	6351 Wetzel Ave., Bldg.1525	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
El Paso County North-Union Town Center Branch	8830 North Union Blvd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM

Source: <https://coloradosprings.gov/voterinfo>

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BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

LOCATION	ADDRESS	HOURS OF OPERATION	ELECTION DAY HOURS
El Paso County Southeast-Powers Branch	5650 Industrial Pl., Suite 100	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
First & Main	New Center Point	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Leon Young Sports Complex	1335 S. Chelton Rd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Pikes Peak Regional Development Center	2880 International Cir.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
PPCC (Rampart Range)	2070 Interquest Pkwy.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
PPLD-East Library	5550 North Union Blvd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
PPLD-Library 21c	1175 Chapel Hills Dr.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Rocky Mountain Calvary	4825 N. Academy Blvd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Tiffany Square U-Haul Moving & Storage	6805 Corporate Dr.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
UCCS - Kraemer Family Library	1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Vista Grand Baptist Church	5680 Stetson Hills Blvd.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM
Wilson Ranch Pool	2335 Allegheny Dr.	24/7 Ballot Box	Closes at 7:00PM

Source: <https://coloradosprings.gov/voterinfo>

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MILITARY / OVERSEAS BALLOTS

What does UOCAVA mean?

UOCAVA means Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

Am I a UOCAVA voter?

UOCAVA electors are:

- A member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marines on active duty, absent from their place of residence;
- An eligible spouse or dependent of the member described above; or
- A U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.

Can I receive my ballot by email or fax?

If you wish to register as a UOCAVA voter or request to vote electronically, please visit the El Paso County Elections(link is external) site for more information. UOCAVA Ballots will be sent out on February 15th.

<https://clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com/elections/>

Source: <https://coloradosprings.gov/city-clerk/page/military-and-overseas-voting-uocava?mlid=9391>



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A MAIL IN BALLOT?

A mail ballot election provides every eligible active voter, residing within the limits of the City of Colorado Springs, a ballot indicating the issues and candidates for their specific City Council District. The mail ballot packet is mailed to the address listed on voter registration records.

All active voters will receive a ballot mailed to the mailing address shown on the voter registration records unless a request for an absentee ballot is received (see information below). If you have moved or changed addresses and have not updated your voter registration, the ballot will not be forwarded and will be returned to the City Clerk's Office as undeliverable.

WHAT DOES THE MAIL BALLOT MEAN TO ME?

- There will be no voting at precinct polling places.
- There will be no early voting.

WHEN WILL YOU MAIL THE BALLOTS?

We anticipate mailing ballots on March 12, 2021. If you do not receive a ballot by Wednesday, March 17, 2021, and believe you are an eligible active voter within the City limits, contact the City Clerk's Office at (719) 385-5901, option 4 or email us at elections@coloradosprings.gov (link sends e-mail).

WHAT IS THE TYPICAL RETURN RATE FOR MAIL BALLOTS?

Historical voter turnout (the percentage of total votes counted divided by active registered voters) can be found on our Election Archives page coloradosprings.gov/election-history. Just look for the Results Summary. If you are curious about the daily volume of ballots scanned, you can review the Daily Reports for the last four municipal elections. Election Daily Reports.

The Daily Report indicates the number of ballots scanned each day of processing beginning, March 13, 2021.

Visit our Election Data, Reports and Fee Schedule page if you are interested in purchasing electronic data regarding current and past elections.

AM I AN ACTIVE VOTER?

To verify your current voter status, go to <http://www.govotecolorado.com/> (link is external).

Per City Code 5.1.102 we only mail to active registered electors. If you are inactive and wish to vote, see HOW DO I GET A BALLOT IF I AM INACTIVE? below.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION?

Unofficial results of the City Election will be posted on coloradosprings.gov/election. The initial unofficial results should be available by 7:30 PM. Additional updates to the unofficial results will be posted throughout the evening until all ballots have been counted.

A link from the City's Internet Home Page (coloradosprings.gov/), as well as links from the election pages will be available on Election Day.

FOR MORE FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS) VISIT:

Source: <https://coloradosprings.gov/city-clerk/page/mail-ballot-frequently-asked-questions-faq?mliid=45986>

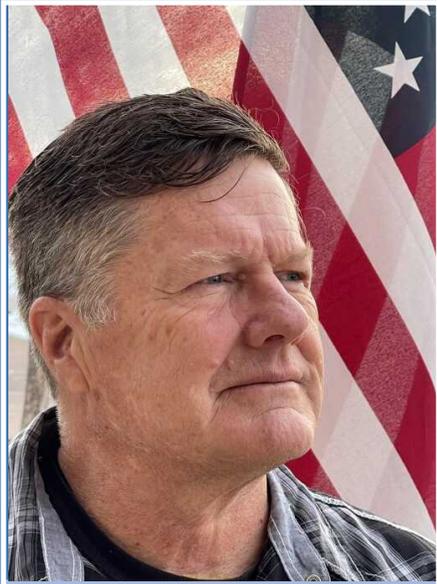
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CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 2



Jay Inman



David Noblitt



Dave Geislinger



Randy Helms

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Candidate Name:	Jay Inman
City Council District #:	2
Email Address:	prolibertas@jayinmanforcouncil.com
Campaign Website URL	https://jayinmanforcouncil.com/
Phone Number:	719-722-0214
Occupation/Vocation:	Microsoft Digital Architect
Military Background/Status (if any):	20 Years in Army, retired as Lieutenant Colonel
Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident?	8 years in Dist 2 and nine years in Peyton

CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

What do you view as the purpose and role of the Colorado Springs City Council?

ANSWER:

As the legislative branch of government for the City of Colorado Springs, council members are elected to four-year terms. Among their duties are; Approving the city budget, Establishing tax rates, Serving as the governing board of Colorado Springs Utilities, In its role as Colorado Springs Utilities Board of Directors, appointing the Chief Executive Officer, Setting policies and passing ordinances and resolutions to govern the city. Key will be shaping these to serve Colorado Springs residents with resilient utilities, zoning decisions that first are informed by neighbors of areas on the receiving end of these decisions, and using our authority as a home rule city in Colorado to open up our churches, businesses, and community and remove the tyranny of those who would keep us closed with masks and limits on customers.

CANDIDATE'S FOCUS/EXPERTISE/INITIATIVES:

What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise, and what initiatives would you like to undertake as a Colorado Springs City Councilperson?

ANSWER:

As a twenty-year veteran of the Army with combat tours in Djibouti and Iraq, I know what it means to serve. In Iraq, my data center had to have resilient and redundant power in an environment where we received rockets and mortars every 3 to 5 days. As a Microsoft Digital Architect part of the team that moved 700,000 Air Force users to the cloud, hosted in cloud data centers, electrical generation to a stable power grid is critical to mission success. My wife and I also serve couples with counseling and mentoring, so we know what it means to listen to people. From people to utilities, I have a lot to learn but my experiences launch me toward being able to serve our city in these areas, as well.

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COVID RECOVERY:

Has the COVID situation created any problems in Colorado Springs that the City Council can mitigate; specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?

ANSWER:

OPEN UP NOW! There were 650,000 small businesses in Colorado that employed 1.1 million Coloradans pre COVID. Today, that small business number is reduced to around 480,000. This is a catastrophic loss of nearly 30% of our small businesses and the jobs of Coloradans. In our city, we MUST open up for the sake of our families, churches, schools, and businesses. I believe the words being used and the tone with which COVID information is being broadly delivered is intentionally being crafted to continue to instill and reinforce the FEAR factor. The media is reporting the "grim" milestone of the United States now reporting 500,000+ COVID deaths. While I appreciate the magnitude of each of these deaths to all family members and friends, I also believe that it is important to keep this in perspective. The reality is that this death rate is roughly 0.10% of the population of the United States, which is one tenth of one percent. That rate tracks almost exactly with the death rate here in El Paso County.

HOME RULE:

Colorado Springs has the status of a "Home Rule City" under the Colorado State Constitution. What are your views on Home Rule, and how would you suggest strengthening the Colorado Springs city charter to protect our residents from state and federal laws that are not in our best interest?

ANSWER:

I would strive on city council to use Home Rule authority to Open up our city, halt the shut down of Drake, and re-associate penalties to Marijuana possession within city limits. Lets take one example - On the Marijuana issue, I suspect that wishy washy statements about putting recreational use of Marijuana on the ballot after the Space Force Decision is part of what caused them to turn away from our city. Using Home Rule Authority, we MUST firmly resist legalization of recreational marijuana and in fact re-associate penalties to possession. Otherwise, we will lose many of our DoD resident organizations. Most importantly, we must stand behind families, churches, and schools, resisting drug abuse.

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UTILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE:

City Council members sit on the Utilities Board. What, if anything, should be done to address the city's current and future energy needs as Colorado Springs continues to grow?

ANSWER:

The 2020s will be the decade about energy for Colorado Springs. The next decade will see us focus on grid security, grid stability, electricity distribution, and diversity of power generation. An example is the poor decision to close the Drake power plant. We cannot close it today and still have a stable power grid. The question is, "Can we close it on the scheduled date in two years and have a stable power grid?" All possibilities for power generation are on the table as electrification increases to include even cars, but electricity must be generated somewhere. More fundamentally, 50% of electrical power consumed in our city is utilized by DoD organizations across four bases. Letting them down with an unstable power grid is foolishness. Council must use its utilities authority to ensure the integrity of our power grid, sustain it, and provide power as cheaply as possible to citizens. The key is to make sure citizens have electricity when they turn on their lights. We must point water and electrical generation in our city toward stable, resilient, and reliable utilities our citizens can rely on as cheaply as possible.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:

What are your views on permitting the sale of recreational marijuana within the city limits of Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

NO! I mentioned earlier the potential cost to Colorado Springs for failing to make a stand against Marijuana. We will lose DOD organizations and businesses. Lets take this to personal. As a family, we had to assist in an intervention with a child for crystal meth. That child's entry drug was Marijuana. The impact on the family was horrific but the result glorious. Today, he is an amazing young man who overcame much. Keeping Marijuana out of the hands of all our citizens is critical to the health, well-being, and productivity of our citizens. As a city government, we must support parents and families in standing against drug abuse. One certainty is that making Marijuana unacceptable, unavailable, and possession reinforced with consequences reinforces parents and families striving to keep their kids from destroying their lives with drugs. As a Home Rule city, we must resist the State government in Denver by associating consequences to Marijuana possession. The key is that Marijuana is NOT harmless.

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2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARIES:

It has been suggested that Colorado Springs should become a 2nd Amendment "sanctuary city". What are your views on this issue?

ANSWER:

I am an armed citizen who sees 2nd Amendments rights as critical to free citizens. If necessary, we must use our Home Rule authority to protect citizen rights to lawfully own weapons and prevent confiscation. The Governor or Federal Government might take us to court but let's have that public discussion of our Constitutional Rights.

PROTECTING LIFE:

What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our city, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, and the elderly?

ANSWER:

Protecting the unborn is critical. Life begins at conception with a unique DNA code and has a heart beat after just five weeks. We must use imagination and innovation to protect the unborn and shut down the clinics that abort babies. Life, Liberty, and pursuit of happiness begins at conception.

BUSINESS/JOB:

What specifically should the City Council do to bring more businesses/jobs to Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

We must provide business incentives, because that brings jobs, profit, innovation, and imagination to our city. That said, it is critical we open up, leaving masks and social distancing to individual choices. Out of 650,000 local and small businesses in the state of Colorado pre-Covid, 40% have now closed their doors permanently. Another third are in serious financial difficulty. If we had a death rate for COVID of 30%, this would be a very different discussion. El Paso Department of Health reports that the death rate nationwide for COVID is one tenth of one percent. The horrors taking place in our hospitals have far more to do with a national rate of death by drug overdose that is at record highs, violence, suicide attempts, and depression. What we are doing now, requiring masks and restricting schools, churches, restaurants and small businesses, is ludicrous. Opening up would be a huge incentive for businesses to come to Colorado Springs.

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HOMELESSNESS/VAGRANCY:

How can the City Council address the increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our city in ways that best serve all Colorado Springs residents?

ANSWER:

Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado was the 'Third Step.' In the last 20 years, Marijuana became Accessible and Acceptable. The third step was making it legal. As a result, the number of homeless flowing to Colorado soared. It became acceptable behavior without consequences. Anyone who has raised teenagers knows what a disaster that can be. The Homeless come to Colorado without jobs and without medical insurance, overwhelming our city hospitals. All of these cost taxpayers. These are tough issues, but one certainty is that making Marijuana unacceptable, unavailable, and possession reinforced with consequences, would reduce the number of homeless coming to our city. Let's employ the rest and figure out how to help them return to productive lives. People might still foolishly choose the route of drug abuse and homelessness, but in hard times where a lot of people will be looking for jobs when their stimulus checks stop, not at Tax Payer expense.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES:

As a City Councilperson, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Colorado Springs residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly, and exercise of religion?

ANSWER:

First, as mentioned above, Open Up our city. Masks, restricting customers, etc. should be individual choices of liberty, not tyranny imposed on city citizens. Continue to support CSPD and El Paso County in not citing citizens who choose NOT to wear masks. Restore business productivity and jobs to citizens by opening up completely. The greatest liberty is in pay and work together in partnership so that families can thrive, worship freely, and businesses can get back into the business of business. The critical issues we face the next four years will force decisions about stable utilities, keeping our city open in spite of the Governor's mandates, putting higher quality materials on our roads as we repair them, and managing our city within the budgets and revenue already in place. We can work projects and priorities but I will refuse to raise taxes on Colorado Springs taxpayers until we are out of the COVID lockdowns and out citizens get back to work and paying for their homes.

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Candidate Name: David Knoblitt

City Council District #: 2

Email Address: Info@davidnoblittforcouncil.com

Campaign Website URL: Davidnoblittforcouncil.com

Phone Number: 719-338-5610

Occupation/Vocation: Firefighter

Military Background/Status (if any:): USAF Veteran

Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident? 35 years

CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

What do you view as the purpose and role of the Colorado Springs City Council?

ANSWER:

As the legislative branch to represent in governance of the city. That the district representatives should actually represent the people.

That there should be a division of government and that the council should support and hold the executive branch accountable for each districts needs while also ensuring the city is governed well in total.

To fix the issues of the district that have been ignored, or at least not corrected, for the quite some time.

In Colorado Springs, we also serve as the Utilities board that once again, should be accountable to the customers that they serve.

CANDIDATE'S FOCUS/EXPERTISE/INITIATIVES:

What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise, and what initiatives would you like to undertake as a Colorado Springs City Councilperson?

ANSWER:

I believe that the city Council representatives need to be accountable to their constituents. I also believe public safety is much more important than a campaign slogan, and with 25 years serving the city in that capacity I will ensure that it is a priority. I have also worked along side, and with, various departments within the city in my role in some form of leadership for 12 years with the Professional Firefighters Association. I truly know and understand a great deal of how our city works and who makes the decisions that impact our community. We also need to make sure that we have responsible growth so that as our city develops that everybody contributes to the betterment of our community. And that we have the resources to provide for the future and not just creating a legacy for today.

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COVID RECOVERY:

Has the COVID situation created any problems in Colorado Springs that the City Council can mitigate; specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?

ANSWER:

This is a point that I believe many people are frustrated about with our current counsel. The executive branch has taken total control and has adhered to the rules set by the state. The local non-elected health department director also contributed to much of the impact as a result of the Covid pandemic. We are a home rule city, and as such, we should react to our local conditions and not those that are reflected across the entire state. That the City Council should have met with, listened to, and been directly engaged with the local business community to find answers to the problems that we face here, without giving up our autonomy to the state. The county moved much quicker, and more confidently, in addressing local issues than the city. Working with the County as partners could facilitate a better response.

HOME RULE:

Colorado Springs has the status of a "Home Rule City" under the Colorado State Constitution. What are your views on Home Rule, and how would you suggest strengthening the Colorado Springs city charter to protect our residents from state and federal laws that are not in our best interest?

ANSWER:

Well, first off, see the last position. Following that, the frustration that I see is that we have an executive branch that has been allowed to pick and choose as to when, and when not to, adhere to the states edicts and laws. We have medical marijuana, but not recreational, which means that we will allow some negative impact into our community, but not all of it. We ignore legislation that we don't "like" while following state mandates on what type of business in Colorado Springs are to operate and in what way, which directly impacts our community negatively. So again, do we have one person sitting at the top that makes the decisions for a half a million people when these problems arise? Or should we have a balanced government that reflects the will of the people by actual representation in finding the best answers for us all?

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UTILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE:

City Council members sit on the Utilities Board. What, if anything, should be done to address the city's current and future energy needs as Colorado Springs continues to grow?

ANSWER:

First, we should slow the rate of the expansion of our city until we determine how much we can actually support. Our community paid out of pocket as customers to CSU almost 1 Billion dollars to build the Southern Delivery System for water, mostly for the 30,000 acres of Banning Lewis Ranch. And yet, before that property is even close to being developed, we are annexing 1000's of additional acres of land that nobody knows if we have the water, or power, for.

The acceleration of converting from coal was driven well ahead of schedule and by forces not necessarily in line with the best interest of all of the citizens. So we are now faced with making quick decisions about long term issues and we will be paying for some of those decisions upcoming in the form of higher utility bills. Technology is moving rapidly in forming new and innovative ways to cleanly produce power, we just didn't have the patience to wait for its timely arrival...

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:

What are your views on permitting the sale of recreational marijuana within the city limits of Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

I am personally against recreational marijuana, I have stated so in conversations with the Colorado Springs Cannabis Association (CSCA), but I am running on a platform to be responsive to the constituents that I represent. To that, if a majority of the citizens within my district are in support of the issue of ALLOWING A VOTE TO BE CONDUCTED within the city, I would not hinder that process. The same would be said of the opposing position. I do not believe that council should vote unilaterally to legalize recreational marijuana.

This is the elephant in the room. It's not going anywhere, so the premise is based on council building out the structure of what this looks like to minimize the negatives, (basically where we are at now) or that the CSCA, or other groups, petitions' this onto the ballot and defines the outcomes from their perspective. Conservatives (of which I identify with) balk at such conditions, and yet, we have "medical marijuana" within our midst that everyone knows, takes very little to achieve a "prescription" for its use. So if there is such a concern, why hasn't there been an effort to rid the city of ANY use of marijuana?

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2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARIES:

It has been suggested that Colorado Springs should become a 2nd Amendment "sanctuary city". What are your views on this issue?

ANSWER:

The United States of America should be a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary. It's in the Constitution.

Conservatives dislike "Sanctuary Cities" for immigration status. So we cross our arms and say; "well then, we are a 2nd amendment sanctuary city?" Really? We have good people here to protect our rights, that should be a start. Then we should work to put people at the state level to protect our rights, that would be next. Guess what comes after that? But it will take people working hard to balance a government, not make war by building fences based on ideology.

Not cool

PROTECTING LIFE:

What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our city, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, and the elderly?

ANSWER:

Protecting Life What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our city, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, and the elderly?

I am pro life from birth to death. Some call that a choice, and it is, but it's where I stand.

Human trafficking is tragic. With all my might, and whatever resources I can muster in the direction of the law enforcement agencies above their already overcrowded schedule, to provide for the protection of the "least of these" is what I would consider no greater position that an elected official should take.

I have seen what happens within our community at times with the elderly; we have seen it tragically with this past pandemic. We were slow to get, and to provide, for the protection of those most exposed to negative impacts of this disease. That should not be!

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BUSINESS/JOB:

What specifically should the City Council do to bring more businesses/jobs to Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

Since we have currently over incentivized the larger companies to come here, I believe that our small businesses will see some negative impact. We have growth that cannot be housed, markets in real estate that are outpacing most average persons working salaries, and small businesses trying to recover from blanket closure policies and the pandemic.

For now, I believe we need to settle in to where we are at, restore our small business community by opening up, and let the growth that does occur be part of an organic development of a demand business environment. One that is not orchestrated by lofty corporate tax give always so that those businesses that want to be here, and typically will stay here regardless, become the base of sustainable climate of growth that supports everyone within the community, and not just special interest.

HOMELESSNESS/VAGRANCY:

How can the City Council address the increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our city in ways that best serve all Colorado Springs residents?

ANSWER:

The non-profits that provide for facilitating and working to permanent house those that are in need are the most efficient in that task. Continued support for those agencies without building a bureaucratic government run mess would be best.

Holding accountable and enforcing both public and private land issues rights to decrease the impact of illegal encampments is critical. Those who are in need, need to be helped to the point of where they don't want or need the help. There is a solution to most, if not all, of the issues out there. Getting those directed towards their ultimate goal can be supported through those agencies and outreaches that work well within that environment while helping by setting defined standards and establishing limits of behavior.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES:

As a City Councilperson, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Colorado Springs residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly, and exercise of religion?

ANSWER:

I believe while taking the oath of office you swear to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Colorado and the Charter of the City of Colorado Springs. If we start granting special rights beyond those defined within these documents, to provide special treatment and consideration, then somebody else typically loses ground. I promise to stand upon those rights as granted by the constitutions of both United States and the state of Colorado, and our home rule Charter, and swear to uphold them and abide by those laws.

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Candidate Name:	Dave Geislinger
City Council District #:	2
Email Address:	Dave@dave4cos.com
Campaign Website URL	Dave4cos.com
Phone Number:	719-229-8569
Occupation/Vocation:	Hospital Chaplain/City Councilor/Attorney (licensed buinactive)
Military Background/Status (if any):	None - Deputy District Attorney 1986-1996
Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident?	35 years

CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

What do you view as the purpose and role of the Colorado Springs City Council?

ANSWER:

Our role is to honor the oath to which we swear; upholding the City Charter and the Constitutions of Colorado and United States. It is good to be reminded of that.

Echoing its sister Constitution, the preamble to Colorado's Constitution provides we have come agreed, "with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe...to form a more independent and perfect government; establish justice; insure tranquility; provide for the common defense; promote the general welfare and secure the blessings for ourselves and our posterity..."

In swearing to do this, I committed four years ago to treat every person who has Council business with dignity, honor and worth, and to make decisions in the best interests "of ourselves and our posterity", as our City founders and forebears chose to do, regardless of political repercussions from those whose concerns focus narrowly on short-term gratification and gain. This I have done. This I will swear, once again, to do in my second term.

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CANDIDATE'S FOCUS/EXPERTISE/INITIATIVES:

What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise, and what initiatives would you like to undertake as a Colorado Springs City Councilperson?

ANSWER:

My focus will always be ensuring the process by which City Council makes decisions is equitable, fair, transparent and predictable for citizens and stakeholders. Four years ago I explained that even though we have grown ten-fold in population in the past 50 years, we still tended to think we could make decisions like a small town, using a "whack-a-mole" process responding to issues in piecemeal and disconnected manners instead of anticipating problems, challenges and opportunities before they arose. We have made great strides since I have been your City Council representative, reflected in many national and international recognitions and achievements. These are the result, in large part, of the success of our local government. I am proud of the governing processes we are developing and will continue to ensure we will always grow in fairness, equity and predictability.

As for a specific "issue", affordable/attainable/workforce housing remains my priority as when I first ran. As addressed more fully in repose to question 12, this is both a moral and an economic issue. It is also necessary to create a City where future generations can expect to find housing should they choose to live in the City where they have grown up.

COVID RECOVERY:

Has the COVID situation created any problems in Colorado Springs that the City Council can mitigate; specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?

ANSWER:

This is a life issue, as we cannot separate our responsibilities for the life and health others during a pandemic from our responsibility for promoting life generally.

The consequences of the pandemic may be hidden from persons because they and their families are in good health, well-off and not among the most vulnerable. As a hospital chaplain I can attest this is not the case for the "least among us." I have ministered to and grieved with countless patients and families experiencing the misery, loneliness, isolation and death caused by COVID.

At the same time, as a chaplain and deacon, I have ministered to and grieved with those suffering through changes needed to mitigate life and death consequences to our vulnerable and powerless sisters and brothers. We cannot make others suffer more so that we suffer less. Community exists only when we bear sufferings together.

Council has no jurisdiction over the decisions needed to maintain public health. We can the truth that our businesses, schools and health care systems have proclaimed throughout: the best way to protect ourselves, promote life, and get through the pandemic is to wear masks, socially distance, follow good hygiene practices and get vaccinated.

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HOME RULE:

Colorado Springs has the status of a "Home Rule City" under the Colorado State Constitution. What are your views on Home Rule, and how would you suggest strengthening the Colorado Springs city charter to protect our residents from state and federal laws that are not in our best interest?

ANSWER:

IF state/federal law is not in our best interest, AND IF home rule authority permits, I support enacting ordinances in our best interest. However, the reach of this authority is quite limited.

Pursuant to Colorado's constitution, we have the power to enact legislation relevant to our locality and exercise control over issues of "local concern." This includes, for instance, how our elections are run, the organizational structure of our City and the make-up of municipal courts. Where contrary state laws address matters of statewide concern, they will prevail over our city charter and ordinance. Similarly, because of the supremacy clause, if Federal Laws are properly exercised pursuant to the Tenth Amendment and address matters of nationwide concern, they will prevail over both state and municipal law.

Because of the highly mobile nature of our citizens (as reflected by the number of people who work elsewhere and live here and live elsewhere and work in the city) courts consistently recognize that most state and federal laws override contrary city ordinances. I am not in favor of pursuing ordinances that will ultimately be deemed unenforceable, as that wastes taxpayers time, money and resources that can better be utilized elsewhere.

UTILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE:

City Council members sit on the Utilities Board. What, if anything, should be done to address the city's current and future energy needs as Colorado Springs continues to grow?

ANSWER:

We recently approved the Electric Integrated Resource Plan following years of study and analysis by both CSU staff and our citizen led Utilities Policy Advisory Committee. This addresses our current and future needs, allowing us to provide for our energy needs, and adapt to changing regulatory and economic realities, well into future. But that doesn't mean there is nothing left to do.

Unlike energy, without water we cannot live. Located in high desert with Fountain Creek the only renewable source of water, CSU water policy needs to be prioritized at least as much, if not more, than energy policy as we continue to grow. Under my leadership, we have begun hosting a regional water sustainability working group involving our neighboring jurisdictions, developers and other stakeholders. In conjunction with the City's ongoing revision to our annexation policy, CSU is working to ensure that the entire region grows in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner, as one going thirsty will impact the lives of all.

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RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:

What are your views on permitting the sale of recreational marijuana within the city limits of Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

I have been consistent for four years. I do not support Council authorizing, or placing a ballot initiative for citizens to approve, the sale of recreational marijuana in Colorado Springs. Because the Federal, and international, landscape on marijuana is fluid and changing, we must keep open minds to adapt to changes from outside the City that will impact decisions we will make within the City. That said, given the current landscape, proponents of permitting sales of recreational marijuana within Colorado Springs have not come close to convincing me that it is in the best interests of the City to do so. The claimed benefits are uncertain and nebulous, while the potential costs are significant.

2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARIES:

It has been suggested that Colorado Springs should become a 2nd Amendment "sanctuary city". What are your views on this issue?

ANSWER:

In enacting statutes permitting open carry, freedom to travel and concealment, the state legislature declared regulation of firearms is a matter of "statewide concern." While there was no definitive determination of the legality of municipal ordinances MORE restrictive than these statutes (the Colorado Supreme Court deadlocked 3-3), there was consensus gun regulation is a matter of statewide concern. As I said in discussing the limits of home rule authority, were the legislature to enact more restrictive gun legislation, it would be a waste of taxpayers' money, time and resources to argue we could "opt out" as a 'sanctuary city' because that argument would be unsuccessful (though the legality of the legislation could still be challenged).

Moreover, seeking 'sanctuary city' status without considering mental health issues and the rate of successful suicides with firearms of students, veterans and others ignores important life issues for these persons, their family and our community. Persons in mental health crisis are also the "least of these" deserving dignity and compassion. Attempting suicide using methods other than firearms is much less likely to succeed or result in significant lifelong impairment. This must be considered in any discussion of firearm legislation.

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PROTECTING LIFE:

What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our city, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, and the elderly?

ANSWER:

While Council has no jurisdiction regarding the matters listed, we can support initiatives providing hope, aning and purpose, empowering citizens to embrace life. As addressed in other answers, this includes bracing life in regard to our homeless, those suffering through the pandemic and the mentally ill. My faith instills in me a conviction we must advocate for the vulnerable, marginalized, outcast, persecuted and powerless. It is a conviction leading me to choose to be ordained 15 years ago, retire from my law practice and become a Hospital Chaplain because I know every person is endowed with infinite dignity, value and worth. It forms my actions decisions not only as a member of Council, but as husband, father, brother, friend, co-worker, etc.

City Council can - as I have - advocate for policies that instill hope and support a culture of life. These should be reflected in decisions promoting affordable housing, public safety, transportation, environmentally and economically sustainable energy and water policies and making economic opportunity available to everyone. Where there is hope, there is increased openness to life, and Council can make choices that provide hope.

BUSINESS/JOB:

What specifically should the City Council do to bring more businesses/jobs to Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

Housing affordability and attainability is more than a moral issue, it is an economic one.

At the beginning of 2020, the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Council advised Council, that the lack of affordable housing was identified by potential businesses as among the three biggest barriers to locating operations in Colorado Springs. This year The Chamber/EDC identified this as THE single biggest issue we need to address in attracting new businesses. This is borne out by actual experience.

While the decision to award U.S. Space Command to Alabama was politically motivated, one of the given rationales is legitimate. Compared to the other cities, Colorado Springs housing affordability scored lower.

I made affordable/attainable/workforce housing my priority since before I was elected. We have made great progress in addressing this issue during my first term, and will continue to do so in my second. I will work in public/private partnerships to establish a more robust land bank and a seed fund to defray costs of construction. I will propose a new position be created in City Planning so that these developments will be fast-tracked, and will analyze impact fees and zoning regulations to minimize regulatory costs and barriers.

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HOMELESSNESS/VAGRANCY:

How can the City Council address the increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our city in ways that best serve all Colorado Springs residents?

ANSWER:

Every person has infinite dignity, value and worth. Homelessness can deny this in the eyes of the community, so I will not call anyone a "vagrant."

The best way to address homelessness is preventing it. I initiated an informal task force last April to prepare for the expected 'eviction tsunami' once the moratorium is lifted and Federal financial stimuli ends. Because members of the Apartment Association and low- income housing advocates recognized it is to the mutual benefit of tenants and landlords to avoid eviction, processes involving both landlords and tenants have been established to fast-track rental assistance, consistent with processes I have been advocating over the last four years to assist persons in maintaining housing

By supporting Springs Rescue Mission over the past three years, we have assisted our community in increasing available shelter beds. In our latest assessment there is a sufficient number. In that same assessment, it is reported we lack sufficient permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless and transitional housing for those who are recently homeless, and this is identified as the next step in addressing this issues. I will ensure construction of this housing is included in the City's plan.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES:

As a City Councilperson, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Colorado Springs residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly, and exercise of religion?

ANSWER:

What a great question to close the survey, given that I opened it with my reflections on the meaning of the oath I have taken, and will take again!

Our freedoms are not abstract. There are recent border cases where the US attorney as argued that persons providing water, food, comfort and aid to migrants are not protected by the First Amendment because, in essence, these actions do not occur in a place of worship. Fortunately, Courts and juries have disagreed, finding that "freedom to exercise" means the right to "exercise." This is true for all our most basic, cherished and fundamental freedoms.

As I said in responding to the first question, I have taken my oath to uphold the City Charter and Constitutions of the State of Colorado and United States seriously, even in the face of political backlash (most recently, choosing to respect Developers Fifth Amendment Rights despite strong opposition of those to my position on the PLDO who want to take more of their property without compensation than could be justified), and promise to do so during my second term.

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Candidate Name:	Randy Helms
City Council District #:	2
Email Address:	mhelms1979@comcast.net
Campaign Website URL	www.randyhelmscitycouncil.com
Phone Number:	703-975-8782
Occupation/Vocation:	USAF/Educator
Military Background/Status (if any):	Colonel USAF (Retired)
Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident?	1975-1979 Cadet USAFA, 1986-1989 Stationed USAFA, Moved back 2015

CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

What do you view as the purpose and role of the Colorado Springs City Council?

ANSWER:

Policy Governance. City Council should represent the citizens and taxpayers – and in the case of the city owned Utility the ratepayers - of Colorado Springs. Their role is to protect the rights of those citizens by setting a policy that meets the important needs while protecting their rights and pocketbooks. Government should only do the things that governments are meant to do. City Council should address what government is intended to do such as roads and infrastructure and public safety. The first priority of our city government is Public Safety. As the son of a police officer, I wholeheartedly support our police and first responders.

CANDIDATE'S FOCUS/EXPERTISE/INITIATIVES:

What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise, and what initiatives would you like to undertake as a Colorado Springs City Councilperson?

ANSWER:

My decision to run for Colorado Springs City Council was an extension of my choice of career - I want to continue to serve our community as I did our Nation. I am a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and I have over 40 years of leadership and management experience at the Commanding Officer, Educator and Charitable organization leader level. My experiences allowed me to apply strategic concepts to complex issues and formulate executable policy. I will do this for Colorado Springs. Roads and infrastructure continue to be priorities for our community and for our citizens. Working with City Staff, El Paso County and the State to fund the needed road and bridge projects will continue to be a top consideration of this Council and me. Public Safety and Community Building will always be a priority for me. A safe and stable environment directly impacts safe neighborhoods

Economy: Even with the Pandemic the City's 2020 tax revenues came in higher than expected. This was due to the increased housing and commercial construction along with online shopping. I support giving relief to our small businesses with incentives such as providing for a City Sales Tax Holiday again.

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COVID RECOVERY:

Has the COVID situation created any problems in Colorado Springs that the City Council can mitigate; specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?

ANSWER:

I am keenly aware of the impacts of the pandemic. I support opening business, restaurants, etc. today. Especially with the vaccines in play it should be feasible as we move into spring and summer to open Colorado Springs up for business again. The business community, nonprofits and local governments have stepped up and offered help to small business and restaurants including doing things like building outdoor dining opportunities etc. The Sales Tax Holiday for small business worked and we should consider it again. I support these public private partnerships and efforts as well as other incentives and relief where appropriate.

HOME RULE:

Colorado Springs has the status of a "Home Rule City" under the Colorado State Constitution. What are your views on Home Rule, and how would you suggest strengthening the Colorado Springs city charter to protect our residents from state and federal laws that are not in our best interest?

ANSWER:

I support "Home Rule" governance. Government closest to the people is the best kind of government. It creates more accountability and transparency. As to strengthening it we can rest assured it cannot be changed without a vote of the people – which I wholeheartedly support. Home-Rule allows our citizen voters to keep their government accountable to them.

UTILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE:

City Council members sit on the Utilities Board. What, if anything, should be done to address the city's current and future energy needs as Colorado Springs continues to grow?

ANSWER:

CSU recommended and the City approved the shutdown and dismantling of the Drake Power Plant by 2023 followed by Nixon in 2030 or sooner. The City's goal is to increase renewable energy sources without interrupting power supply to the community. I will be a voice of caution to ensure we are not jumping ahead too quickly. This recent countrywide and severe cold snap illustrated what can happen if there are not back up plans and resources.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:

What are your views on permitting the sale of recreational marijuana within the city limits of Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

I am not a supporter of permitting the sale of recreational marijuana within the city limits of Colorado Springs. I am a role model to the USAF Academy cadets we sponsor. I commanded men and women in uniform and marijuana is still illegal under the federal government. It would be hypocritical of me to support such a measure and at the same time tell our men and women serving our Nation "everyone but you can." In addition I am not convinced that recreational marijuana is not harmful. More studies need to be conducted.

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2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARIES:

It has been suggested that Colorado Springs should become a 2nd Amendment "sanctuary city". What are your views on this issue?

ANSWER:

I am a supporter of the US Constitution and the 2nd Amendment. I am a member of the NRA, have a Colorado Conceal and Carry License and belong to a shooting club. I do not support making Colorado Springs a "sanctuary city." I do not think any city anywhere should be a "sanctuary city" for any reason.

PROTECTING LIFE:

What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our city, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, and the elderly?

ANSWER:

Some of these issues are controlled by the US Government, most especially the Judicial Branch and even as a Home Rule City we have no control over many things. That said, I am a pro-life Catholic and a strong supporter of public safety. I have and will support and advocate to do what can be done to protect the innocent.

BUSINESS/JOB:

What specifically should the City Council do to bring more businesses/jobs to Colorado Springs?

ANSWER:

Government does not create jobs but, can create an environment that makes doing business in Colorado Springs easier. I support less regulation, red tape and incentives. According to the research and interviews I have done the City can offer low corporate tax rates, a Foreign Trade Zone, and training programs. The state and county can offer additional incentives that bring national and foreign investment. All parties play a role in the solution. The incentives must be fair and applied the same to everyone. Access to affordable and other types of housing is also a key factor and currently a challenge

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HOMELESSNESS/VAGRANCY:

How can the City Council address the increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our city in ways that best serve all Colorado Springs residents?

ANSWER:

Most communities are facing the challenge of an ever growing homeless population. I will work with the Mayor's office (Homeless Coordinator), my peers on Council and the amazing non-profit community to come up with new and innovative solutions. Using the newly established "HOT" police teams to keep the homeless away from our waterways and citations versus jail is working. In a fast growing community affordable housing is clearly a challenge and I will work with those in the community addressing these issues including being open to creative ideas such as cutting red tape and regulation so that building an affordable house is a more attainable goal for our community. Getting an individual or family into a home is the key to surviving economic devastation and refers back to the need and challenge of creating affordable housing. The solutions in this case may be at the State and Federal levels. I support working with our non-profit organizations, our military complex and other resources including our workforce development centers, etc. to help people find jobs. I am open to new and innovative ideas to deal with this possible crisis.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES:

As a City Councilperson, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Colorado Springs residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly, and exercise of religion?

ANSWER:

I took an oath over 40 years ago and several times since to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. All Colorado Springs citizens deserve the respect and dignity afforded to them by the entire Constitution.

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