

# Colorado Springs Candidate Survey

Response date: 3/9/19

Q1

Thank you for completing our survey.

**Name:** John Pitchford

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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.

Public safety services in the city of Colorado Springs are severely underfunded. In order to improve response times the citizens need to provide for more personnel and equipment. The key to providing this funding is to stop the diversion of sales tax revenue to special-interest groups. When the problem becomes acute the city is able to sell the public on the idea by promoting special taxation as ballot initiatives. The basic effect is the citizens are coerced into approving more taxation.

Q3

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

I am opposed to automated traffic light cameras when they are under the control of private corporations who are not licensed to enforce the law. Many jurisdictions have had a problem with corruption and bribery in the implementation of these programs.

Q4

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

I am opposed to "lane dieting" solutions which inconvenience tens of thousands of our citizens on a daily basis. This was a decision brought to the people without their consent and predictably the majority of citizens are opposed to this idea.

Q5

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

No. I believe the entire concept of City for Champions was ill-conceived from the beginning and promotes the wrong kind of growth that produces that produces low-wage jobs.

Q6

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

No. While the city experiences /suffers the problems of homelessness, no city can solve the problem. The solution must come from the state and federal governments. The federal government is afforded the mentally ill and severely drug addicted liberty interests that make intervention into their behavior /problems impossible. The federal threshold is currently set at a "imminent threat" to themselves or others before the police or other social services can intervene.

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'm opposed to any in- fill that destroys or negatively impacts the character of historic neighborhoods. I would encourage smart growth and development. I currently believe the city government supports what I would characterize as "toxic growth." It appears to me that we are promoting growth for the benefit of growth for its own sake. This this provides a short-term benefit to a few, but leaves the majority with the long-term burden of maintaining infrastructure that often is carelessly or negligently constructed.

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 pledge to oppose any new taxes or fees as long as hundreds of millions of dollars in sales tax revenue are NOT diverted to special-interest groups.

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 would oppose TIF dollars for the City of Champions. I believe the City of Champions as part of the city's toxic growth problem.