



Below are a list of questions and answers that the candidates for Littleton City Council were asked by the Chamber to complete and send to the Chamber for the use at the Candidate Forum on Friday, October 18th. The candidates who returned their answers were invited to attend the forum. Only questions 1, 2, and 5 were asked of the candidates during the forum.

1. What response and/or solutions will you have as a member of City Council regarding the increased homeless population in Littleton?

Iftin Abshir: While there are a number of current studies aimed at tracking and identifying the number of people experiencing homelessness in Littleton, it only takes one trip to the Bemis Library on a cold day to see there is a problem- and it will only get worse unless we take proactive steps to address the underlying causes of homelessness. Other communities have found that the best approach is with grassroots, community efforts as opposed to national programs or large non-profits. Addressing this concern will require widespread community buy-in for funding and services, but in the long run the ethically AND financially responsible approach is to address the underlying root causes before we end up spending more money on expensive police interventions and hospitalizations. What we need are temporary shelters, called Bridge Homes, which in addition to providing housing also provide on-site mental health counseling, substance abuse programs, life skills classes, and housing navigation help in order to assist these individuals find a PATH back from homelessness.

Kathleen Eckel: Homelessness in our country and in Littleton is a complex issue with complex solutions. Per an article published in the Englewood Herald on September 30, 2019, the McKinney-Vento Act, which tasks school districts with gathering data about homelessness from students and their families, counted homeless people in the area. Littleton had a total of 152 homeless people in the 2016-17 school year.

In 2018, Littleton, together with Sheridan and Englewood established a Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy group to address homelessness in our communities. This year the University of Denver's Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness began an in-depth study to look at homelessness in our communities of Littleton, Sheridan and Englewood. The study is 8 months in length. Once the results of the study have been shared, we will have a better roadmap to implement solutions.

Pam Grove: Littleton is part of two studies on homelessness now being conducted by the DU Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness—one for families with children and one for individuals. Once those studies are completed, Littleton, Englewood and Sheridan will have data for the first time to better guide future policies. We can then address homelessness by leveraging already-existing service providers to help with housing, employment opportunities, mental illness and drug addiction. The Tri-cities Homelessness Policy Commission believes that we might actually decrease what we are spending on homelessness by identifying current costs and needs and being proactive rather than reactive and dealing with homelessness by using very expensive police interventions and hospitalizations.

Scott Melin: I took Law and Policy of Homelessness at Columbia Law School and participated in the Manhattan homeless count. I recognize Littleton's increased unhoused population, and I also understand the many reasons homelessness is an especially difficult issue.

Homelessness is not one thing, and often is not what we expect. There is child homelessness; people, especially women, fleeing abuse; addiction; mental health issues; the working poor sleeping in their cars and on friends' couches; etc.

Littleton cannot meaningfully address homelessness, and cannot ensure its resources are spent efficiently, until we understand who Littleton's unhoused are. I support City Council's recent decision to enter an intergovernmental agreement with Sheridan and Englewood to study local homelessness. When we have the study results in 2020, we can consider creative, compassionate, and cost-effective options.

Jessica Mendes Ford: There's a perception that Littleton's homeless population has increased, but the reality is that we don't know. We have limited data on homelessness in Littleton. That's why the ongoing studies by the DU Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness are so important. The data we receive about homeless individuals and homeless families with children will empower City Council to make informed decisions about how to address homelessness moving forward.

The current reactive approach relies too heavily on costly police interventions and hospitalizations which don't actually address the underlying needs of our homeless neighbors. We need proactive solutions to help homeless residents. In partnership with existing service providers and organizations, the city can decrease spending on homelessness while having a greater impact on the lives of Littleton's homeless families and individuals.

Kellie Milliman: I support the City Council's decision to partner with Englewood and Sheridan on the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Commission. The study they are undertaking with the Burnes Institute at DU is the right first step. The causes of homelessness, including the lack of affordable housing, are extremely complicated. This new commission will be collecting data that will inform policies to address this challenging issue. We are in desperate need of good data and information. If elected, I would like to be an active participant with this effort.

Kyle Schlachter: I don't have a perfect solution to the homelessness many people are experiencing in the Denver Metro area. I wish I did and I wish others did. The most important thing to remember is that those experiencing homelessness are still people who deserve the same rights and respect as people with homes. While there are many issues that can lead to homelessness, two things within our realm that city council members ought to consider that are within our realm are ensuring opportunities for housing that are affordable and promoting options for earning a fair and livable wage. City Council recently agreed to fund a study along with Englewood, Sheridan and Arapahoe County. DU will conduct in-depth research to help us gain an insight into the actual causes and challenges of homelessness in our area. In addition to better understanding the issue, we must work with community non-profit and faith-based groups to assist those who need it. A comprehensive and coordinated effort such as this is the only way to appropriately support the people who need our help the most.

Bill Schwanitz: I've talked to a significant number of homeless folks around the Littleton downtown light rail station over the past several months - some working parents some individuals. It is clear that there are a wide variety of causes for their homelessness: inability to find a living-wage job, mental issues, drug issues. Interestingly, some seem to have made a conscious choice to simply live outside.

Homelessness is a metro-wide issue and it cannot and should not be solved by a single city on its own.

There are numerous reports, both from commissions within and outside the Denver metro area, that conclude: knowing the specific causes of homelessness in your area can focus our response and potentially DECREASE our spending. Luckily, there are two studies currently in-flight that, for the first time, will give us data on Littleton's homeless population. With this data, we can then begin to investigate partnering with already-existing service providers in the metro area to address the specific needs of our homeless population.

Jerry Valdes: There is no one response or solution to end homelessness. I worked for the Colorado Coalition For the Homeless (CCH) for 12 years. CCH has hundreds of dedicated people working to help homeless and near homeless families and individuals 24-7, 365 days a year.

Littleton cannot solve homeless problem alone. Denver spent \$60 million in their "10-year-to-end homelessness" program. Sadly, homelessness did not end, but it did increase.

Mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction is a huge issue that can lead to homelessness. Research shows that 70 percent of people experiencing homelessness have a mental illness. 60 percent are struggling with long term substance abuse.

Littleton must partner with organizations like CCH to find housing, health care and supportive services for the homeless in Littleton.

2. As cities like Littleton deal with shortfalls in the budget would you favor tax increases to deal with such a shortfall? If so, specifically, what type of tax increases would you look to implement. If not, how would you address any budget shortfalls?

Iftin Abshir: As a council member, in control of the budget, I would insist on a balanced and realistic budget so that there would be no shortfalls. One of the ways the city is currently making sure the budget is balanced and the city's needs are being met is through the process of Priority Based Budgeting. I support the principles of Priority Based Budgeting, which in times of revenue decline, identifies the services that offer the highest value to the community and continue to provide funding for them. This process allows the city to match available resources with community values because priority-based budgeting starts with the revenue available as the basis for decision-making and then focuses on the full costs of programs. As for possible tax increases, they would need to be for specific projects. The voters should not have to approve tax increases just to cover irresponsible shortfalls. We could increase the sales tax, or we could institute a lodging tax but, either way, we would need voter buy-in and approval.

Kathleen Eckel: The word "taxes" is perhaps one of the most vilified words in our vocabulary today. The philosophy of taxes is that each person in a society pays a little to put in a fund that is used to improve their town, county, state and federal government. "Taxes" are used to repair streets, sidewalks, stop lights, stop signs and provide police services as well as other everyday services that we count on without really thinking where they come from. I'm running on a platform of "fiscal responsibility." I have a home and a work budget that I run on and sometimes I have to make tough decisions. I want the ability to look at all options for our city in a budget shortfall. Are there grants that we can apply for? Can we join forces with the county, state and federal governments for repairs and improvements? If an increase in taxes is projected, then, according to our State Constitution, the decision to increase taxes will go to the voters as a ballot issue. It will be part of my job as a council member to educate my constituents on what the increase in taxes would be used for.

Pam Grove: As a council member, I would insist on a balanced budget. The city should continue with priority-based budgeting to give funding priority to the most important projects. According to Mark Relph, Littleton City Manager, the current budget may not cover needed maintenance for city owned buildings and the vehicle fleet. Taxes on sales or hotels, like other cities have, may be put to a vote in the future if shortfalls are not covered.

There may be alternatives to tax increases including partnering with businesses, submitting grants for funding or a suggestion program to request ideas to save money, increase efficiencies and decrease any wasteful expenditures to make sure limited funds are used wisely.

Scott Melin: Going forward Littleton faces budget shortfalls, but this is solvable, as we also have significant economic development opportunities, like enhancing the Santa Fe River Corridor.

Littleton heavily relies on sales tax, but tax increases are hopefully unnecessary for increasing revenues. A better approach is increasing tax base. Littleton has several areas of underperforming retail. Columbine Square, for example, once created revenue but has been an ugly ruin for years. Through creativity and diligence, we can revitalize or rethink these areas to attract profitable new vendors, and in turn increase tax base.

I do favor a lodging tax on local hotel stays. This is standard in the hospitality industry, taxes out-of-towners – not Littleton citizens – and is the low-hanging fruit and an obvious choice for increasing Littleton's income.

Jessica Mendes Ford: With responsible financial planning, Littleton shouldn't experience a budget shortfall. Furthermore, the city has state-mandated budget reserves to handle unexpected expenses or surprise situations. The burden of off setting a budget shortfall should never fall on residents. Irresponsible spending isn't a valid reason for tax increases. Any tax increases must be part of a responsible fiscal plan.

All tax increases must be voter-approved, and City Council should only propose tax increases for specific purposes. For example, a sales tax increase and a lodging tax are two ideas that I've heard when talking with residents. I'd like to look into the possibility of a climate action plan

(CAP) tax similar to Boulder's to fund green initiatives for Littleton's government operations, residents, and business owners. Ultimately, tax increases are up to the voters.

Kellie Milliman: Nobody likes taxes no matter what side of the aisle you sit on, but revenue streams for a city include taxes and fees. In addressing a budget shortfall, we must first be diligent in understanding where citizen monies are being spent. We must also look at ways where the city can be more efficient. The city is initiating priority-based budgeting which will help guide budget decisions based on priorities within the community. As we have an aging population, aging infrastructure and increasing demands on services, then taxes and fees may be necessary. I will look to engage interested members in our community, including the Chamber, on how we move forward to ensure a healthy, vibrant city.

Kyle Schlachter: This is an important issue. The revenues Littleton generates over the next 10 to 15 years are important for solving infrastructure problems. I am open to all options when it comes to creating a balanced budget that meets our residents' needs. The first thing we need to do is generate a vibrant business environment, because the vast majority of our income comes from sales tax revenue. We need to make Littleton the best place to start or relocate a business. We must also look at the programs on which we are spending taxpayer dollars and make sure they are being spent wisely and appropriately. One of the things I've pushed for as a council member is an updated study of the fees the city charges. We want to make sure Littleton's fees are predictable, equitable and appropriately calculated. That being said, Littleton has a dire situation when it comes to capital improvements - think infrastructure (roads, sidewalks) and facilities (the city owns many buildings that are in desperate need of improvement). Almost \$700 million of need are outlined in the Transportation Master Plan and that is just the transportation system. Public infrastructure and facilities tend to be high-cost investments. Some of Littleton's future transportation projects - the intersection at Mineral and Santa Fe - are enormously expensive and not feasible given our current revenues. The options at Santa Fe and Mineral are going to be driven largely by the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study along with CDOT, but will definitely require local matching funds. A PEL study looks at transportation, environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning process. One option could be a sales tax increase. I am sure the next council will have this discussion. Another option to consider would be public-private partnerships. These are a popular means of financing large public sector projects that don't require as much public funding.

Bill Schwanitz: As a fiscal conservative I track a tight family budget, have done the same as a board member of Adler Assistance Dogs and the President of the board of directors at Summit County Preschool in Frisco, and look to bring the same scrutiny to the city council. Having a balanced budget in a family, a business, or a city is, in my opinion, and absolute, inviolable requirement.

What I have found is that budget shortfalls are caused by shortsightedness. Whether that is insufficient planning, improper estimations, or not building a sufficient reserve to cover surprises. We should NEVER get ourselves in a position where we need to go to the citizens to approve a tax increase to cover our shortsightedness. However, I can envision the possibility of asking voters to approve new taxes for VERY specific capital improvement initiatives. We would need to specifically describe the purpose or project and why the city would be better because of

it. We would also need to provide solid, reliable cost estimates. Our voters should expect nothing less from their city officials.

For example, I would consider:

1. a lodging tax (which, by the way, should apply to short-term rentals) to fund a local transit project, or
2. an energy tax (similar to Boulder's CAP tax) to fund environment sustainability.

Jerry Valdes: The city does have some buildings that desperately need maintenance or replaced. With that in mind. In 2018, the city started implementing Priority-Based-Budgeting. The result may lead to funding redistribution and reduction in spending on task and programs that are redundant or not necessary. It will be about two more years before PBB is fully implemented.

With the fire department moving to SMFD, the city now has \$3-million dedicated to repair our roads.

As you know, Littleton has the lowest impact-fees in the front range. I have been a leading advocate for increasing development fees to cover the cities cost.

I am not in favor of moving forward with a tax increase, until impact-fees increase and PBB is fully implemented and an increase is clearly justified or not necessary.

3. Across the country many of the most sustainable and valuable ideas and programs aimed at protecting our earth and environment have come from individual cities. What can Littleton do to become a more environmentally friendly city and what would you support or spearhead to accomplish that?

Iftin Abshir: One key area in which the city can make a difference is Reducing Carbon Emissions. There has been much talk already of a City-wide Waste Management Program. Municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States according to the EPA. Therefore, by implementing a city-wide waste management program, with recycling and composting that comes standard, the city will see three benefits: 1) Reduced carbon dioxide emissions from limiting the number of trash trucks traveling throughout the city 2) reduce wear and tear on city streets and 3) reduce methane and other Landfill Gas emissions by composting instead of sending waste to landfills. Finally, the city can be able to reduce carbon emissions through smart traffic management plans that will help ease congestion and reduce the number of cars on the road.

Kathleen Eckel: I've been talking with my constituents about the issue of protecting our earth and environment locally. I like that neighbors and neighborhoods are coming together to develop solutions on these issues. From water conservation to xeriscaping our yards, to adding solar panels, to beekeeping and establishing home and community gardens, there are plenty of opportunities for our community to positively impact our earth and environment. At the City

level, we already have a series recycling programs, community gardens and tree planting initiatives. I would like to build upon what we already have in place. I would like to explore working in partnership with the Colorado Extension program and look at other grants to support these neighborhood efforts. Another option may be looking at the City's fleet car replacement schedule and replacing older fleet cars with electric cars.

Pam Grove: Littleton should have an integrated effort, as outlined in the new Comprehensive Plan, to protect our natural resources. We can supplement our current programs by fostering sustainable practices such as maintaining and acquiring open space, expanding recycling programs to include composting, promoting energy efficient best practices like solar and encouraging repurposing of current buildings, especially historical assets. We can even look at ideas to reduce use of plastic and straws.

Education programs can help encourage involvement and support for sustainable practices. Partnering with those developers who will apply sustainable best practices to new and redeveloped properties will help us be a "green city."

We also need to enhance the infrastructure for safe, reliable and affordable transportation so people can walk, bike and use mass transit and ride sharing services.

Scott Melin: Coming from the South Metro Land Conservancy, and as a former CSU Extension Master Gardener, I'm excited to continue Littleton's tradition of visionary environmental leadership (i.e. South Platte Park). I support:

- Opt-in curbside composting to reduce landfill and greenhouse gases while enhancing our citizens' gardens;
- Harvesting otherwise-wasted urban fruit for canners, brewers, etc. to make local products;
- Modestly increasing homeowners' allowed number of chickens;
- Encouraging Denver Water as it's considering removing lead pipes. This avoids adding phosphorus, which causes algae and kills fish in Littleton's waterways.
- More east-west trail connections and bike infrastructure;
- Partnering for budget-conscious open space purchases;
- And leaving corners of some parks un-mowed to save money, reduce herbicides, create important habitat, and give children special play areas.

Jessica Mendes Ford: Littleton's existing green initiatives are good beginning steps, but we can do more. First, the city government can strive for energy-efficient operations to benefit the environment, lower operating costs, and save taxpayer money.

Second, Littleton should encourage new development and redevelopment projects to pursue LEED and EnergyStar certification and to incorporate environmentally-friendly elements into their design plans like low-water landscaping with native plants, electronic vehicle charging stations, and recycling containers in public areas.

Third, the city should explore the possibility of improving walkability around Littleton, creating more and safer bike lanes and trails, and partnering with RTD to expand the frequency and accessibility of public transit options.

Finally, we should educate residents about how they can help, and we need to make it easy for residents to make sustainable choices.

Kellie Milliman: Collectively, Littleton's parks, bike trails and open spaces are 3 times the amount per 1,000 people as the entire state of Colorado. The Comprehensive Plan clearly reflects our citizens' values where this is concerned. However, we can always do more. One idea I would support considering would be to consolidate our garbage pick-up to one company and start a community-wide recycling program. Our citizens have incredible ideas to share but we need to be willing to think outside the box and into the future. Research on cost-efficiency of those decisions will have to be made to ensure we're meeting our citizens' needs. Littleton is a member of the Regional Air Quality Council. I am committed to supporting their recommendations for improving air quality. I look forward to pursuing these opportunities.

Kyle Schlachter: Some might say there isn't much a municipality can do because climate change is a global issue. However, climate change is really a local issue. Local governments can do a lot of things to be more sustainable and protect our environment. The two main purviews of City Council are to set policies for our transportation system and land use. Specific to transportation I would want the next council to explore expanding transit, bicycling, and pedestrian infrastructure and services. As the city's policymakers, we can guide growth to walkable and transit-accessible neighborhoods. Expanding charging infrastructure can foster increased adoption of electric vehicles for the city fleet and public alike. Building regional partnerships has been a goal of council these past two years. We should continue that by partnering with RTD on their mobility hub study. When it comes to land use issues, we should consider adopting a green building goal for municipal buildings. We could consider zoning incentives to allow additional height, floor area, or density in certain zones by meeting the City's Green Building Standard. I know density is a four-letter word in Littleton, but the alternative to density is sprawl and sprawl is neither sustainable nor healthy for our environment. The city could also adopt a City Light Energy Efficiency Program to address light pollution and energy efficiency. Finally, an organized waste collection system or even a single hauler, especially with compost options, could reduce emissions, provide relief to our streets and create a more efficient and sustainable waste management system. In order to implement many of these ideas, two specific bigger picture ideas I would like implemented are the creation of a Sustainability Committee and a Climate Action Plan for the City.

Bill Schwanitz:

1. Encourage use of mass transit:

1. We have 2 light rail stations in Littleton. Any development near the stations needs to be less auto-oriented and more transit, bicycle and pedestrian-oriented
2. Work with RTD to embrace their Rapid Transit bus proposal on Broadway.

2. Continue with and expand partnership with CDOT to improve efficiency of Santa Fe intersections. Fewer idling cars equals less pollution.
3. Consolidate trash, recycling and compost pickup:
 1. lower price
 2. less pollution
 3. less wear and tear on roads
 4. improved safety in our neighborhoods
4. Install more electric vehicle charging stations
 1. "If you build it, they will come"

Jerry Valdes: The City of Littleton has taken and continues to take environmentally friendly steps.

- Omni bus and Shopping Cart transports about 19,000 passengers a year.
- City council approved the wastes-water-sewer plant to capture gasses being released into the atmosphere and sell them to brokers who the gas to companies to repurpose the gas.
- The city has increased and continue to increase bicycle and pedestrian friendly pathways.
- 92 % of the work force in Littleton does not live in Littleton.

Council created a Transportation-Mobility-Board to focus on current-future transportation issues including traffic management, bicycle and pedestrian systems.

I will work with the city to procure and install high-efficiency and quality component solar panels.

I will work with the city to ensure that the city implements sustainability tools wherever and whenever possible.

4. As a candidate what would be the number one issue you want to see addressed in the first year of your time on council?

Iftin Abshir: As council members we are responsible to the citizens and in the recent Envision Littleton citizen survey, traffic congestion came up as the number one concern. The city is well on its way to address major intersection problems such as Mineral and Santa Fe and a lot has already been done with the plans for improvements in the next 5 -10 years. The current council has done the groundwork with the Comprehensive Plan and the Traffic Management Plan and I would want to see this next council do the hard work of fleshing out and implementing those plans. They are necessity works in progress and I, for one, am excited to tackle these important topics that will serve to improve the lives of both current and future citizens.

Kathleen Eckel: My number one issue is to continue the work that has been done with the Comprehensive Plan. The next City Council will be responsible for developing a transportation plan and new zoning codes.

Pam Grove: I want to do everything I can to preserve the character and charm of our neighborhoods. Littleton needs to attract developers that will create buildings to maintain neighborhood character, particularly with respect to design, scale and density, instead of just maximizing their own profits. Redevelopment and infill should reflect the look of an area, especially in our historic downtown and neighborhoods.

To protect our neighborhoods, we need to have clear and concise zoning so everyone knows what is expected. With appropriate zoning, we can have development that fits our city. We should partner with developers who will listen to what the community wants and will build accordingly.

Scott Melin: I've talked with hundreds of people over the past several months, and growth and development are the major concerns. My top priority is proactively managing growth to reflect the values our community clearly stated through Envision Littleton. I'll work tirelessly to ensure that community character, especially historic character and the preservation and enhancement of our open spaces, parks, and trails, as well as Littleton's future economic health, are front and center in implementing Envision Littleton. Once the

Envision Littleton plan is adopted we can get to the really tough business of updating zoning codes so that going forward we ensure our built environment embodies Littleton's ideals. This once-in-a-generation opportunity requires conscientiousness and robust community input.

Jessica Mendes Ford: Choosing one issue to focus on in my first year on council is difficult because we don't live single-issue lives. That said, the top concern that residents shared in the Envision survey is traffic congestion. There are plans in place to help reduce traffic congestion over the next few years. The plan to alleviate traffic at the intersection of Santa Fe and Mineral is underway with the help of a \$9 million federal grant.

The current council started the process of addressing Littleton's traffic problem in the Comprehensive Plan and the Traffic Management Plan, which are located at envisionlittleton.org. My priority on council will be to build on that hard work and implement policies that respond to resident concerns and improve our quality of life in Littleton.

Kellie Milliman: I have seen a huge increase in vehicle traffic along Prince Street. If I could ride my bike to work all year long from Littleton to Denver, I would do just that to avoid traffic. But traffic doesn't just stop in Littleton. We are connected to the ever-growing Denver metropolitan area that includes Highlands Ranch. We must work together regionally and with the state on finding ways to move cars more efficiently. But we as a community can encourage public transportation, possibly add more bicycle lanes and adopt newer mobility technologies and innovations. The city has developed our very first master transportation plan. This is a good starting point for guiding us on tackling mobility issues both now and into the future.

Kyle Schlachter: Just as during these past two years, the financial sustainability of Littleton should remain one of City Council's policy imperatives. I'm going to repeat part of my answer to #2 because it should be on the top of Council's to-do list. Littleton has a dire situation when it comes to capital improvements - think infrastructure (roads, sidewalks) and facilities (the city owns many buildings that are in desperate need of improvement). Almost \$700 million of need are outlined in the Transportation Master Plan and that is just the

transportation system. Public infrastructure and facilities tend to be high-cost investments. Some of Littleton's future transportation projects - the intersection at Mineral and Santa Fe - are enormously expensive and not feasible given our current revenues. Council needs to have a sincere and in-depth conversation to consider all options in funding our future capital needs. The options at Santa Fe and Mineral are going to be driven largely by the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study along with CDOT, but will definitely require local matching funds. A PEL study looks at transportation, environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning process. One option to come up with those local matching funds could be a sales tax increase. Another option to consider would be public-private partnerships. These are a popular means of financing large public sector projects that don't require as much public funding. There might be other options and I am sure the next council will have this discussion.

Bill Schwanitz: The next council has a once-in-a-generation chance to rewrite the zoning regulations to reflect the desires of our citizens. The Envision process, the Comprehensive Plan, and the Traffic Management Plan have gotten us part way down that road. Now we need to flesh out and implement those plans. During that process, any resulting zoning regulations need to be enforceable when developers seek to circumvent them.

Jerry Valdes: Implement the new comprehensive plan and revised codes. Other important issues included Short Term Rentals and homelessness.

5. What do you see as the biggest threat to Littleton, and conversely, what do you see as the greatest opportunity in Littleton's future?

Iftin Abshir: The biggest threat to Littleton is to lose our neighborhoods and community character. This came out in the Envision Littleton citizen survey and I have heard it time and time again in the over 2000 doors on which I've knocked on in District 4 alone. People value their neighborhoods and if the city allows development that doesn't fit, then the sense of community is lost. Littleton is lost and there will be nothing distinguishing our hometown from any other suburb in the Denver Metro Area. Growth and development are not inherently the enemy, if they are managed properly and we are not sacrificing our history for the onward march of future progress. My family has been in Littleton for over 50 years, so protecting the city I love is high on my list of priorities.

Kathleen Eckel: What I have seen as our biggest threat here in Littleton is fear. People are afraid to answer their doors, they are afraid to talk to their neighbors. This isn't just a Littleton thing, this fear is permeating our society. As a Littleton City Council member, I want to do more to bring our citizens outside, having conversations and laughter on our porches and stoop. I want these interactions and conversations to continue to inform and support the community. Some of the best people I've ever met live right here in Littleton. I want people to have trust that their neighbors do care about them. I want them to trust that the City of Littleton, which we all hold dear to our hearts, really does have their best interests of its citizens.

Pam Grove: The biggest threat to our city is growth without considering the unique character of Littleton's neighborhoods and what citizens want. We need to protect our city from new and

redeveloped buildings that don't fit the character of a residential or commercial area when it comes to design, scale and density.

With proper zoning, we have the opportunity to partner with developers who want to do more than maximize their profits. We want developers who want to build aesthetically pleasing, structurally sound and "green" buildings that fit into the surrounding area and are welcome by our community.

Scott Melin: We face several challenges: traffic, an aging community, rising housing costs, and limited financial resources to name a few. But, Littleton has a long tradition of approaching challenges with bold, creative, community-enhancing solutions, like South Platte Park and mitigating east/west traffic problems with the railroad depression near downtown that ultimately let us land light rail.

Likewise, we have exciting opportunities we should be ambitious about. For example, the lot at the northwest corner of Bowles and Santa Fe could become some unique, even amazing connection between Downtown and the River, and a cultural asset to rival our Museum or Hudson Gardens. Our City has positive momentum right now to build on. Let's continue our tradition of bold thinking, recognize our community's capacity, and find Littleton's next big thing.

Jessica Mendes Ford: In talking with Littleton residents, it's clear that many see the prospect of rapid growth and urbanization as a threat to their neighborhoods and to our town's suburban character. City Council can take steps to control growth and development so it aligns with the shared vision that residents have for Littleton's future.

Therein lies the greatest opportunity for Littleton — making sure all residents feel like they have a voice in the process of guiding Littleton's future. We can use tools like the results of the Envision Littleton survey and future surveys, host public hearings about proposed development projects, hold formal and informal meetings at which residents can hear from and engage with councilmembers, and be more present online to connect with residents.

Kellie Milliman: The greatest threat today is remaining stuck in our former ways of thinking and not moving forward. We can hold on to the spirit of our past, but we have the potential to achieve greatness with the help and guidance of the new

Envision Littleton Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Master Plan. The original comprehensive plan was prepared on a typewriter in the 1980s and the transportation plan never even existed. So many changes have occurred between now and then. The greatest opportunity lies within our unlimited creative and resourceful community. Abundant opportunities await and I am excited about being a part of this unfolding new chapter in our city's history.

Kyle Schlachter: Sprawl. One of the common themes I've heard over the past few years I've heard from Littleton natives is they remember when County Line was the end of the metro area. Highlands ranch has grown by 20% in the past 10 years. And it continues to grow and develop. Sterling Ranch will eventually add 33,000 more people south of Littleton. The

people in these communities impact Littleton - perhaps more so than Littleton's modest population gains. The biggest population boom in Littleton was in the 1950s and 1960s. While that period has given us some of the coolest architecture in the Denver area, it set in motion the growth of the entire south metro area.

Bill Schwanitz: After chatting with hundreds of citizens as I've knocked on thousands of doors during this campaign, it is clear that they fear urbanization of our city that will destroy our community character. We only need to travel through Englewood or Aurora to see where the path of unfettered growth leads.

Littleton, with its historic downtown and neighborhoods, is unique among the metro area's suburbs. We need to consciously protect this legacy, for it is largely responsible for the vibrancy of our downtown and the successes of local businesses.

Jerry Valdes: Retail business is an essential part of our community. Most internet sells do not collect sales tax. That directly affects Littleton's ability to properly fund some items. There is also a reduced demand for retail space.

Fortunately, Littleton has few chain stores. Many of Littleton's small independent retailers have expanded to online sales, thereby allowing customers from around the state, country and world to buy their products.

6. Why are you the best choice for City Council? Why should someone vote for you?

Iftin Abshir: I'm smart, well informed, enthusiastic, organized, will do my research on all issues, and I have the energy and time necessary to devote to the complexities of local government. Additionally, I'm fresh blood for city council. Some recent councils have gotten mired in the status quo and have been afraid to stand up to developers therefore allowing developers to build in such a way as to negatively impact our neighborhoods. I will have the courage, along with my fellow members of council, to tell developers what our neighborhoods want, instead of the other way around. Littleton is a truly desirable place to be. We're in a position to say what we will look like in the future. I will courageously defend the Littleton that our citizens value.

Kathleen Eckel: What I do really, really well is listen to the needs and wants of a group of people and then deliver results. As a Human Resources professional, I have employees and an organization with different needs and desires, and my job is first and foremost to protect the wellbeing of the employees and the financial health of the organization. It's difficult and tricky, and I'm really good at bringing and implementing solutions. I'm passionate, smart, hard working, and have a great sense of humor. Most importantly, I care deeply about our community and a City that supports its people.

Pam Grove: I am new blood for city council. Some recent councils have gotten stuck in the status quo. They have not stood up to developers and allowed them to build in a way that has negatively impacted neighborhoods and were not what neighbors wanted. I want to hear what citizens want and to partner with developers who will prioritize building to maintain the character and sense of a neighborhood.

Littleton is a desirable place to raise children and age gracefully. To keep it a desirable place to live, work and visit, now and in the future, we are in a position to say what we want it to look like. I want to help keep the Littleton that our citizens value.

Scott Melin: Littleton is my hometown and my children's hometown. It's where they'll grow up and where my parents – and hopefully my wife and I – will grow old. My family is wholly invested in Littleton's past and future. Littleton is a wonderful community with so many assets that I want to help build and enhance moving forward. I'm running to ensure a thriving future in Littleton for people and families of all ages.

I'm a proud graduate of both the Littleton Police Citizen Academy and the Littleton Leadership Academy, and I'm a South Metro Land Conservancy board member.

As an attorney, I weigh financial resources against diverse policy and practical issues to help clients make prudent, advantageous decisions. Throughout, I'm accountable to those I represent for my successes, failures, and honesty.

Jessica Mendes Ford: I'm an excellent choice for City Council thanks to my personal and professional experience. My work on the governing board of the Oakbrook HOA has kept all of my neighbors informed and fostered a greater sense of community. My work as an educator and a writer is proof that I can handle tough topics and help others gain understanding and advocate for their concerns.

You should vote for me because I'm dedicated. I'm not afraid to work hard or have difficult conversations. You should vote for me because I do research and consider all the aspects of an issue before proposing solutions or making decisions. You should vote for me because I'm just like you — a resident of Littleton who cares about the future and direction of our town.

Kellie Milliman: I am asking for your vote because I have a deep understanding and connection with this community. I have extensive experience through my parent volunteer work within the LPS school district and helping to run competitive sports teams, my past volunteer work at the Littleton Immigrant Resource Center, my current role as a volunteer yoga teacher once a week to the teachers and staff at East Elementary. I am a graduate of the Littleton Leadership Academy. I will seek to engage all members of this community. I will work hard to make sure that our city is getting the community input it needs. And I will work to ensure that the business community is engaged because we need thriving businesses to maintain a vibrant, healthy community. Thank you.

Kyle Schlachter: Being elected to the Littleton City Council in November of 2017 was one of the greatest honors of my life. Being chosen to represent my community is truly a significant, yet humbling, privilege. I look forward to hearing from Littleton's residents, businesses and visitors to continue making Littleton the best place it can be.

Littleton deserves leadership that listens to its residents, understands the community's values, and has the vision to maintain the historic and suburban nature of the city while adapting to the modern, metropolitan, and inclusive society in which we live. Today,

just as two years ago, my motivations are clear: as a father of two young kids, I care deeply about our shared future and want to support our community as a member of City Council.

During the past two years, we've accomplished a lot to move Littleton in a positive direction. However, there is still more work to do to steer the city forward into the future that we want and deserve. I will continue to lead by example, to bring small-town family values, the voice of all of Littleton's residents and innovative vision for the future, balanced with a sense of preserving the important historic character of our community.

Together, we will foster a culture for responsible and community-minded development that provides opportunities for good jobs, great housing and exciting places to eat, shop and play. City Council set an ambitious agenda and I want to see that agenda through. We have a responsibility to our community to preserve the Littleton way of life, protect the clean environment, and cultivate a safe and livable community where all our residents have a chance to succeed.

I promise to take the same message of my campaign into my role as a City Council member. I am proud to be honest, transparent and positive with my campaign. I won't lie or misrepresent others to make myself look better. I won't attack others. I will lead with this same mindset, just as I have done these past two years.

Littleton deserves positive, open-minded and respectful leadership of which our grandparents and children alike can be proud.

Bill Schwanitz: I recognize that businesses contribute 71% of the city's tax revenue vs. only 12% from residential property taxes. I also recognize that Littleton's character, neighborhoods, and historic buildings make us truly unique. Our city can't succeed without both vibrant businesses and livable neighborhoods.

I've been troubled over the past many years as numerous historic houses have been razed in those neighborhoods. When a century-old farmhouse at the corner of Ridge and Windermere came on the market about 6 years ago, I bought it out from under 2 developers who wanted to demolish it and replace it with 2 houses on that lot. My renovation of that house was one small thing I could do as an individual to protect the character of its neighborhood. This was a way I could make my voice heard as an individual.

On city council:

1. I will have the courage to stand up to developers to be sure what is built is financially beneficial to the city
2. I will make decisions that benefit businesses but never at the expense of our neighborhoods
3. And I will allow the voices of our citizens to be heard, to make this city a place we are all proud to call home.

Jerry Valdes: I am the former Director of Property Operations for a large Management Corporation. My experience with complex budgets and multi-million dollar project is invaluable to understand Littleton's budget.

Littleton is on the move and we are getting things done. During my time on city council, I have been persistent in taking the steps necessary to ensure that the comprehensive plan is updated.

I am the candidate with the most knowledge and experience to keep Littleton moving forward. My involvement in Littleton include:

- Littleton Planning Commission, past member and chairman
- Littleton Citizens Police Academy, graduate
- Littleton Neighborhood Leadership, graduate
- Littleton Housing Authority Board, past member
- Arapahoe County Ethics Committee, past member and chairman
- Arapahoe County Citizen Advisory Budget Committee, past member
- East Elementary Mentor Program, volunteer
- Euclid Middle School Mentor, volunteer