

# Colorado Springs City Council Candidate Survey

Candidate name: Glenn Carlson

District: 1

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1. Do you support or oppose increasing taxes or fees, or the establishment of new taxes and fees? If you support increasing taxes and fees (or establishing new taxes and fees), what would be acceptable reasons to you?

I am generally supportive of taxes and fees when necessary and believe they have their place in society. In a city such as Colorado Springs, for example, they are vital to the funding of key infrastructure, stormwater support, and emergency services.

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

I believe this makes sense in certain areas such as downtown where density is increased and the space for cars becomes limited at times. As we achieve more density downtown, bike lanes will become a premium as more people may not own/use cars or not have the need for them when they live, work, and play in a smaller radius. That being said, I am in favor of more bike paths as a whole, especially as part of a larger trail connectivity system that does not interfere with traffic, which would be a more efficient, safer example anyways.

3. What is your opinion of infill projects that receive opposition from neighbors? Should zoning change projects proceed—even with opposition from the majority of neighbors living there?

I am actively involved in a major rezoning project at the 2424 Garden of the Gods complex. My backyard backs up to the property and the neighborhood has come out full force against this plan....and for many good reasons. I think infill HAS to be done with respect to our neighborhoods. Our neighborhood came out against this in the hundreds on the planning call. This is an example of a project that simply doesn't fit the neighborhood or it's master plan for many reasons. I stand with my community on this one.

4. As Colorado Springs expands in population and infill projects press forward, infrastructure is stressed. What is your solution for financing new infrastructure?

The city must always prioritize proper infrastructure investment. Efficient use of tax dollars will always be a priority for me and as a business owner, I believe I can bring a lot of understanding of how to stretch a dollar to our local government. That being said, developers and investors must also pay their fair share to get these projects off the ground, both figuratively and literally.

5. As COVID-19 closures and restrictions persist, many local businesses are suffering. What should be done for businesses and their employees?

As the only business owner in the race, I am able to speak about these issues first-hand. Our business was part of these closures and we had to layoff every employee. We were lucky to rehire them back and reopen, but it was difficult. Many of our friends in the business community were not so lucky. Programs like EIDL, PPP, local grants, and unemployment benefits were extremely helpful. I will be a champion for the business community and work to get our businesses safely reopened.

6. Local activists raised the issue of defunding the Colorado Springs Police Department. Do you support or oppose increasing the number of Colorado Springs police officers? Please explain.

I am not a supporter of blindly defunding the police. I believe in letting crime levels, response times, and positive community involvement, among others, dictate staffing levels. I do believe accountability for bad actors is also important.

7. Colorado Springs has a stormwater fee of \$5 per home, and \$30 per acre for businesses. The current council members appear to be in favor of a fee increase and will likely increase it soon. Many of the violations ruled on in a recent EPA lawsuit found that the City failed to enforce requirements that construction site operators implement appropriate measures to prevent polluted stormwater from running off active construction sites. During your term, will you vote to raise the stormwater fee?

Though we may have failed to enforce it, developers also chose to violate it or be lax with stormwater and drainage development. We have a stormwater fee in place already so where is the other half of the ownership in the violations? ie, have the developers helped pay to remedy this issue?

8. Do you support or oppose the implementation of recreational marijuana within the City of Colorado Springs in order to capture additional tax revenue?

I do not support recreational marijuana as a MEANS of capturing tax revenue. We should not be using financial gain as a key point to decide on recreational marijuana.

9. There is a push in the City for separate affordable housing complexes. According to the National Association of Realtors, the average price of a home in Colorado Springs increased from \$175,000 to \$371,900 in 10 years. Wages have not kept up with that increase. What is your solution to help residents afford housing?

We simply cannot keep up with an environment that continually lowers interest rates as a means of rescuing the economy. Everytime they lower interest rates, it applies upward pressure on housing prices. Affordable housing complexes, though helpful for residents, have had little effect in actual housing prices overall. As an employer, I know this first hand. Employers cannot keep up with the cost of healthcare and it makes giving actual pay raises difficult. This is not purely a wage issue, but a total compensation issue instead. Wages have remained somewhat stagnant, but total compensation has increased. Sadly, most of it gets absorbed into the cost of healthcare premiums.

10. Is there anything else you want the taxpayers to know about you, or is there an important topic we didn't ask about that you want to share?

I am a Colorado Springs native and business owner and as such, I can relate to the modern economy, modern workforce, and have witnessed first-hand the changes in COS over the years. I am running for council cause I care about this great city. I believe I am simply borrowing it from future generations and want to leave it better than I found it. This is not a post-retirement project for me and I believe I have the experience and energy to take us forward.