

Carol Fey
Candidate – Mayor
Littleton Business Chamber Candidate Forum 2021

1) What do you believe are the strengths and weaknesses of the downtown Littleton area? Give us three positive and three negative responses with a short explanation.

Strengths: Entertaining and dining—we have many great restaurants and gathering places Positive energy brought in by visitors and new DT residents—people come from all over for Littleton’s historic downtown ambiance Community involvement in events like Western Welcome Week and parades—it’s a thrill to see so many people enjoying themselves together

Weaknesses: Parking—people want to park in front of their destination. How can we provide that? Could use a calendar of events—with people getting busy again, let’s help them plan downtown activities into their lives.

2) What is your priority for development in the city and why?

- a) New residential homes
- b) New commercial business
- c) Revitalizing and utilizing current spaces

I don’t think we should prioritize any one area. All are important. We want our city to grow and evolve. I would like to form a commission of business leaders to make specific recommendations to city council. What’s Littleton doing that gets in the way—are there fees, regulations that don’t make sense? Does it take too long to get a permit? I’d want this to be time-limited with firm deadlines, for getting recommendations to council say within 90 days, and council’s response time. Within less than a year, we get things fixed, create a proposal for what to do for businesses next, and sunset the commission.

3) The Littleton Business Chamber (LBC) advocated for a \$.50 tax increase to be placed on the ballot in November, City Council voted for a \$.75. increase. LBC has requested that the City Council sunset the \$.75 tax increase down to \$.50, after the city has met its capital improvement requirements. Are you for or against sunsetting \$.25 of the tax increase? Explain why or why not.

The sunset concept is interesting. Nobody likes taxes. The city has been clear that there’s a \$6.5M budget shortfall, driven by avoiding capital improvements for many, many years in order to not increase taxes. So sure, it’s fair to consider a sunset.

4) Other than the proposed sales tax increase, what three steps would you take to get the City in a more stable financial position?

What comes to mind first of course is to make cuts. But city has already made \$2M cuts in the past year. It has adopted priority-based budgeting, which means that every department has to justify every expense—like running a business. Having been on city council for the past four years, I’m confident that further cuts would reduce the quality of life we love. In future years, we could put before the voters a lodging tax and a marijuana tax.

5) Why do you feel you are the best choice for City Council? Why should someone vote for you?

My career as a technical sales manager at Honeywell taught me how to do exquisite customer service to individuals, and how to care for small businesses. My end customers were small businesses—specifically local HVAC and plumbing companies. This career was much like to what I'm doing now. The city is like corporate Honeywell. I know it does what it believes best for its customers—which are citizens and businesses. Mostly it gets it right, but there are things that need to be done better, additionally, or not at all. I was successful at Honeywell because I could translate between the 2 worlds. I explained to customers how Honeywell products could help them succeed. As important, I said to Honeywell—sometimes emphatically--what customers need. That fed into Honeywell's success, and everyone won. Also, I have owned a successful small business in Littleton for the past 20 years. Yep, I know what it's like to collect sales tax.

6) What is your plan to involve businesses outside the “football” in your decision-making process?

I've been involving businesses from my district—which is the southeast quadrant of Littleton—since I was elected four years ago. I host a district citizen meeting three times a year in the Wilmore Garden Center classroom on County Line Rd. Many stay after the meeting to shop, or take home ideas for future purchases. We have goodies from Manna Bakery, with a sign promoting that business on Ridge Rd. As mayor, I promote similar things throughout the whole city.

7) How do you plan to get input regarding business in Littleton other than through City staff?

I love talking one on one with people, and that includes business owners. I would also like to gather a commission of business owners so that they can talk with each other, with council members, and city staff.

8) What would be your plan to handle the increasing issue with the homeless disrupting businesses and how would you expect the police department to handle these problems?

I am Littleton's elected representative to the Tri-cities Homelessness Policy Group. I encourage businesses to first notify the police dept. If that doesn't solve the problem, phone or email me. An important aspect of addressing this or any nuisance problem is that someone has to report it. And when new people appear, report it again.