

**FORT COLLINS BUSINESS COMMUNITY
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2013 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION**

**Questionnaires are due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org
by 5pm. on February 28, 2013.**

**Please note that all questionnaire answers will be shared with the business
community.**

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|---|---|
| Office Sought: Mayor of Fort Collins | District (If Applicable): |
| Name: Karen Weitkunat | |
| Home Address: 3009 Phoenix Drive FC 80525 | |
| Daytime Phone: 225-2575 | Evening Phone: |
| Fax: | Email: tandkw@gmail.com |
| Employment: self | |
| Length of Residence: In City: 37 years | In District: 2 |

Please limit responses to approximately 200 words per section.

(1) Education:

UWSP University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point - secondary education - BS -English course work teacher recertification UNC, CSU

(2) Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:

city council member district 2, planning and zoning board, NCBA founder and pres. Innkeepers Association, president, Convention Visitor Bureau charter member/secretary, Larimer County Planning Commission, City Plan charter member, Ft. Collins Housing Authority, Poudre Fire Authority, Platte River Power Authority (board), Ft. Collins/loveland Airport Steering Committee,

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:

Licensed and certified secondary teacher in Wisconsin, Colorado
owner/operator Budget Host Inn (FC)
owner/operator Texaco Convenience Store
owner/partner Eastside Self Storage

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

City of Fort Collins Mayor- represent the community/ lead the City Council
self employed owners of self storage business- all the jobs and responsibilities c

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(5) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

37 years of business experience and community involvement and activism
excellent communication skills

(6) Why Are You Running For This Office?

I am the current mayor and the community does not need a change in leadership. Serving as Mayor the past two years has been a tremendous honor. The proudest and best moments have been when I have had the opportunity to serve the people out in the community. It's the people that make our City great and together we have faced the important issues with positive results.

(7) What have you done to prepare for election to this office and how you will you conduct yourself if elected to this office? What experiences have you had that makes you qualified to serve in office? On what City Boards and Commissions have you served?

37 years of community involvement and engagement - see above

(8) If you are elected, what are the top three accomplishments you want to have completed by the end of your term and how will you get them done?
1. secure the expansion of Halligan Reservoir - need to push Army Corp of Engineers _____ 2. Work to build the FC/LV Airport into a viable, economic transportation center serving the region - strategic planning with business, municipalities, regional institutions _____ 3. work to keep the URA relevant and viable as a tool for redevelopment, particularly in the North College Area and Midtown

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- (9) What do you think are the top 3 economic priorities the city government should undertake during the next four years? What role should the City of Fort Collins have in economic development? How will you make the economy a City budget priority?

The airport strategic plan - secure continued Woodward expansion, work on development review processes

City role: development review process and codes that do not impede development and business, continued work with RMI, CSU, Clean Energy & Engines Lab, bring forward the actions described in the economic strategic plan

- (10) How will you make Fort Collins a more Jobs Friendly community? Are you willing to engage with business leaders to discuss these solutions? Please explain how you will stay in touch with business leaders.

Keep the door of communication open between businesses and professional org. and the City. I have a regularly scheduled meeting monthly with the Chamber and currently meet regularly with varying businesses to "talk".

- (11) What role should the City of Fort Collins have in the region? What do you believe are the top issues facing Northern Colorado in the next several years?

We need to be leaders, conveners and collaborators in transportation (Airport, Hwy. 287, I-25), water storage/quality Halligan-NISP, Poudre River; economic stability through workforce development, primary employers and affordable housing

- (12) Colorado will continue to grow, including our area. How should the City Council plan for growth, if at all?

Fort Collins has already determined through City Plan how we will grow. We have created a hard edge that limits the geographic size of the city and creates a compact, urban environment utilizing multi-modal transportation

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

Find reliable revenue streams- a need to find sources to fund city commitments that do not rely heavily on sales tax. a diverse economic base would be a first step.

Address land use code issues that do not work with the city vision and ideas of City Plan.

- (14) What economic tools should the City add to their "tool box" of resources to attract key employers?

We need to continue with the opportunities that URA designation offers an area. An opportunity may exist to utilize areas of the Land Use code- variances or modifications that may help in the redevelopment and expansion of current businesses.

- (15) In recent years, the City Council has been prone to push ahead on issues that are clearly not popular with the public. An example would be trash districting. Though public support was absent, the Council pressed forward with the results being significant negative response by the public and hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars spent on consultants and staff time. What would you do to ensure good governance and the prudent use of staff time and resources?

We need to stay with clearly defined objectives and work plans.

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(16) The City of Fort Collins already has some of the most rigorous flood control regulations in the country but is proposing even stricter regulations. What is your position on the proposed changes to the Poudre River floodplain regulations? Let's keep the regs. we currently have.

(17)

(18) and drought showcased how vulnerable the City is to lack of water storage. What would you do to help the City be better prepared for water emergencies?

We must build Halligan. WE must build positive relationships with our regional partners, who share our watershed.

(19) What are the top three transportation improvements the City of Fort Collins should accomplish? What is your position on the potential renewal of the Pavement Management Sales Tax? Why?

North College must be completed. Mason Corridor needs to be completed. The FC/LV airport must be made viable. I support renewal.

(20) Why would a business person support your election to office?

I am a business woman and have been for 37 years in Fort Collins.

(21) If business groups endorse you, is there any significant information that could come out about you during a campaign that could potentially embarrass you (and them) publicly? (ex: bankruptcy, arrest, conviction, etc.)

no

Signature

Date