Christopher Metzgar District 3

1. What motivated you to run for a City Council seat, and what is your vision for serving the public if elected?

I am a long time resident of the city, a business owner and a local entertainer. I care for this city and am frustrated and angry that our current City Council has been ignoring the voices of the voters and citizens. Rather than keep complaining about these issues, I decided to attempt to change things myself.

2. Nationally, government has been focused on finding waste and fraud in government through DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency. Would you be in favor of a similar effort within the City of Colorado Springs? Where do you think efficiencies could be found within city departments?

Absolutely. Though whatever similar organization that we would put into place would need to be unaffiliated with any local businesses or local interests. Otherwise, it would just become another waste of money and would be quite hypocritical.

3. Are there any new taxes, fees, or TABOR retention ballot issues you'd like to see put before voters? Please, explain.

It is my opinion that EVERY tax/fee issue should be put to a vote. Our current city council thinks that they represent our voices and so they can just make decisions for us, but it has become clear that they do not.

4. What does responsible city growth and development look like to you? Do you have any issues with how City Council has handled development, annexation, etc. in the recent past?

I do have issues with how this has been handled. We all by now have heard the term "Dark Money". Real estate developers are buying our city council with campaign donations and money for unrelated issues. These developers are counting on their "paid for" candidates to approve future land annexation, so that they can make even more money by building unnecessary, low quality homes, on the outskirts of our city boundaries. We currently have over 15,000 empty homes in our city that are not being sold or rented due to being located in less desirable neighborhoods. I would like to allocate the funds being considered for annexation, to gentrification of these less desirable areas.

5. Should non-profit entities receive taxpayer funds to provide services to certain sectors of the public? Would you advocate for those non-profits to provide detailed reports to city council on how taxpayer money is spent?

I do believe that non-profits should receive certain funds if they are providing a valuable service to the city. But, yes, there needs to be detailed reports and a checks/balances program put into place so that the tax payers fully understand where their money is going.

6. In 2024, the current city council members voted in favor of a resolution stating that Colorado Springs is not a sanctuary city. Do you agree or disagree with that vote and why?

I disagree. I do not wish to assist the Federal government with deportation. The federal government is going to do it anyway, why should we assist them?

7. What is your view on the current illegal immigration problem in our city?

I am unaware of an "illegal immigrant problem" in our city. I believe this is fear mongering at best.

8. Taxpayer funds are used to provide services to homeless people. Do you think this money is well spent (or not) and should more funds be (or not be) committed to homeless programs?

Our homeless situation is quite out of control. I do believe that we need more funds committed to this. I also think that a public program (PSA style) needs to be put into place for aggressive pan handling. We should be asking our citizens to donate money to a program that will help the situation, rather than donate to the individuals who stand on our street corners.

9. Housing affordability has been a hot topic in recent years. What's your solution to the problem? Should taxpayer funds be used to address this issue?

This is a difficult and complex issue. We are dealing with inflation, mortgage rates. The current average rent in our town is $1300 monthly. The large scale apartment/condos being built downtown were supposed to alleviate some of these issues, yet the greed of capitalists have had the opposite effect. The average monthly rent for a 1 bedroom in our district 3 is now at $2200 a month. We need to allocate funds to cleaning up other areas of our city, removing some of our industrial areas and dead business zones, to build more AFFORDABLE housing options. We do NOT need to keep expanding our city's borders for real estate development. We need to allow ADU's with regulated permits as well.

10. Red light cameras and speed cameras have been approved by city council members. What are your opinions about red light cameras and speed cameras?

My opinion on these, is that they are nothing but a way for the city to make money, rather than actually keeping our streets safer. I would never have voted for this.

11. Is there anything additional you'd like to share about yourself with voters?

I am not a politician. I am not for sale. My current campaign finance budget is at $0. I refuse to accept money from anyone who has personal business interests, and that seems to be everyone right now. I stand for the everyday average citizen. I want to help small business owners, women owned business, minority owned business, and the marginalized LQBTQIA+ community members. Read more about me at romeouncaged.com