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District 3

Candidate Forum 9/25/25

1. Given that 85% of Littleton's revenue comes from sales tax, which funds essential services like police, fire, and infrastructure, how will you prioritize the Littleton Business Chamber's efforts to sustain and grow local businesses over the agendas of special interest groups, ensuring the city's economic foundation remains strong?

Our business community is the engine and the lifeblood of Littleton. Without the services you provide and the revenue you generate, we would not have essential services and amenities we love. I will prioritize the Littleton Business Chamber's efforts by actively seeking their input on all relevant city decisions. I will work to ensure open lines of communication, and a commitment to building relationships with business leaders to be sure their voices are heard. My focus will be on creating a business-friendly environment through streamlined regulations, targeted economic development initiatives, and support for workforce development. It is important to both support the sustainability of existing businesses, and foster an environment to attract and retain new businesses. I will carefully consider all perspectives, but my decisions will be guided by what best strengthens Littleton's overall economic foundation and benefits the entire community, not the agendas of specific groups. A strong business community benefits *all* residents.

2. Please describe your business experience, including areas of expertise, notable achievements, and the impact you or your teams have had in your specific industry/area/field?

While my career hasn't been in traditional business, I bring extensive experience building and leading successful organizations – these skills are transferable to supporting Littleton's business community. As Executive Director of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, I wasn't just managing a non-profit; I was running a complex organization with a multi-million dollar budget, overseeing strategic growth, and advocating for policies that fostered economic opportunity and community well-being.

Five years ago I founded the Institute for Religion, Politics & Culture at Iliff School of Theology. Launching this institute required significant entrepreneurial skills, from developing a viable business plan and securing funding to strategic planning and effective financial management. I understand the challenges of building something from the ground up.

These experiences have equipped me with the leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities crucial for supporting Littleton businesses. I know how to manage budgets effectively, write grants, develop strategic plans, and bring diverse

stakeholders together to achieve common goals – all essential for fostering a thriving business environment in Littleton.

3. How will you ensure that local business owners have a voice in decisions that directly impact them?

I will ensure local business owners have a strong voice in decisions directly impacting them through multiple avenues for input. Beyond regular meetings with the Littleton Business Chamber, I will establish my own circle of Business Advisors composed of diverse business owners, to provide consistent, direct feedback on proposed city policies. I will prioritize fostering relationships with business owners so they know when there are opportunities to serve on city commissions, boards, and stakeholder groups.

I also commit to hosting quarterly community meetings specifically focused on business issues, providing a public forum for concerns and ideas. Prioritizing open communication and transparency is crucial; businesses need to be informed about upcoming decisions well in advance, with ample opportunity to provide their input. I pledge to make information readily accessible and respond promptly to inquiries, fostering a collaborative environment where business voices are truly heard and valued.

4. How would you work with local businesses to foster environmentally sustainable practices in the City?

I'm committed to working with local businesses to foster environmentally sustainable practices, recognizing that "green" initiatives can boost the bottom line. I'll champion incentives for adopting green technologies and offer workshops and resources on sustainable practices, building on the work of our Sustainability Business Coordinator, a position shared with Englewood.

We will actively seek opportunities to utilize state grants supporting environmentally sustainable business practices, helping offset the costs of implementation. I also support a conversation about moving to a "one hauler" system for waste management, which can streamline processes, increase recycling rates, and reduce truck traffic. Ultimately, my goal is to create a community where sustainability is not just a value but a competitive advantage for Littleton businesses.

5. What programs, if any, do you support that inspire businesses to contribute to community development or local charitable efforts?

My focus will be on furthering meaningful relationships between businesses and non-profit charitable organizations. This is about more than feeling good; it's about fostering a shared commitment to a thriving community where everyone benefits. By aligning business interests with community needs, we create a stronger, more resilient Littleton. As my work has been focused in the non-profit realm, I am intimately familiar

with the importance of support from the business community. My charitable work has been focused on addressing homelessness, hunger, immigrant support, and youth. I was grateful to participate with Longer Tables Littleton, and will continue the effort in the future. Additionally, I support Doctor's Care, North Littleton Promise, the Littleton Public Schools Foundation, and the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center. I support programs incentivizing businesses to contribute to community development and local charitable efforts through publicly recognizing businesses that give back.

6. What do you feel is the best use for currently zoned commercial and industrial areas that are vacant or underutilized that will benefit both the local business and residential communities?

Being new to the Council, I have been gaining a deeper understanding of the Envision Littleton 20 year plan including the Unified Land Use Code. I understand that this plan was developed in 2018 and continues to be refined to meet the needs of our community. I see this plan, developed with input from the community and business leaders, as a framework to support decisions related to determining the best use for commercial and industrial areas.

Ultimately, the best use for these areas depends on a thorough assessment of community needs, our long term plan, alignment with Littleton character and values, and market demand. I would prioritize uses that create jobs, provide needed services for residents, generate tax revenue, and align with Littleton values. Any redevelopment should be carefully planned to minimize impacts on surrounding neighborhoods and enhance the overall quality of life in Littleton.

7. On August 18, 2025, the South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) District Board of Directors approved a ballot measure asking for a 3-mil property tax increase on the November 4, 2025, election.

I support ensuring SMFR has adequate resources to provide essential services. I trust the argument by South Metro Fire that they are among the lowest property tax recipients in Colorado, and that they were impacted by the 2024 state property tax reduction bill. I understand that operating expenses have gone up, and they are receiving increases in the number of calls. I understand the need, and believe this is a vital investment to protect the safety of our community.

At the same time, I am deeply concerned about the rising property tax rates for both commercial and residential properties. The city needs to explore options for diversifying its revenue streams to reduce reliance on property taxes. We also need to carefully review city spending to identify opportunities for efficiency and cost savings. I would recommend business owners actively engage with the SMFR board and attend public

meetings to express their concerns, and the City Council should advocate on behalf of its business community to ensure their voices are heard.

8. Ballot Question 3a will insert language into our City Charter restricting all residential uses to “January 1, 2025”. How do you see that impacting our businesses and our city’s reputation as a place that welcomes investment and growth?

I believe Ballot Question 3a is the wrong path for several reasons. First, it is bad policy to put land issues in the City Charter, rather than in the land use code. Second, the amendment is highly confusing and contradictory, and will no doubt lead to expensive lawsuits. Finally, I am concerned that the charter amendment will make it highly cumbersome and expensive for us to address real present and future needs in our community. Ballot Question 3a could have a negative impact on our businesses by restricting housing options for employees and potentially stifling economic growth. It sends the wrong message about Littleton being open to investment and new ideas. Limiting housing options can make it harder for businesses to attract and retain employees, and it can also discourage new businesses from locating in Littleton. I oppose this measure because it would create unnecessary barriers to addressing our housing needs and could harm our city's long-term economic prospects.

9. In what ways have you been involved with Littleton’s civic issues, and what experience do you have with the community’s decision-making process?

Since moving to Littleton in 2012, I've been deeply involved in civic issues, driven by a desire to broaden community participation in leadership. My focus has been on grassroots engagement: organizing block parties, supporting neighbors, coordinating monthly lunch-making for those in need, leading youth volunteering at senior facilities, and collecting resources for refugees.

Beyond neighborhood initiatives, I actively participate in city governance by attending council meetings, contributing to public hearings, and engaging with city staff and officials on key issues like housing and homelessness. For ten years, I supported my husband in his role as the board chair of South Metro Housing Options, attending City Board and Commission events. In 2023, I facilitated a community meeting with diverse stakeholders, including business owners, service providers, city staff, and neighbors, to address rising homelessness, seeking collaborative solutions. I'm committed to ensuring every resident has a voice in shaping Littleton's future, as community engagement is vital for effective governance.

10. Political organizations have made waves in this election cycle the likes of which we haven’t seen.

I am running for City Council because I believe a different way of politics is possible. We have enough division in our country— we do not need it in our neighborhoods. Over the past 4 months, I have knocked on hundreds of doors throughout District 3. People share a love for Littleton, concerns about street safety, a desire for thoughtful, trustworthy leadership, better communication, and forward-thinking problem solvers.

These are the folks I report to. I'm endorsed by organizations who see my values, and want to see that in our Littleton City Council. I am endorsed not because I agree with them, but because they agree with me. I don't report to people who endorse me, I report to my neighbors in District 3. I will make decisions based on what I believe is best for Littleton, not based on the dictates of any political organization. While I value input from a variety of sources, I'll always prioritize the needs and interests of the entire community.

11. What is your stance on converting currently zoned single-family neighborhoods to accommodate duplexes, triplexes and multiplexes?

I live in a neighborhood that is all single family homes, or so it appears. At the same time, I know many people need to use their home in different ways to meet their needs for their family. Some of us have intergenerational homes. Some rent a floor, or a room to help make ends meet. I hope Littleton is a place where people from different walks of life and different ages and stages can call home. I hope the people who work here can live here- our teachers, grocery clerks, police, and shop owners. I hope it is a place where I can downsize when the time comes and stay close to the people I love, and where my kids can one day live close by.

I oppose rigid one size fits all zoning and believe changes should be carefully considered, balancing community needs, property rights, and freedom. I understand how personal and important it is to have a say in our neighborhoods. I'm open to targeted solutions like ADUs or infill development in suitable areas, and I believe we can work together to increase housing options while preserving Littleton's unique character and scale.

12. From your perspective, -which- Littleton streets need most upgrades to improve accessibility and mobility (e.g., bike lanes, ADA-compliant sidewalks), and what criteria would guide your priorities?

In District 3, we have a lot going on! We have changes along the Mineral corridor, along Countyline Road, and a new Broadway underpass for the Lee Gulch. Each of these projects is important for our future. I am most concerned about ensuring there is clear communication on what is happening and when- especially with business owners and schools who are greatly impacted.

The street I am most concerned with is the Elati corridor. I have ridden my bike up and down Elati over the past four months as I meet with neighbors. I have navigated

potholes, confusing markers, ballisters, traffic circles, and other obstacles. I have heard a whole lot of frustration. I also participated in the walk with Public Works and City Staff as they work to fix this street and do the best they can with honestly- a terrible design from more than 50 years ago. Looking forward, my priorities will be guided by data on traffic patterns, accident rates, and community feedback. I will prioritize projects that connect neighborhoods, improve access to public transportation, keep people safe, and support local businesses.

13. In your view, what existing strengths does the City of Littleton have, and what are the three most significant challenges it faces?

Most every person I have spoken to in District 3 loves living in Littleton. The things I hear that make Littleton special are: 1) Our landscapes, trails, parks, and proximity amenities and jobs. 2) Our Main Street, history, small businesses, and traditions. Finally, 3) The people. People in Littleton make an effort to know their neighbors and support each other.

The biggest challenges are 1) Design issues put in place decades ago that are difficult to navigate. In District 3 we have two elementary schools, two middle schools, and a high school. Each school is buried in the neighborhood—making access complicated, traffic inevitable, and safety a continual concern. 2) We have an aging infrastructure which has been neglected for too long. The city has been hard at work to find funds to upgrade infrastructure, and this will continue to be an expensive and inconvenient process. Finally, 3) Communication has been a challenge. We must continue to better meet people where they are and develop effective two-way communication channels.

14. How can we be more civil with each other, so Littleton feels more connected and united?

This has been the heart of my work for decades, and something I am committed to furthering in Littleton. Differences and debate are a healthy part of community life, but I think we must commit to keeping debates about issues and values and respect the basic dignity of one another. I will actively seek out opportunities to engage in respectful dialogue with people who have different viewpoints. I will also work to create forums where neighbors can come together to discuss pressing issues in a civil and constructive manner. By listening to each other and finding common ground, we can build a stronger and more united Littleton.

I respect that my opponent, Curt, has long been active in Littleton serving on the planning commission. I think we both love Littleton, value public service, and want the best for Littleton.