

2021 City Council Candidate questions

Candidate Name: __Randy Moorman_____

1. What is your view about the Jefferson Parkway project?

I am not convinced the project benefits outweigh the costs. I am greatly concerned about the exposure of plutonium to construction workers and our community from the project. I also want to see the traffic studies for the area. I am concerned about the generated traffic that could result from the new parkway. This induced traffic will have negative impacts on our community and our ability to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

2. What are your views on the Arvada Urban Renewal Authority (AURA)?

I believe there needs to be greater public oversight of AURA. AURA is charged with revitalizing urban areas of our city and Arvada residents should have a voice in how that development occurs. I am very concerned about development projects pursued by AURA that charge developers a very insignificant amount for the property when the assessor has valued the land at much greater value. At a minimum, any sale of city property at a discount of less than the market value should include stipulations that the development will include community benefits such as affordable housing and be built with net zero energy design.

3. What are your views on using tax increment financing (TIFs) as an incentive for businesses to develop in Arvada? And, if so, what do you think should be incentivized?

I am concerned that TIFs divert funds away from schools, fire districts and recreation districts. TIFs should not be used to incentivize development that will be profitable without the TIF. We should use TIFs judiciously, only when there is no other option without the incentive and the project clearly will provide community benefits (i.e. affordable housing). Any TIF project should be held accountable to the community benefits promised. I believe we need to create stricter criteria for how TIFs are used and what conditions must be met for their use.

4. What should the city's role be in developing broadband internet for Arvada citizens?

I support the City creating a municipal broadband service because it has been shown to help promote economic development by providing fast internet access to the community and can provide access to high quality broadband connections to every resident, regardless of income level. Any private/public partnership with the city for broadband service must protect labor standards and workers' rights.

5. What is your plan to help the city reach 100% use renewable energy by 2035?

While the City of Arvada has made some progress in improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy with its city buildings, the city has not made much headway with the residential and commercial sectors. First, like or neighboring cities, we need a Climate Action Plan that sets goals and clear action steps. I will seek out state and federal funding to assist our city in making the transition to 100% renewable. I will lead the effort to adopt sustainability requirements for new construction that includes energy efficiency and renewable energy standards. We can offer financial incentives for electrification and solar installation. Arvada residents want to take action, but don't know where to turn. I will work to create an advisory service to help residents and businesses find the technical and financial resources they need to transition to a net zero energy home or business.

6. We understand that the city is working with other Jeffco governments to create Housing Navigation Centers to help the homeless achieve housing with needed supportive services. How do you plan to educate the residents of Arvada to help them understand the causes of homelessness and most importantly, support these Navigation Centers to avoid NIMBY-ism at the chosen locations?

I will be a spokesperson and advocate for these Navigation Centers. My experience working with Family Promise is that the community is more supportive when they learn and see for themselves what the program does. Hearing from residents who have benefited from the program or similar programs can be very impactful. Such interactions provide a human face to those who benefit from the programs. Also, providing forums for the public to learn and see what the Navigation Centers will look like and do will be very helpful in dispelling any misconceptions. I would also advocate for a good public relations component be included in the project with the goal of addressing public concerns.

7. It appears that existing city policies maintain the current "two Arvada's" -- wealthier and less diverse West Arvada versus older, less affluent East Arvada.

- **How specifically do you think the city can increase affordable housing, rental and for-sale products, to provide more diversity and affordability throughout the Arvada?**

More than a third of the Arvada workforce is in the service industry and do not make an income that allows them to live in Arvada. Many of our teachers, healthcare workers, and frontline workers are not able to make ends meet, not being able to find a home they can afford in Arvada. Seniors wanting to right size are not able find

viable options in Arvada. We need to provide additional rentals and rental assistance to help residents, especially those working in the service industry. We also need to invest in and incentivize the development of starter homes and diversify our housing stock to provide more options. To do this, I am advocating for a committee to work on housing. This committee can implement the city's affordable housing plan and hold the city accountable to the goals set out by the plan. The committee can direct us towards incentives we can use to attract affordable housing development and to change the city's land development code so that affordable and attainable housing is a priority. This can include development impact fees that provide a funding source specifically for affordable housing. I would also advocate for the city acquiring and utilizing publicly owned land for affordable housing. Finally, we also need to create with non-profit partners, an eviction/foreclosure prevention program for residents. This needs to happen immediately, as many residents are struggling to pay rent during the pandemic.

- **Do you support formation of a citizen's Housing Advisory Committee?"**

Yes, absolutely. This is a priority for me.

8. Walk-ability and bike paths are increasingly popular, what are your ideas to increase the walk-ability of neighborhoods and assist the ease and safety of riding bikes?

The city's draft ADA Transition Plan identifies major barriers to accessibility that need to be addressed throughout the city. I am very aware of the need, as my husband has disabilities from a stroke and is challenged in getting to work, stores and appointments. I believe we need to prioritize and fund the implementation of the ADA Transition Plan. This will greatly improve the walk-ability of our neighborhoods. Additionally, we need to address bike safety. There are parts of our city that are dangerous. This deters many from riding and is unsafe for those currently riding bikes. I will advocate for a holistic look at our transportation system with the aim at improving bike safety and making it easier for residents to ride. We need to better coordinate with the county and the state that have jurisdictions over some of our roads in the city.

9. Health Care is an issue most Americans are worried about. A health care resolution was presented to the City Council asking in the recent past asking the Arvada City Council to support a single payer universal health care system. If a similar resolution were again presented asking government leaders to support such a system, would you vote to sign and send to state and federal leaders?

Yes, I would support a resolution calling for a single payer universal health care system. Many Arvada residents have to choose between their health care and

paying their rent, buying food or taking care of their children and aging parents. This shouldn't have to be choice. With a single payer system, public health would improve and social problems associated with health would decline.

10. City policing is an issue foremost in many citizen's minds. There are many suggestions, concerns, and needs in Arvada.

- **What are your thoughts on alternatives to uniformed police making mental health and public safety/nuisance calls?**

I don't believe uniformed police should make mental health and public safety/nuisance calls. Calls to unarmed people in crisis should be made only by social workers and paramedics, as is done in Denver with the STAR program. Studies show that people untreated for mental health illness are more likely to be killed during a police encounter.

- **What will you do to get body cameras on uniforms before the state mandated date of July 1, 2023?**

I will advocate the Arvada Police Department gets body cameras as soon as possible. Body cameras provide greater transparency and accountability.

- **Do you support a citizen's advisory committee to APD?**

Yes, I do support a citizen's advisory committee of APD. Currently our justice system is punitive in nature. We need to change it to be a restorative system which includes reducing unnecessary arrests and stopping arrests for lower level charges in our community. Setting up a citizen's advisory committee for the Arvada Police Department can help us change to a restorative system. Representatives from underserved and underrepresented communities, especially Black, Indigenous People of Color, should be on the advisory committee along with mental health, and social workers. This committee can serve as a representative voice of the community with the police and can provide oversight and direct accountability. The advisory committee can provide policy recommendations to the City Council. An advisory committee can also provide the police an opportunity to build a relationship with Arvada residents.