



## **Mayoral & City Council 2023 Election Questionnaire**

Dear Candidate,

We are the Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment and seek to learn your ideas specific to our mission of educating the public & policy makers of the harms of Oil & Gas (O&G) development. We ask that you please provide your responses by October 5th, so that we may share them with our member list and other interested voters. We may or may not choose to endorse a candidate. Thank you for taking the time to address these important public health & safety issues. **(If you feel a simple yes or no response is insufficient to answer any question, we encourage you to add your comments and ideas.)**

**ADAMS: I tend to write long answers (see my comprehensive policy statements on my website!), so I will try to be as brief as possible for your convenience. Also everything I write I will bold.**

SB19-181 substantially revised Colorado's law governing (O&G) development establishing a clear priority of protecting public health, safety, the environment and wildlife resources. SB19-181 also enabled significant local government authority for regulating O&G development with a number of local governments having undertaken & established local regulations that increase protections of public health, safety, the environment and wildlife resources beyond what the State of Colorado feels is protective enough.

1. The City of Fort Collins is currently undergoing a rewrite of its O&G regulations with the next segment to be discussed & written being the operational standards. Operational standards include important regulations encompassing leak detection & repair (LDAR), air quality monitoring, financial assurance, water usage and Fort Collins & Larimer County's joint O&G inspection program.
  - a. What ideas do you have for these operational standards that would be an improvement and more protective of public health & safety?
    - i. **One thing that concerns me with O&G locally is water use, so having up front documentation about water use and recycling is important.**
    - ii. **I think there should be a non-waiverable minimum distance between O&G and existing buildings. From what I understand, the current rule is 2000 feet, but that cutoff is somewhat arbitrary and I have seen research suggesting it should be more. I believe I read California set theirs to around 3,000 feet, and I would be open to that.**

- iii. **IF it is not already required, I think sufficient insurance should be required of new developments.**
  - iv. **I have not read every line of existing regulations, so if I listed something already in place please disregard it. Overall, I am very open to stricter regulation for local development on O&G.**
- b. Do you support having a collaborative City and Larimer County inspection and enforcement team that conducts regular inspection and monitoring of O&G facilities, with the ability to fine and penalize non-compliant O&G operators for violations at their facilities?
- i. **Yes. I would support this.**
  - ii. Should local taxpayers or O&G operators pay for these inspections?
    - 1. **This year, taxpayers were mulcted with new property assessments. This fall, Council is trying to further mulct taxpayers through a mill levy and sales tax increase. No, taxpayers should not pay for these inspections.**
- c. Full cost bonding requires O&G operators to post financial assurance equal to the costs of plugging, abandoning and reclaiming the O&G site once activities have been completed. Do you support full cost bonding requirements for all new O&G facilities?
- i. **Yes, I would especially since long-term it is likely that the O&G industry will be supplanted with other industries so the number of orphaned wells will likely increase over time.**
- d. Do you support monitoring and measuring actual water usage by O&G facilities, rather than relying on estimates provided by operators?
- i. **Yes.**
  - ii. Do you support water provisions in the City's regulations so that O&G operators are strongly encouraged or required to recycle & reuse their produced water?
    - 1. **Yes**
2. The American Lung Association consistently gives Fort Collins an F-grade regarding air quality with the most recent 2023 report (link below) listing us as having the 15th worst air quality of over 200 American cities. Fort Collins has been moving down the most polluted list with more & more dangerous air quality. NCAR's FRAPPÉ study found conclusively that O&G emissions are the major driver of unhealthy air quality in the northern Front Range area.  
<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities>
- a. Do you support 24/7 air quality monitoring and real-time data reporting at O&G sites and facilities within the City's jurisdiction including the growth management area, to be paid for by the O&G operator?
    - i. **Yes. I am asthmatic so improving air quality is important to me.**
  - b. Do you support 24/7 air quality monitoring and real-time data reporting including signature O&G pollutants for addressing regional air pollution affecting Fort Collins?
    - i. **Yes.**
  - c. What other idea(s) do you have to address Fort Collins's dangerous air quality?



- b. Why & what difference(s) has it/they made?
  - i. **Other than keeping my utility bills lower, it is a small way to make my community better for everyone. Reduced per capita water and electric use, especially since population are slated to grow, is necessary for Fort Collins to achieve its developmental, environmental, and livability goals.**
- 6. Do you support Fort Collins in collaboration with other Front Range communities taking legal action against polluters responsible for emissions that harm Fort Collins & other Front Range communities' air quality and endanger public health & safety?
  - a. **When sufficient evidence suggests this is a worthy course of action, I believe this can be a useful tool to keep our air clean and our environment greener. Ensuring other communities are working together with us to achieve the same goal is the only way we can solve the problem since it is a regional and statewide issue as well.**

Respectfully,

The Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment