Colorado Springs City Council Candidate Survey

Date: March 3, 2023

Name: Michelle Talarico

Office: City Council District 3

1. Do you support or oppose the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR)? Feel free to comment on projects you would support using TABOR refunds for —i.e., subsidized housing, parks, pothole repair, etc.) (200 words maximum) TABOR is very complicated. I believe that it is always best used for infrastructure to include street repair, potholes, etc. I also think that we have seriously neglected our parks system. We must increase their budget. I have mixed feelings and thoughts about subsidized housing, and I look forward to learning more when I am on council so that I may properly convey the wishes of my constituents.

2. Do you believe private companies should deliver goods and services to consumers and businesses? Or, should government funded enterprises be involved, such as Municipal Broadband? Please explain. (250 words maximum) I do believe that private or for profit companies should deliver goods and services such as broadband and that it should not be a government funded project. This will only increase taxes and in my opinion cause problems. Let's keep the government doing what it should do which is safety; to include police, fire and emergency medical services, parks improvement and infrastructure. I am a business owner so I believe that private companies have a right and a privilege to make a profit in our economy, bringing this into government would not be something I would be in favor of.

3. Do you support "road-dieting" traffic lanes in favor of bike lanes and bus lanes in Colorado Springs? Please explain. (200 words maximum) Today, there is planning for more livable cities. While many in cities may want to, and even need to drive, citizens also want breathable air, streets that are safe enough to cross, a city that's quiet at night, transportation options, and vibrant, lively communities. And a simple, inconvenient fact remains — having a livable city is incompatible with having a car-centric city. Cars simply take up too much space and move too few people in the space they occupy. In addition, they cause all sorts of issues, from traffic violence to poor air quality to increased fatalities. I am in favor of us "sharing the road" but I think it is vital we communicate all of this constantly and consistently with public.

4. Do you support a study to explore expanding Constitution Avenue? Please explain. (200 words maximum) I support the study and I agree we need an east /west smarter pathway. I am curious to listen to all constituents, neighbors and residents because this would cause serious congestion and potential for many negative effects for those that live nearby.

5. Will you support taxpayer-funded Front Range Rail? Please explain. (200 words maximum) Developing passenger rail that serves Front Range communities from Fort Collins to Pueblo is a critical component of Colorado's future. Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) will provide a safe,

efficient, and reliable transportation option for travel between major population centers and destinations along the Front Range and create a backbone for connecting and expanding rail and transit options in the state and region. Who is on the FRPR project team? The project team is led by Front Range Passenger Rail Commission staff, supported by consultant. This was taken directly from the commission's website. I strongly support the work that the commission is doing. It is a bold tall task, but in general I am supportive.

6.

7. Colorado Springs Utilities rates have been an increasing burden on ratepayers. What is your plan to manage Colorado Springs Utilities rates, in your capacity as a board member of Colorado Springs Utilities, so they are affordable for all citizens —from the poorest among us to the wealthiest? (250 words maximum) To learn more and understand what constitutes the need for a hike or a decrease. I am so eager to learn about our city utilizes from the inside. I will be a string advocate for keeping rates low. We cannot continue to have a monopoly on utilities and continue to affect the poorest amongst us with no other option.

8. The Martin Drake Coal Power Plant was decommissioned 9 years earlier than required. Was that the correct decision? Please explain. (200 words maximum) I am a fan of decommissioning and happy it was early; however, I want to listen and respect the opinions of the Mill Street neighborhood. They have had to deal with the fumes for all these years. They have a stake it what Drake becomes, and I want to help tell their story on council and create the conditions where we can compromise and move forward.

9. What expenditures in the Colorado Springs City budget can be reduced or eliminated? As a future City Council member, will you vote against an increased budget? Will you ask for reductions for any specific departments or expenditures? Please explain. (250 words maximum) I will vote for more money for parks and land and open space purchases, for improving roads, for correcting infrastructure. We need to be responsible with taxpayers' money, and I believe that also supporting those that protect us only makes good sense, therefore I would be in favor of increasing those budgets as well. But it doesn't have to be all taxes; we have some serious overspends that we can look at re allocating.

10. What expenditures in the Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) budget should be reduced or eliminated? As a future board member of CSU, will you commit to making those cuts? (250 words maximum) I cannot answer these questions yet. I can only surmise that there are cuts that can be made. I look very forward to learning all the things I need to know to be an effective council person.

11. What would you consider responsible growth in Colorado Springs? Examples might include infill, expansion to the east, annexation, etc. (200 words maximum) I support responsible smart growth which includes infill, annexation (possibly) density, rebates and tax credits to homeowners to remodel their unused spaces and possibly earn money . we need to constantly ask and answer the hard questions, will our infrastructure handle the growth , for we have the water , etc.

12. Are you willing to recuse yourself from a vote in the event you have a conflict of interest? (200 words maximum) absolutely!!!

13. Optional: Anything else you want voters to know about what you would do if elected? (200 words maximum)
    Thank you for this opportunity., My cell is available for a call or text anytime anyday 719-499-8850.