

Colorado Springs Candidate Survey
Response date: 2/16/19

Q1

Thank you for completing our survey.

Name: Dennis Spiker

Office you are seeking: Colorado Springs City Council At-Large

Q2

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

One aspect I see that the city can better its public safety response time is to supplement law enforcement jobs with contracted security. Our police officers should be focused on their job, instead of having to clear out parks, and work low risk security. One example is the officers who work in our government offices. By going to private security we can have more officers on the roads where they are needed. For the fire department I would push to grow / update the equipment and staff. We need more firefighters and paramedics in our city. I don't want to see a continued tax increases unless every measure has been taken to find the funding.

Q3

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

I do think that Colorado Springs needs to have red light cameras in the city. While I understand they collect more money for the city, I believe that it is against our laws to use them. Another point is that red light cameras require a lot of maintenance that I don't think the city is prepared to maintain. This issue should go on the ballot where the residents of the city can have their voice heard.

Q4

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

I support bike lanes in Colorado Springs but not at the cost of the flow of traffic. Our city has many beautiful bike trails that should be taken care of better because they give the ability to ride safely and don't cause the city to lose much needed road space. Before this project should move forward we need to have a study done to limit any impact to the residents that don't want to ride bikes, as well as ensuring that we have places for those who do.

Q5

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

City for champions is an amazing idea. But I don't think the city is ready and don't feel like this is the focus we should be considering right now unless we solve problems that we already have. I do support individual companies that want to invest in our city to build up these areas, just not funded by tax payers. If we go forward with these projects we need to ensure we are ready for them, such as the roads are fixed, more parking structures are built, and update the local parks in the area. I would support small incentives that the city can offer such as property tax cuts.

Q6

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

No, we can not continue to keep raising taxes in our city. We have raised taxes too much as is, and though I understand the past increases were to fill in gaps that our city needed. I don't think we need to raise them for this issue. Non-Profits have already begun great work and I think that we need to support them without raising taxes. One idea is to create more long term housing that can be used by people participating in a program that will keep them off the streets. We also need to consolidate more services together like Springs Rescue Mission and other have already started. This is not just a homeless issue but an affordable and attainable housing issue. We need to create more condo and townhome communities where younger people can afford so that they aren't just living in apartments. This will naturally drive down the cost of renting as well as bringing in a younger group of people that can't afford to live in Denver.

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?

We should encourage our city to prosper, but responsibly. We need to work harder to bring companies to move to our city. If we could broaden the city's industries we will have a more stable economy and job market. We should also be offering grants to our small businesses so they can also grow in the city. I would like to see unused buildings to be able to be transformed into businesses and housing. We also can not continue to grow and ignore the fact that our parks and recreation areas have started to decay.

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.

I will fight to ensure that our city doesn't continue to raise taxes or create new ones. We need to start looking into more ways to bring in tax money. Recreational Marijuana is one way that we can do this, other cities are collecting millions of tax money without having to raise taxes. We could also hold more events that bring people to our city such as sports tournaments and festivals.

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 do not support either of these. Both are ways that I believe politicians hide what they are doing for the city. Tax-Increment Financing robs our other programs many of which the voters decide. Certificates of Participation is a way that is used to get around letting the voters choice how our city will grow. We must have more transparency in our government and neither one of these are in any way transparent.