



# COLORADO SPRINGS

## 2021 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

501c3-Compliant, Nonpartisan

### VOTER GUIDE | DISTRICT 5

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](mailto: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



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

# 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](http://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](mailto: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><b>City Council District 1</b> 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><b>City Council District 5</b> 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><b>City Council District 2</b> 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><b>City Council District 6</b> Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Garfield Johnson <input type="radio"/> Mike O'Malley</p>
<p><b>City Council District 3</b> 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><b>ISSUE</b></p> <p><b>Issue 1</b></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><b>City Council District 4</b> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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/](http://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>

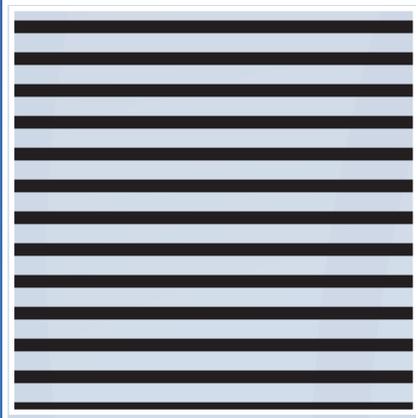
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# CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 5



**Nancy Henjum**

Candidate chose not to participate



**Matt Zelenok**



**Karlie Van Arnam**



**Justin James-Fletcher Hermes**



**Mary Elizabeth Fabian**

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Candidate chose not to participate.

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Candidate Name:	Matt Zelenok
City Council District #:	5
Email Address:	Matt@MattZelenok.com
Campaign Website URL	www.MattZelenok.com
Phone Number:	719-576-2050
Occupation/Vocation:	Real Estate Broker
Military Background/Status (if any):	None
Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident?	30+

### CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

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

### ANSWER:

The role of a City Council member is to be the liaison between community and government at the fundamental level. I want you to feel represented, and to trust that I am advocating on your behalf with pure intentions. As City Council makes decisions on highly technical proposals and issues around the city, including serving as the board to CSU, I believe District 5 needs an individual who can fully understand these issues and make the most educated decisions possible on behalf of the community. As the only candidate in District 5 with a technical education or background, I believe this helps to qualify me in a unique way. Through my education at the University of Colorado and the experience gained working for the U.S. Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratory - I have learned to collaborate with a multitude of individuals from varying backgrounds in order to achieve a common goal. I believe this is what truly sets me apart; I possess the ability to process highly technical information and translate it to members of my community so they may fully understand how decisions being made in our city government will impact them.

### 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 is three fold. 1. Upgrade our infrastructure by improving our roads, enhancing traffic safety and reduce congestion. 2. I will promote economic recovery by supporting our small businesses, assisting the city in attracting high paying jobs and enhancing our military presence. 3. Support our public safety officials by hiring more public safety officers to improve response times across the city.

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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:**

City Council has minimal say in schools and our healthcare systems, but I believe in supporting our local businesses, large and small, in any way we can. At a minimum, I would support an extension of the sales tax rebates provided to bars and restaurants if they are effective in assisting eligible businesses. Likewise, I would encourage business owners to come forward to communicate with City Council of their needs and suggestions in ways the city can help. There are a number of local programs to assist the recovery of small business such as "Survive and Thrive" and it is crucial we communicate these programs to our local business so they are aware of the resources available to them. Likewise, the federal government still has Paycheck Protection Programs in affect from the pandemic relief package, which I believe are being underutilized. I would advocate for the Small Business Development Center in playing a stronger role in connecting businesses with relief funding.

**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 believe Colorado Springs being a home rule city is a good thing and provides our city with the autonomy necessary to best serve our citizens. As charter amendments typically require voter approval, it is not as simple as making a suggestion as a council member to change the city's charter. Likewise, it is also extremely costly to make charter amendments because they require a vote and these operations cost several hundred thousand dollars. It is imperative we are diligent to ensure only the most crucial issues make it to the ballot in an effort to reduce government spending and as a larger effect lower our tax liability as citizens.

**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:**

Colorado Springs Utilities has a robust and achievable plan to migrate away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. However, even with a robust plan we must proceed with caution during the transition process to ensure reliability and affordability of our utilities. Our citizens are concerned that our city's energy security is in jeopardy as a result of the Drake power plant closure - and electric rates will substantially increase in the near future. City Council as the board to CSU has the duty to ensure the promises being made to utilities subscribers will be upheld and CSU will proceed through this transition in a manner that does not threaten reliability or current rates. Due to federal and state mandates, the transition away from fossil fuels is a required action and by doing so ahead of the deadlines, CSU projects a significant long-term cost savings, which will benefit us 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:**

As a council member I would not recommend or support recreational marijuana as a ballot initiative. If the citizens of our town wish to have marijuana, then they must collect the required signatures to get the measure on the ballot themselves, outside of city council.

**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 citizens of the United States of America are afforded a number of rights, including the right to bear arms. I do not believe the government should infringe on the rights of their citizens by creating unconstitutional requirements or registration lists of legitimate firearms owners. It is up to the owner of the firearm to assume the responsibility, safe operation and storage of their property.

**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:**

We must have safeguards in place to protect those who are unable to protect themselves and the city must do everything we can to ensure the most vulnerable are protected.

**BUSINESS/JOB:**

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

**ANSWER:**

While I believe in minimal government, economic development is a crucial function of city government and our leaders must do everything possible to incentivize businesses and industry to base operations in Colorado Springs. The offered incentives fell short to bring Space Command to Colorado Springs; however, we should continue efforts through our state representatives to reverse the decision at the presidential level. With the recent loss of the US Space Command - it will be essential to not only retain the existing companies that support our military presence in Colorado Springs, but also be the first choice for other contractors looking to relocate operations. While the military is a large presence in our city, it is not the only source of well paying jobs. We must rebalance our focus to ensure we are an attractive city to all sectors of commerce. The city must have a comprehensive and long-term plan when providing incentives to businesses or the federal government. There must also be safeguards put in place to prevent certain companies from taking advantage of these incentives, which only intend to have a short-term presence.

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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:**

I will advocate for increased mental health training in the police force, as well as requesting the police department to hire a additional full time civilian social workers who specialize in mental health and addiction. Furthermore, I don't believe the city has taken the appropriate steps to assist homeless individuals reintegrate into the general population and society. I would like to explore a program to help the homeless receive the mental health and substance abuse treatment they need as a first of many steps to help these individuals get back on their feet. Instead of continuing to offer handouts that perpetuate the homeless cycle, I believe there is a pathway to help the homeless population become self-sustaining and contributing members of society. I believe in finding solutions, not simply promoting short-term "band aid" approaches to our cities problems.

**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:**

As long as we are the United States of America, I will stand up for the rights we as citizens are afforded by the constitution. Luckily we do live in the USA, and our federal laws are the highest authority, which in this case covers the topics mentioned. At no point should our speech be limited, our ability to protest peacefully revoked, or our right to exercise religion be removed.

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Candidate Name:	Karlie Van Arnam
City Council District #:	5
Campaign Website URL:	www.karlie5.com
Email Address:	karlie4council@gmail.com
Phone Number:	719-660-0718
Occupation/Vocation:	small business owner / manager
Military Background/Status (if any):	N/A
Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident?	I was born and raised in Woodland Park. I moved to Colorado Springs at age 18 and have lived here ever since.

### CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

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

### ANSWER:

The purpose of local government is to create an organized system that allows for citizen input and collaboration to identify local needs and determine the best way these needs can be met. Local government is responsible for creating an environment that fosters economic growth and a quality of life for all of its citizens. Local governments greatest responsibility is the influence it has when shaping the future of our city and attracting a culture and population consistent with the vision of our residents.

### 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 have sat on various work groups where I participated in strategy development and implementation. My skill set is transferable to various industries. Through my education and business background, I have acquired skills that allow me to be effective at collaborating with different industries, groups and people, analyzing financial and operational data, and identifying problems or shortfalls from legal, regulatory, financial, personal and operational perspectives with an eye towards improving processes and continued improvement and efficiencies. My top priorities include affordable housing, government transparency, park and trail maintenance/improvements and public transportation. Colorado Springs is a beautiful place and our population is growing rapidly. It is my goal to work with residents, associations, other council members and government agencies to create thoughtful and comprehensive policy regarding these issues that will positively impact our very diverse population and encourage sustainable growth.

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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 would like to see our businesses open fully and without risk of future shut downs. However, these decisions are often made at the state level. At the local level, we can ensure that our financial relief programs for our small business and citizens seeking financial assistance are expanded to include more eligible businesses and people. The application process should be streamlined for easy application and expedient approval to allow for the quick distribution of funds.

**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 the status of Home Rule for Colorado Springs. Our Home Rule status allows the City to maintain control over and regulate municipal matters. However, the powers granted to a Home Rule City are determined by the State of Colorado and are limited primarily to government structure and function, fiscal authority including the ability to set and collect taxes, and personnel authority including the ability to create employment rules. Matters beyond this scope would require someone with legal expertise to determine how a charter could be amended in a way consistent with the laws of Colorado.

**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:**

Water is our most valuable resource. Therefore, the impact to water supply and security should be at the forefront of every decision when determining population density and annexing land into Colorado Springs. Additionally, the city must consider the impacts to affordability and reliability when considering investments into our energy infrastructure. I am supportive of the transition from nonrenewable energy sources to renewable energy provided the change is gradual, sustainable and well planned. I believe the transition is inevitable and it is best for our city to stay on top of this technology. Data shows that renewable energy is already cheaper to produce compared to coal energy while also reducing our carbon footprint. Sustainable growth depends on our ability to produce enough energy for all of us at lower rates. However, the transition must be proven and comprehensive to ensure we are not risking our energy stability and affordability.

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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 support City Council referring the issue to the voters provided all currently licensed medical marijuana centers have an equal opportunity to convert to a recreational store. The city of Manitou Springs currently collects sales tax on over \$30M worth of sales per year. Colorado Springs voters should have an opportunity to decide if they would like to divert some of that sales tax here to benefit the residents of Colorado Springs.

**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:**

2nd Amendment sanctuary cities are primarily symbolic in nature and generally refer to local jurisdictions that have refused to participate in the enforcement of state or federal gun control laws. This does not necessarily grant the local government the authority to pass its own gun laws. Unduly restrictive laws or blatant government overreach should not be tolerated in any capacity when it comes to our Constitutional rights, our personal autonomy or political autonomy. Adopting the status of a sanctuary city is a way for local municipalities to peacefully protest overly restrictive state and federal laws.

**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:**

As I mentioned in the question above regarding the 2nd amendment, I do not support government overreach or government infringement on personal autonomy. I do not believe the government currently has or should be granted the authority to make or restrict medical decisions for anyone. Human trafficking, however, is a serious crime. Trafficking is a flagrant violation of the most fundamental and unassailable human rights. Any instance of trafficking should be tirelessly investigated, prosecuted and eradicated.

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**BUSINESS/JOB:**

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

**ANSWER:**

The city should forge relationships with various industry groups, vocational schools and colleges to develop and implement training programs for our workforce. A skilled workforce will attract the attention of businesses looking to relocate or expand. When bringing businesses and jobs to the city, the focus should be on attracting and expanding business in the most distressed areas in the city. We should also focus on attracting jobs that can be filled by the current local under and unemployed workforce. Creating jobs that are not being filled by locals requires new people to move to the area. This can exacerbate the housing shortage and drive up cost of living which may result in stagnant or reduced job growth for existing businesses.

**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:**

Homelessness is a result of systemic issues including inadequate mental health programs/treatment, addiction and home insecurity. We cannot just pass ordinances to push our homeless population out of site. These underlying issues must be addressed. Furthermore, a percentage of the population, for various reasons, will always suffer from chronic homelessness. The city must be pragmatic and work with our non profits and organizations who specialize in dealing with chronic homelessness to create safe places for our homeless population to exist.

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## 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:

The Constitution represents certain rights that are fundamental to our way of living. I believe that all elected officials have the obligation to uphold the liberties granted by the Constitution. However, as I mentioned in question 7, the State is responsible for granting authority to the local governments. As we learned during the the Covid-19 pandemic, the Tenth Amendment of the US Constitution grants the state the ability to restrict gatherings (including religious gatherings) during a legitimate health crisis. Unless authority is expressly granted to a local jurisdiction, the local government must abide by State orders. Having stated that, it's also relevant to note that meaningful change often happens at the local level and can translate, and transform a state policy or regulation. It's definitely a balance of compliance and creativity. A well organized and persuasive City Council can be instrumental to inspiring change at a higher level. I am committed to bringing a collaborative attitude to City Council that represents the will of the district for matters within Council's control, and advocating for positive change in areas outside local control.

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# CANDIDATE

# JUSTIN JAMES-FLETCHER HERMES

# DISTRICT 5



Candidate Name:	Justin James-Fletcher Hermes
City Council District #:	5
Email Address:	Hermes@thehermesteam.net
Campaign Website URL	Justinhermes.com
Phone Number:	719-232-1063
Occupation/Vocation:	Realtor
Military Background/Status (if any):	None
Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident?	24. left for college and worked two years in DC

## CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

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

## ANSWER:

I believe city Council should empower the people by supporting community leaders throughout our district. I also believe in true representation of the people by giving a voice to every citizen. I also want to note that I will be self funding my campaign as I do not want to owe anyone any favors down the line. I also believe it is a critical time for the industries who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. We must focus on supporting those industries rather than throwing money at a city Council race.

## 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:

Being a native of Colorado springs I have been very involved in this community. I have volunteered at Springs rescue Mission, was a big brother through big Brothers big sisters, a volunteer teacher through junior achievement. I also served on the board for Twocor. I currently serve as a board member for Colorado Springs rising professionals. I believe we must address affordable housing, infrastructure and offer a voice for the youth in the city. I also believe we must keep the conservative values that make Colorado Springs one of the best cities in the nation. I also have hosted several fundraisers for our police department, fire department, healthcare workers and military members

## 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 believe we need to fully reopen the city as soon as possible. I also believe kids should be back in school as soon as possible as well. I believe our healthcare systems have handled the pandemic very well

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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:**

I am extremely grateful for home rule as I like to see the separation between our city and the rest of the state of Colorado. As the state becomes more liberal we need to make sure we strengthen the charter to protect the conservative values of this town

**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:**

I think there are a lot of great initiatives that are being put forward. At the same time I do not believe we can rely strictly on solar and wind energy. We must realize in 10 years when solar and wind equipment are obsolete how will we dispose of them? Keeping things affordable in the city we have to carefully determine what energy sources are most effective and affordable for the citizens

**RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:**

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

**ANSWER:**

Being a strong conservative I am not a proponent of marijuana. That being said I do believe in proper democracy and issues this large the voters should be allowed to voice their opinions on.

**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:**

Being a gun owner I believe strongly in the Second Amendment. I think gun safety is important but it should never infringe on the second amendment.

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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:**

I absolutely do not believe in abortion and I also believe we have to protect the lives of the trafficked and the elderly

**BUSINESS/JOBS:**

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

**ANSWER:**

I think the city has to work closely with the chamber in recruiting new industries here to Colorado Springs. We also have to focus on growing our vibrant downtown so we attract the next generation of youth

**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:**

I believe the greatest asset in solving the homeless issue here in Colorado Springs is converting large vacant commercial space into affordable housing. I do not believe the city should be involved in affordable housing but rather allow flexibility in zoning and use changes to convert these large spaces

**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 think we have to strictly adhere to the constitution of the United States as it is the backbone of this country and makes America what it is

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Candidate Name:	Mary Elizabeth Fabian
City Council District #:	5
Email Address:	maryelizabeth@fabianforcolorado.com
Campaign Website URL	www.fabianforcolorado.com
Phone Number:	719-422-9369
Occupation/Vocation:	Small Business Owner
Military Background/Status (if any):	I am the proud wife of a 100% disabled veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan
Number of years as a Colorado Springs resident?	12

### CITY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

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

### ANSWER:

The role of City Council is to first support the infrastructure and growth of the city by making the financial and operating decisions for our government. As a council woman, my responsibility and role would be to look out for the interests of our current citizens while considering the long term situations which need to be addressed and solutions found for. The most important role I will have is of a collaborator and representative. These are tied together in that my role as a council person is to represent the needs of the community and the best way to do this is to be actively involved and engaged in our community but I can not make decisions unilaterally, I must be able to collaborate and consensus build.

### 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 small business person who has worked with business owners of all sizes on financial, marketing and out reach coordination I understand budgeting, planning for the future and preparing for the downturns of the rainy days. My first area of focus would be to make sure that Colorado Springs is prepared for those events and encourage budgeting accordingly. As a member of our community who has been engaged by creating nonprofit and charter schools, my understanding of large and complex budgets will be useful on the boards of the utilities and on the council as a whole. My main focus is to ensure my neighbors in all of District five have steady access to their representative in a meaningful way so that when situations arise they not only know who I am, but how I can support them. I no longer want members of our community surprised by rezoning efforts and changes. This is due to a lack of communication - which I want changed.

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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:**

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?

As a small business owner who spent over \$2000 in sales tax in 2020, I received one \$50 check as my only COVID relief from the city. If additional relief was available, I was unaware, and am not alone. This is a good example of support possibly being available but not being very well communicated.

However, the City took a large portion of their CARES dollars and put it towards Public Safety which allowed them to not to spend as much as anticipated from their 2020 budget and move it to the 2021 budget. In doing this cost saving measure, they reduced their costs associated with COVID, but not our citizen's. Government should always be looking first for opportunities to provide budgetary relief when providing for small businesses in our community.

I am a small business owner in this community who understands these challenges.

I believe that political and economic freedom go hand in hand. The longer our shutdowns and reduced capacities exist, the longer it will be before our community can bounce back. I support reopening businesses - and as a business owner myself understand the concern for liability and loss if clients were to become ill.

**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 am glad that we are a "Home Rule City" and would have been pleased to see that this had been exercised in a stronger way during COVID-19. Today, I do not have suggestions, but if elected I would be willing to listen to citizen input and create suggestions based on that.

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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:**

Elections Matter from the Council to the the Presidency. The reality is that we will are being forced to find and implement cleaner energy sources by our state and federal governments. It is always better for our community to make decisions for ourselves and secure a spot at the table to ensure legislation appropriately considers our unique circumstance of being municipally owned and does not penalize us for our current efforts by placing percentage requirements as they have in the past.. As Texas has shown, when the bitter cold hits we need our neighborhoods to still have reliable power to heat their homes. Currently, CSU is in the top 1% of the country for reliability. Whatever diversification decisions are made, reliability needs to continue to be a top concern. I believe that when working with new technologies we should be cautiously willing to explore and understand multiple options. Ultimately, if we reduce our quality of life we have not properly succeeded in this objective. In my own family, we cloth diaper, recycle, and compost for our own small garden. Freedom in the marketplace often has been proven to return the best results possible.

**RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:**

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

**ANSWER:**

While in principle I agree with referring measures to voters, I am not in favor of this measure. Colorado Springs has a certain amount of recession proofing due to our close relationships with military bases and institutions that have made their concerns with recreational marijuana very clear. I see this measure being decided by whichever side has the most money to campaign for or against it, as such, I could not in good conscience support that. Our long term economic health and growth is too important.

**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 support each individual's second amendment rights and would hope we as citizens of this country would not need to create a place of sanctuary for those rights to be secured

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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:**

I believe in the dignity of all human life, as a Christian, and because of my own experiences. Specifically the trafficked - children are being trafficked daily in our community and I would push for immediate loss of business license in locations where this is happening. I also believe that informing families of what to look for and when to look is important. I have attended excellent discussion sessions with the CSPD and Junior League for this purpose. Regarding the elderly and others who may not be fully mobile, ensuring that when our sidewalks are reworked that all four are done at the same time is important. As I have knocked on doors this issue has come up repeatedly.

**BUSINESS/JOBS:**

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

**ANSWER:**

Our city already has economic opportunity areas that encourage businesses and jobs to come to Colorado Springs what I would like to see is those right offs those tax breaks to be valid for a set number of years and then those jobs have to stay for a period after the expiration. As it stands now, after 15 years of breaks a business has the ability to move to the next great location. Ultimately, we need to not have unnecessary barriers to people conducting business. I have fought barriers like additional permitting fees as a private citizen and will do that at City Hall.

**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:**

There are many reasons why people in our community are homeless and a one-size fits all solution will not be effective. Step One, identify those who need and want services and engage a local non profit to support them. We are doing this fairly well. Step Two, identify the why behind an individual's chronic homelessness - addiction, mental illness, a chosen way of life? That will allow us to then better support each of those groups with services already in place. I believe that having the services in one central location is a better solution. I am in favor of having a space for those who choose to live a more nomadic or outdoor life to be able to safely set up camp without polluting our waterways and littering our parks. I do not believe we should allow our homeless community to fill our parks and sidewalks with their sleeping bags and property. It negatively affects our community - both businesses and families. Right now, this problem is not so big that we can't get our arms around it, but it will continue to grow unless addressed.

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CANDIDATE

MARY ELIZABETH FABIAN

DISTRICT 5

**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:**

Yes. As a council person I will, and as a citizen of this great country I do, champion personal the protection of personal liberties. Whenthey are gone, so is this great American experiment.

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