



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?

We need to take a regional approach to addressing oil and gas regulations. Working together with neighboring municipalities, counties, and the state is essential to making progress towards protecting public health and safety. At the local level we can adopt operational standards to have more control and faster response to failed inspections, leaks, etc.

- 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. Should local taxpayers or O&G operators pay for these inspections? ***The City and County should work with the State to cover the cost of the 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? **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, operators should pay for the monitoring and reporting about their facilities.***
 - 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 support robust air quality monitoring. A comprehensive program including transparency and real-time reporting is a good approach.***
 - c. What other idea(s) do you have to address Fort Collins's dangerous air quality? ***We need to take a regional approach to addressing air quality because Fort Collins cannot improve the region's air quality alone. Through facility improvements, reliable monitoring, real time, reporting, effective enforcement, and rapid response we can make progress towards improving our regional air quality.***
3. Have you received or will you accept campaign contributions from companies whose primary business is the development of fossil fuels?
- I will not knowingly take contributions from donors advocating for O&G development nor will I accept contributions from the industry and I would be willing to return such donations.***
4. What other idea(s) do you have that could improve environmental protections and sustainability in Fort Collins? ***Fort Collins needs to take steps towards home electrification. With homes being one of the largest carbon emitters we need to make electrification the easy choice, while also supporting energy conservation. Through making solar, heat pumps, and better insulation***

more accessible for all residents we can make progress on reducing emissions from our current housing stock. Electrification for new developments should be the easy choice so we can move away from gas which is harmful for public and environmental health.

- a. How would these lead to improvement(s) in public health, safety, and the lives of Fort Collins residents? Reducing consumption through energy efficiency measures and conservation is a way to reduce environmental impacts, reduce costs and improve public health. ***Electrification of homes is better for indoor air quality and reduces carbon emissions.***
5. What stewardship, environmental or sustainability practices have you implemented in your life that you feel others should consider enacting? ***Like many Fort Collins residents I prioritize using alternative transportation (mainly biking), I am conscious of the household waste I produce and recycle/reuse items when possible, and I compost. Making big environmental moves is cost prohibitive for many residents. We need to make taking pro environmental steps such as buying an electric car, electric bicycle, installing new windows, solar, home insulation more accessible to residents of all income levels.***
 - a. Why & what difference(s) has it/they made? ***When everyone contributes what they can to protect our environment it is the right step for our future.***
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, if polluters are causing undue harm by operating outside regulatory requirements legal action may be appropriate.***

Respectfully,

The Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment

