



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.)**

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?

The residents of Fort Collins suffer with some of the worst air quality in our nation. It is long past time for the elected representatives in Fort Collins and Larimer County to pass legislation that will improve both our air quality and the quality of life for residents. I will work to install air monitoring stations that are high functioning and able to detect a number of pollutants as well as the direction these pollutants are coming from. Water usage in oil and gas extraction must be accounted for and monitored so that we understand clearly how much of this precious natural resource is being used and so that we have the opportunity do everything we can to protect our underwater ground sources.

I firmly believe that scientific-based solutions must be the standard when creating any O&G operational requirements (i.e., health and other impacts in proximity to oil & gas facilities). I support the recommendations made by The Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, and the Environment; the Sierra Club - Poudre Canyon Group; 350 Colorado; and the Fort Collins Sustainability Group (Joint Environmental Group) regarding Oil and Gas (O&G) regulations in their correspondence to city council dated December 17, 2022 and February 23, 2023.

- 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?

Yes. I support a collaboration between the City and the County that would have the authority to fine and penalize non-compliant operators for violations at their facilities. I also support making sure that these inspection teams are resourced with the best technologies and equipment to help them conduct inspections. Collaboration between the City of Fort Collins and Larimer County will help ensure that oil and gas facilities are inspected regularly and that violations are being addressed promptly and appropriately.

- i. Should local taxpayers or O&G operators pay for these inspections?

Oil and gas operators.

- 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?

Yes

- d. Do you support monitoring and measuring actual water usage by O&G facilities, rather than relying on estimates provided by operators?

Yes

- i. 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?

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?

Yes, and Yes. Facilities should pay for their own monitoring of oil and gas sites and facilities. (It is a fairness issue.)

- 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?

Yes. I am 100% behind 'real time/continuous' air quality monitoring. We can better target air quality improvement resources by having more precise data. Yes to regional monitoring and reporting. The cost should be shared by various entities including city, county, state and federal governments who could recover some of the costs by implementing an air quality monitoring fee system. The legalities and complexities for charging only oil and gas companies may impede implementation of this critical policy.

I support a comprehensive, real time and networked air quality monitoring system (i.e., Boulder Air (BA) technology) beyond the canister type of site-based sensors that can tell of an issue only after it has already happened. Fort Collins and Larimer County are heavily impacted by the emissions from over 20,000 wells in Weld County that have left the Front Range with some of the worst air quality in the nation.

- c. What other idea(s) do you have to address Fort Collins's dangerous air quality?

Invest more in energy sources such as solar and wind power and in energy efficiency measures like the weatherization of existing buildings. Fort Collins can promote electric vehicles more, invest in charging stations, and work to expand our net zero emissions transportation fleet. We can do simple things like planting trees and other vegetation to help filter out air pollution, improving our air quality. Education about air quality is important, letting residents know about the different ways they can reduce their contributions to our dirty air. We should increase the incentives to residents and commercial entities to move from gasoline-powered lawn equipment to battery powered. The creation of a regional working group to reduce air pollutants and air pollution in Northern Colorado should be a high priority for every elected official in this region.

3. Have you received or will you accept campaign contributions from companies whose primary business is the development of fossil fuels?

No to received. No to accept. Yes, to refuse.

4. What other idea(s) do you have that could improve environmental protections and sustainability in Fort Collins?

The City of Fort Collins has developed extensive plans that deal with sustainability and climate change. We need to more quickly implement the solutions we have already identified, and that are within reach, with more urgency than we have shown in the last few years. We must protect our natural environment, continuing to purchase natural areas and open spaces, not only for human enjoyment, but to protect habitats, water buffers, and wildlife. We must partner with the other 3 community owners of the Platte River Power Authority and provide the leadership it is lacking and help it to arrive at nearly net zero emissions sooner than later. Fort Collins must provide the leadership that allows for solar generation in more individual homes, with a greater ability to return excess solar power back to the grid.

- a. How would these lead to improvement(s) in public health, safety, and the lives of Fort Collins residents?

Each of these ideas and actions has as its focus the improvement of the health and the quality of life for residents in Fort Collins. The first charge for an elected official is to protect the health and safety of their constituents. Fort Collins is sorely lacking in both efforts and focus at reducing pollutants and pollution from the lives of its residents. In fact, our air quality has only gotten worse through the years, and legislation to prevent bad air quality from getting even worse in the coming years has been missing from the legislative efforts of our City Council. Water is the single most important resource we have. We must make sure that the monetary value of water is not diminished, which will be the quickest way to misallocate it, stressing our water resources and supplies. Fort Collins, Estes Park, Loveland, and Longmont must take advantage of being the owners of their electrical supply and move now to make Platte River Power Authority a nearly net zero emissions energy producer.

5. What stewardship, environmental or sustainability practices have you implemented in your life that you feel others should consider enacting?

While on the Fort Collins City Council from 2001 to 2005, I strongly supported and advocated for clean energy programs (renewable energy), sustainable growth, mass transit, rivers and water shed protection, natural areas and open space protection, and species and habit protection.

In 2003, we (City Council) adopted the Electric Energy Supply Policy with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through increased reliance on non-fossil fuel options such as wind and solar power, making buildings more efficient, and programs to educate the public on the benefits of clean energy and home energy efficiency.

In 2004, we (City Council) adopted the Action Plan for Sustainability that recommended policy, goals, and targets for advancing sustainability within City operations with a unified, cross-departmental approach.

In 2004, we (City Council) adopted City Plan that provided the strategic vision and sustainable growth plans of the city. Key principles and policies of the Natural Areas Policy Plan and Air Quality Plan were developed in conjunction with the City Plan update process to ensure consistency among the plans.

I am currently a member of the Fort Collins Sustainability Action Group, Sierra Club Poudre Canyon Group, Save the Poudre, and the Climate Reality Group of Northern Colorado. I, along with the aforementioned groups, have lobbied the Fort Collins City Council in support of the large emitter tax, strong oil and gas regulations, undertaking meaningful & useful AQ monitoring, meaningful 1041 powers, increase in transit and climate program funding, and reduction of dependence on fossil fuels.

In my personal life, we are a one-car family for 3 driving household members. We recycle, compost, and most importantly reduce our consumption and vehicles miles traveled.

- a. Why & what difference(s) has it/they made?

Great question. At the time I believed all these actions would have a cumulative impact on the progress towards fighting the negative impacts of climate change. I do believe they have made a difference, and some progress has been achieved (programs & goals identified, more habitat protected, improved building efficiency, etc.), but so much more is needed, and the sense of urgency and action is more dire. Fort Collins once led in climate action, but it no longer holds that leadership status. We can do better.

In a time when negative climate effects are becoming more common at a higher societal cost, we must not stop looking for ways to lower our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. I believe that Council missed an opportunity by not putting the large emitter tax on the ballot this November (my opponent was not a supporter of putting this on the ballot). Large emitters are responsible for 12% of Fort Collins GHG emissions, and they must contribute their fair share of reductions and do it in a timely manner. If Council makes climate funding a priority, then it will happen.

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?

Yes. The cost of oil and gas extraction must include systems that protect, as much as possible, the health and lives of the residents of Fort Collins. No amount of economic opportunity for

some is worth shortened and damaged lives for all. However, I would first put our energies into a robust multi-faceted compliance program. If our goals are not met, then legal action is an appropriate option.

I was disappointed that Fort Collins did not join Boulder County Board of Commissioners, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, and National Parks Conservation Association in its lawsuit against Weld County to keep northern Weld County in the 'nonattainment area' for ground level ozone. This decision means that polluters in northern Weld County will continue to be held to the higher air quality standards required in the nonattainment area.

Respectfully,

The Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment