

## **Patrick Driscoll**

### **Candidate - District 1**

#### **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.

My top three positives: 1. The Historic District businesses and people. A lot of the credit must go to HDLM for bring people together. 2. Littleton Town Hall and the character and historic charm of downtown Littleton such as the architecture. 3. Events put on by HDLM, Reinke Brothers and the City of Littleton. My favorites are Western Welcome Week, Twilight Criterium, and the Weekends on Main that I help create with HDLM, LBC and the City.

My three negatives: 1. I'll lump speeding, traffic, and parking into one. 2. The overall appearance of Downtown. For example, the overheard power lines, too many signs, and dead tree branches. 3. The homelessness in Bega Park or along the sidewalks.

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.

Four years ago, I ran on 'PRO BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT Platform'. Without growth we become stagnant. Without new revenue we will struggle to deliver the services you all expect

Envision Littleton 2040 Comprehensive says we are short 6,500 homes. I'm open to hearing from the public, developer and business that want to be part of Littleton.

We are a land locked community, so we must rely on revitalizing current spaces like our corridors. For example, the Littleton Blvd has potential for Mix Use and redevelopment

Aspen Grove, Toll Brothers, McDonald Automotive and Evergreen Development have projects in front of the City, so as your Councilman I will listen to you, discuss, and decided if it's the right development for that parcel of land.

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.

We have over \$90m in deferred capital plans. I'm in favor of a sales tax increase.

.75 cents on \$100 dollars will bring in \$9.8m. This amount gets us ahead and allows us to catch up faster. It also allows us to match Grants. Free money (or Grants) is a game changer for the city.

I was very outspoken for the .75 cents because I want Littleton to be 'noticeable different' than our neighbors.

I am in favor of sunsetting .25 cents in 15 years because 15 years is enough time to get the work done, and it's the right thing for business and the community.

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

In general, I am not in favor of additional taxes. To tax just for the sake of keeping up with other communities is not good governance.

However, if the sales tax passes it will help stabilize the Capital Funds account. That will give the city the breathing room it's needed for the last 20 years to get our roads, medians, fleet, and city buildings up to speed.

I know for a fact that Council and Staff are discussing MJ Tax and Lodging Tax. Neither of these taxes hurt our citizen unless you're staying at a Littleton Hotel or partaking in the Devil Grass.

I will expand on my opinion about taxes once I understand 'the ask' and how it helps the people and the city.

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

I've had the pleasure of serving District 1 for the past 4 years. With Mark Relph and City Staff we have made tremendous steps in securing the future of Littleton by adopting Envision Littleton 2040—a comprehensive plan that will guide future councils for many years to come. We're also on the verge of adopting the Unified Land Use Code which hasn't been updated in 30 years.

We have been working on these two projects since Nov 2018, so it will be extremely gratifying when we're done.

I was instrumental in the merger with South Metro Fire. We adopted Priority Based Budgeting helping Staff and Council decide what's most important to the Citizens of Littleton. And I was involved with Weekends on Main, which I believe save many businesses from closing.

People and Businesses want to live and work in Littleton because we're a cool town. Our people are over the top friendly and we have a ton to offer.

If you've been following City Council, you know exactly where I stand on Development and Business. I like to say I'm a proven commodity.

I get my hands dirty and put my money where my mouth is, and that's supporting many of the retailers, bars, and restaurants in Littleton.

And finally, I want to follow through with the creation of a Downtown District Authority. Another game changer for Downtown Littleton

This is not a steppingstone in my political career. My goal is to listen to YOU and do what's best for Littleton.

I would appreciate you vote on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

I think we can talk a page out of the HDLM playbook. Back in the day the Downtown merchants never really talked or got along. It took a guy like Greg Reinke to bring everyone together.

I believe I can be that guy and Councilman to promote Littleton businesses.

Littleton is so much more than just the Historic Downtown. We need to include South Park, Santa Fe, and S. Broadway businesses. Also, let's be engaged with the businesses on Belleview, Mineral, and the Littleton Blvd corridor.

I would be up for hosting the first ever LBC Golf Tournament.

LBC should have a table at the Eat, Meet and Greets.

How about a Littleton Business convention?

Most important we need to support local business by shopping locally.

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

I would start with having a conversation with LBC and HDLM.

Since I've been on Council, I've been very accessible. I spend a lot of time in DT, but also at the strip centers on Belleview, Platte Canyon and Lowell. I always introduce myself and leave a card if they want to meet later for coffee.

I just met with the owners at The Shops at Columbine to hear their concerns and design ideas about the center going forward. This type of interaction is not uncommon for me.

I like to think I know what's going on with a business in District 1 before it happens, but every once in a while, something gets by me.

It's not rocket science---let's talk.

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 don't think it's asking too much for all of us to follow laws and rules.

I have a low tolerance for people sleeping on the sidewalks or begging in-front of a business. I've used SeeClickFix Littleton tab to report a tent/camping situation at Columbine Square

For me, it starts with mental health, so I'm a big fan of All Health Network. Let's address homelessness before it becomes a decision.

The Tri County Homeless Action Plan is complete, and Littleton, Sheridan and Englewood are in the process of creating a Navigation Center where all services can be researched in one location. This allows a person to find and utilize the existing services offered by the three communities. We have many resources available for anyone wanting to get off the street. Adding more buildings or services will not fix the homeless issue.