

Colorado Springs Candidate Survey

Response date: 2/18/19

Q1

Thank you for completing our survey.

Name: Gordon Klingenschmitt, PhD

Office you are seeking: City Council at-large

Q2

What is your solution to ensure adequate Public Safety response times throughout the City? Please explain.

As a 20-year military veteran I fully support our city's first responders, including law enforcement, fire and medical. If government were more efficient and didn't waste taxpayer dollars, we could afford to put 100 more first responders on the streets, at lower cost than we're currently paying. We must first trim the fat from our city's spending, starting with lowering the mayor's salary and returning city council to unpaid volunteers.

Q3

Do you support the implementation of automated red light cameras throughout Colorado Springs? Please, explain.

As a former state legislator I helped lead the fight against red light cameras, which invade people's privacy and raise taxes by other means. I voted for a bi-partisan bill to ban red light cameras, which passed the House and Senate but was unfortunately vetoed by Gov. Hickenlooper who supported big-government intrusions and did not enhance safety.

Q4

What is your position regarding the elimination of motor vehicle traffic lanes (road-dieting) in favor of installing bicycle lanes? Please, explain.

I join countless frustrated drivers who are stuck in traffic behind miles of empty bike lanes in our city. Unlike Field of Dreams, we built it and they did not come. My radio ads say I'm clearly against the inefficient waste of our road space and transportation dollars, and would introduce an ordinance to end road dieting and instead allow drivers to drive on roads for which they paid. Voters paid extra taxes to fix and fund roads on which they now cannot drive, so I would at a minimum allow drivers to share that road when no bicycles are present.

Q5

Should City for Champions projects — either initial construction or long-term maintenance— be funded through additional local taxes? Please, explain.

Because I believe in property rights and lower taxes, I oppose government mandated transfer payments from the poor to the rich, or rich to poor. I am not opposed to city infrastructure development of city roads and sidewalks in areas where private developers or donors risk their own development capital for projects on land they own, and I would de-regulate their business environment to the safest extent possible to help them succeed. But taxpayer dollars should not be risked on pricey ventures that inure to others' private profit, and not our city's public interest.

Q6

Do you support the implementation of new taxes or fees to solve the City's growing homelessness problems? Please, explain.

I believe private charities are the best way to help the homeless, and my own charity gave free coats to homeless veterans last year. I oppose using public money or tax money toward private inurement, whether to rich or poor. I oppose taxpayer-funded social welfare programs for able-bodied individuals who decline to work. I do, however, defend all citizens' right to access public sidewalks in accordance with their First Amendment freedom of Assembly.

Q7

What are your thoughts on in-fill, sprawl, and the growing population in Colorado Springs? Should the growth of development be encouraged or restricted?

Development should be encouraged through private investment (not taxpayer subsidy) and de-regulation that would cut red tape and end frivolous lawsuits against providers of affordable housing and business. Growth should be encouraged through de-regulation, not government-enforced transfer payments.

Q8

Do you pledge to oppose and vote against any increases in taxes or fees? Do you pledge to oppose and vote against the establishment of new taxes or fees? Please explain.

Yes. Unlike other candidates I was rated a Tax-Payer Champion by the Colorado Union of Taxpayers, and twice rated the most conservative State Representative from El Paso County by Principles of Liberty. I consistently vote for lower taxes, smaller government, Constitutional Liberties, and more freedom. Our city's 8.25% sales tax is higher than Denver's 7.65%, and I will try to lower taxes, not raise them, with rare exception that people should pay some fees for government services that are uniquely beneficial to them and do not benefit the public at large. Lowering taxes and fees has become my number one campaign issue, and I consistently vote that way, as I've detailed at

GordonForColorado.com.

Q9

Do you support local Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) dollars for City for Champions projects without a vote of the people? Also, would you support or oppose any new proposals of Certificates of Participation (COPs) for City financed projects?

I favor a vote of the people and I support and defend TABOR which requires a public vote. I oppose certificates of participation which are a back-door tax. I believe in free-market investment, lower taxation, and supporting private development through deregulation and maintaining public infrastructure. I oppose TIFs for private profit, but I am not opposed to TIFs if they are transparently negotiated and do not include inurement handouts or excessive year lengths, and if future tax money is set aside for city infrastructure such as roads and sidewalks, not for privately owned buildings. Thank you for this opportunity, I request your support and vote for Gordon Klingenschmitt for city council.