Roland Rainey District 6

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

As a long-time resident who has been a community leader across multiple boards and commissions, I have devoted my time and talents to this nation and to better my community. I want to continue serving Colorado Springs. My vision is quite clear…promote efforts in public safety initiatives so we can decrease crime in the region, work with all stakeholders to ensure infrastructure and smart growth are in lock step, ensure our military and veteran community continue to receive first class support, and to champion a new tech job corps initiative for our high school and college graduates so they can contribute their talents right here in Colorado Springs.

I have over 30 years of leading small to large organizations in the business, military and aerospace industry sector, as well as across various community organizations. As a decorated combat veteran, I have led America's sons and daughters in a combat zone, highlighting my steadfast leadership and willingness to shoulder the burden of responsibility to safeguard someone else's life. I have successfully managed Department of Defense national security assets valued at over $6 billion and as a senior defense executive I have pushed advanced technologies to support our troops across the globe. I am the Banning Lewis Academy School Board Finance Committee Chair, overseeing millions in resources and capital improvements. My budget experience from federal to local levels makes me the most qualified to work with the Mayor's office regarding our city's budget. Furthermore, as a local business owner, I know how to effectively manage critical resources.

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?

Identifying areas in our local government to capture efficiencies should not require a separate "watch dog" organization to do so at this time. Each city department should be held accountable by city leadership for ensuring taxpayers money is not wasted on programs not contributing to a better quality of life here in Colorado Springs.

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

During my campaign, I will not commit to adding, reducing or eliminating any budget item without first sitting at the table with all relevant parties and assessing all data points through constructive and respectful discourse. Additionally, I want to make clear my unwavering support for TABOR. TABOR helps us to keep the government in check.

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?

Colorado Springs population is growing at a faster rate than the actual state of Colorado and El Paso County is the most populated county in Colorado. While attractive cities grow due to economic opportunities, we also need to be cognizant of the impact to public safety, especially in the downtown areas. The city annexation policy should carefully consider the following: 1.) annex areas that are cost-effective for the city, 2.) prioritize and annex areas according to the quality of its current infrastructure, population density, and development potential, 3.) consider whether annexation would maximize the return on the City's investment in infrastructure and business incentives, while creating efficiencies in delivering services that does not place an unwarranted stress on our public safety services, and 4.) annex areas that are located in close proximity to City operations that possess excess service capacity.

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?

Non-profits should not receive taxpayers' funds. These organizations, which operate for purposes other than a profit to investors, can receive contract and other funds directly or through other entities. The interdependence model between nonprofits and government funding is essential for ensuring the provision of public services.

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 agree and support the unified message from the Mayor, City Council, and County Commissioners stating that Colorado Springs is not a sanctuary city. I will continue to support this resolution if elected to City Council.

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

Colorado Springs is not a sanctuary city and I will support government agencies (i.e., ICE) efforts to deport illegal immigrants from our region.

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?

Taxpayer funds are supporting homeless efforts such as HOP (Homeless Outreach Program) in the Fire Department and HOT (Homeless Outreach Team) in Colorado Springs Police Department.

While the number of homeless people is increasing, to include homeless camps, we need to re-examine how homelessness is addressed in our city. Too often, we count on and expect

our undermanned Police Department to eradicate homelessness through enforcement. We have witnessed this does not have the desired effect we wish to achieve…homeless citizens just move to another location in the city. I would support a City-Wide Task-Force Effort consisting of multiple agencies that can explore various solutions to address homelessness by examining successful programs from around the globe (i.e. London's Buses4Homeless Program) that Colorado Springs may be able to take tips from.

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?

No, taxpayer funds should not be used to address this issue. Our fluctuating economy and inflation have driven the high costs in our housing market. We all understand this, but how do we combat this issue? First, let's understand affordable housing is a market driven issue and we need to allow the free market to operate and answer the supply and demand of affordable housing with the least amount of government interference, along with offering tax incentives. In addition, various Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs are designed to help low-income households locate affordable housing and pay for rent.

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?

These mechanisms are in-place as a method of deterrence and in required situations can prove to be a valuable tool capturing criminal or vehicle accident activity. We need to ensure there are cyber security protections in place to ensure these mechanisms are utilized for appropriate public safety reasons and not used to invade individual privacy.

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

In District 6, I am the only candidate with robust volunteer leadership activity across multiple city boards and commissions providing me critical insight into the interworking of our city government. In addition, as the only candidate with military experience, I understand the needs of military families and support needed by our five surrounding military installations and veteran communities. As a small business owner, I understand the complexities of managing budgets and employees, while contributing to our city's economy. I am the most capable and ready candidate to hit the ground running on day one on your behalf.