

# Colorado Springs City Council Candidate Survey

Candidate name: Dave Donelson

District: 1

Website: davedonelson.org

Date: 3/12/21

- 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 the conservative candidate for District 1. In general, I will oppose increasing taxes or fees, or the establishment of new taxes and fees. Families know better than government what their money should be spent on. Before increasing a tax or establishing a new one we should look closely at the current budget for areas to cut into.

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

I am against it. When I served in the Army, I used to commute by bike from our home near UCCS down to Fort Carson - so I am not against bike commuting. Closing car lanes creates more traffic congestion - and frustration with bikes.

- 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?**

My first allegiance will be with the people that already live in the established neighborhoods. Developers who are seeking approval for an infill project need to listen closely to concerns of neighbors and address them.

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

In new developments, or infill projects, the developer pays for the infrastructure - and for its maintenance for a certain number of years afterward. Infrastructure is one of the essential responsibilities of city government. Our options for paying for it are essentially through our property taxes or sales tax - for example 2C.

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

The most important thing we can do is to allow our small businesses to fully open - without restrictions on number of customers. The fastest way to accomplish this is to get the vaccine to all who want it. Also - sales tax refunds to small businesses.

**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 completely against defunding the police. I support increasing the number of police officers. Public safety is the #1 responsibility of city government.

**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?**

This decision was recently made by the current city council in a unanimous vote. My intention will always be to keep fees and taxes as low as possible for the citizens of Colorado Springs.

**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 am against it - regardless of tax revenue. As a former Physician Assistant, in the Army and in private practice here in Colorado Springs, I can't make access to a harmful substance more accessible. See Alex Berenon's book Tell Your Children

**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?**

A great way to decrease the cost of housing is to increase supply. We need to increase our housing supply. There are also incentives in place for developers to build more "affordable" housing. I support those incentives - such as tax credits.

**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 the conservative candidate for District 1. Former Green Beret and Physician Assistant in the Army. Small business experience after the Army. Married for 30 years, lived in CS for 30 years and raised our family here. See [davedonelson.org](http://davedonelson.org)