

Wheat Ridge 2020 Candidate Questionnaire 2011
Responses submitted by Tracy Langworthy
Candidate for City Council District IV

Why are you the best candidate to represent your district? Please relate your answer to your background, qualifications and values.

I believe I am the best candidate for District IV because I have spent the last 7 years really getting to know the people of Wheat Ridge through various organizations. I have served as a Deacon with my church, I am a Wheat Ridge Optimist Board of Director, I attend many functions throughout the city. I have also spent the last four years serving my community as a City Council representative. I feel like we are on the cusp of something great in Wheat Ridge and I would like the opportunity to finish what was started during my first four years.

What are your top two policy goals and how should they be addressed?

My top policy goal is how to develop the Ward Road Gold Line Stop and developing the open land that is available in Wheat Ridge, I-70 and 40th, 38th and Wadsworth and 44th and Wadsworth.

The role of Wheat Ridge 2020 is to catalyze community and economic development to advance Wheat Ridge as a vibrant and sustainable City. How should the City fund and support that role?

The city can't do all the work on their own. City government is not built to do all of the roles Wheat Ridge 2020 can take on. There are people in the community that say Wheat Ridge 2020 has gotten enough and that is all they should get. But when you have an organization that is really creating the dynamic energy we need to bring young families to Wheat Ridge and to spend money in Wheat Ridge. Also, Wheat Ridge 2020's HIP and BUBL programs are having a positive effect on how neighborhoods are looking. There are people spending money even in this time of economic recession. This doesn't mean everyone is but every dollar spent generates many more. So to this end I believe that as long as Wheat Ridge 2020 is offering their very low interest loans, creating the new energy we need to revitalize the city and bringing new people into our city to spend money then I think they should have some city support. When they create more sales tax they are helping the city provide services to our citizens as we primarily get our money from sales tax generation.

What ideas would you promote to strengthen the City's revenue base?

The city needs to have a place that it calls it's downtown. A place where events can take place with ease for the citizens and the community. A place where people can take the time to look around at what the city has to offer and do a little shopping. Wheat Ridge has some really great buildings on Wheat Ridge but many of them sit vacant. This doesn't attract people from outside or inside the city to do their shopping there. We also need a wider variety of retail choices i.e. additional restaurants, clothing stores and more. Many people want to be able to do all their shopping with ease and without the headache of continually getting in and out of their car. It would be great to have something of that nature to offer to our citizens and the people that visit Wheat Ridge to shop.

Please comment on the 38th Avenue Corridor Plan and how you would work to support and advance that plan. Would that support include funding WR2020's role?

The 38th Ave Corridor Plan is an opportunity for the city to finally finish something they started. I hear all the time about how we pay for plans and then never finish them. This is just another one of those plans. The City Council had stated that they wanted to spend the money on the 38th Ave Corridor Plan. Now that it is done we need to finish it. We can't simply put the money into the restripping. There needs to be an education piece and a program that continues to keep 38th Ave moving toward a dynamic new street. Colfax Ave. has one like this that's purpose is to work towards building up business, keeping their portion of Colfax clean, planning events, etc. We need a similar group to promote 38th Ave.

What do you think is the most important issue facing Wheat Ridge over the next two years and how would you propose to address it?

Wheat Ridge needs to begin the conversation about the Ward Road Gold Line Station. This will take some time to get a final plan and we shouldn't want to have a giant parking lot where the Gold Line stops. The Gold Line has the potential for retail development which brings more money into the city. Wheat Ridge also needs to start the discussion on the changing population in our city. Wheat Ridge will have a very high median age within the next few years. What services is this age group going to need. What housing changes could be needed in the event they want to stay in Wheat Ridge but not in their homes?