

# Colorado Springs Candidate Survey

Response date: 2/19/19

Q1

Thank you for completing our survey.

Name: Juliette Parker

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Office you are seeking: Mayor

Q2

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

While it's great that the city is adding 120 new police officers over the next couple of years, that's simply not enough. Based on our population and the agreed estimates that we will have more people than Denver by the end of 2020, we should have between 840 and 1,260 police officers (according to national recommendations). With the new 120 being added, we have appr. 800 officers. This shortage is causing the average response time to be 12 mins, rather than the 8 mins or less it should be. Part of the reason we are so short on officers is that we've lost more than 240 officers since 2012, mostly due to burn out and lack of competitive pay. Additionally, we are short on firefighters and paramedics as well and the equipment our firefighters use to respond, such as their trucks, are aging and falling apart. Just 2 days ago, firefighters responded to a fire and their truck broke down on the way and another truck had to be sent out. Things like this jeopardize the safety of our residents and their homes & businesses. In order to ensure adequate Public Safety response time, we need to increase the number of public safety personal to fit the population and growth of our city. Things like having new fire stations be put in when new subdivisions, like Banning Lewis, are built and upgrading equipment so that things don't break down and cause delays. Increasing the compensation and/or perks for our public safety personal will help us reduce turn over rates so we don't lose officers we spent money to train. Perks and compensation increases don't need to cost us more tax dollars either. We can do things like provide free entry to Pikes Peak and other state/federal parks, free fishing/hunting licenses, reduction in property and/or income taxes and other things like that. Things that would improve the quality of life for our officers and firefighters and help reduce their stress/burnout level, while making Colorado Springs a more desirable place to work.

Q3

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

NO! They violate our constitutional rights in many ways and have been shown to actually increase the number of accidents. Peoria, AZ saw a 480% increase of traffic accidents at intersections where red light cameras had been installed. Additionally, if the city really put them up to increase safety, then why didn't they put them up at the 4 most "dangerous" intersections, instead of 3 that didn't even make the top 25 list of "dangerous" intersections???

Q4

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

While I fully agree that we need to find a way to make our city safer and more accessible for bikers, I don't think we should do it at the expense of cars and the flow of traffic. I feel that we need to research what other cities around the world are doing to accommodate bikers and motorists living a city together. Things like overpasses and underpasses might be options. Improving our trail systems. Widening our sidewalks and allowing bikers to use them is another possible option. But putting bikers on a road with cars with no protection from those cars is dangerous.

Q5

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

No. Using public money/tax dollars for a private investment is not what our tax dollars are suppose to be for.

Q6

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

No. The city could use current revenue to assist the various non profits in town which are far more effective in addressing the issues. We do not need anymore taxes or fees, we have far too many as it is.

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?

I don't think growth of development should be restricted, but it should be carefully considered before it's approved. Making sure that adequate roads, fire & police coverage, stormwater coverage, infrastructure, etc, are in place is important when considering new developments and growth. Additionally, we should focus on infill in order to get the most out of already existing city developments.

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, I pledge to oppose and vote against any increases in taxes or fees. I pledge to oppose and vote against the establishment of new taxes or fees. Additionally, I pledge to work on reducing our current taxes and fees so that more money is in your pockets, where it belongs. Our current taxes and fees are far too high.

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 don't support doing any major projects or changes to the city without the vote of the people. The Mayor's job is to represent the people...not rule over them. Therefore, having our residents vote on what happens in our city is crucial.