

2021 City Council Candidate questions

Candidate Name: Suzie Schuckman

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

Regarding the Jefferson Parkway proposal, as your City Council representative, I will advocate for further environmental impact studies to ensure the safety of Arvadans and their property is secured. As a member of the City Council, I will continually work to protect the safety of all Arvadans by voting for extensive research into all proposals that have implications on health, wellness, safety, and property value of all Arvadans.

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

The Arvada Urban Renewal Authority has a variety of projects active in District 3. My purpose as the City Council representative for District three is to advocate for the members of my neighborhood. I will ensure weekly office hour opportunities, project specific listening sessions, and an open door policy are in place to ensure I hear from my neighbors regarding projects impacting our neighborhood. Thoughtful, sustainable and inclusive development will help our thriving community expand our capabilities to serve families of all shapes and sizes in the future.

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?

As the City Council representative of District 3 I will focus on finding collaborative ways we as a community can incentivize companies that will support good paying jobs that will afford their employees the cost of living in Arvada. I am also working with the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion task force to find solutions for encouraging small business growth among diverse businesses that include women and minority owned businesses here in Arvada. Building equity among a variety of business shapes,

sizes, and services is how we can ensure our economy will recover from the pandemic and thrive for years to come.

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

This past year has taught all Arvadans that access to the internet is no longer an option, but it is a necessary component of everyday life. As the District 3 representative, I will ensure we maximize city resources to meet residents where they are at to build more equitable access to broadband internet.

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

The first step as your City Council representative I will take is to implement strategic and sustainable methods of protecting our parks and open spaces. We owe current and future generations of Arvadans the right to play and recreate in parks, on trails, and in open spaces. These are spaces I, like many of you, utilize every single day.

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 have been working with local nonprofit organizations in our city and around the region to hear their concerns and ideas from their experiences providing direct services to our unhoused and under-resourced neighbors. What we know is there is no one right size fits all answer. As your City Council representative, I will work with our neighboring communities as the Housing Navigation Centers are developed. I am also committed to working with local programs and organizations that provide direct services to our unhoused neighbors. These services must focus on wrap-around outreach, that includes an extensive focus on mental health, to meet people where they are at so we can ensure the wellness of all Arvadans.

Working with all these partners in a collaborative and strategic way will be how we can engage with our neighbors to have honest, evidence-based, and relevant conversations about our unhoused neighbors. As your City Council representative I will host informative community forums with our subject matter experts, share newsletters, organize online town halls, and make myself available for one on one conversations. I will work with my neighbors to discuss this complex issue and the effective solutions needed to ensure the wellness and safety of all our neighbors.

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?

As a member of this community who is struggling with finding attainable housing, I know first hand the challenges our neighbors face. I've talked to countless members of my neighborhood alone that are frustrated with the lack of attainable housing. All hard working Arvadans should have a path to finding their ideal home. Attainable housing represents anything from rental properties that are well maintained and accessible to a variety of socioeconomic groups, to first time home buyers, to seniors attempting to right size for their next season of life.

As your City Council representative, I will work with Community Land Trusts and Community Development Corporations that can devote the adequate research, strategy, planning, and oversight of developing affordable solutions to serve all Arvadans.

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

As City Council representative for District 3, I will always welcome the voice of our neighbors. I would want to review the charter or bylaws of any committee, especially a resident supported Housing Advisory Committee. Ensuring specific diversity, equity and inclusion strategies and language is included in the mission of such a committee is crucial to representing the best Arvada has to offer when we advance how we can best serve the future of our City.

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?

As an Arvadan who only drives maybe twice a week, I understand the importance of safe walkways and bike paths. Being able to advocate for more pedestrian and bike friendly options for my neighbors is a priority. As a City Council representative, I will work with our city staff and subject matter experts to ensure we can safely walk through our neighborhoods and bike across the city. These options will also ensure we are providing the most equitable ways to combat wear and tear of our streets while encouraging climate friendly transportation methods.

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?

As a member of the City Council, I would need to thoroughly review any resolution to ensure it represents the voice of my neighbors in District 3. I believe in maintaining and caring for the physical and mental wellness of all Arvadans, but without reviewing the resolution I cannot say if I would sign such a document as a representative of the residents of District 3. Upon having access to such a document for review, I would host a series of listening sessions to include residents of District 3 and subject matter experts in the healthcare field. Elevating the voice of my neighbors in District 3 is the priority when signing anything that represents our community.

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?

As the City Council representative serving the residents of District 3, I want to find creative ways to ensure the safety of all my neighbors and our police officers. Equipping our City with more team members specifically trained in the de-escalation of mental health crises will help support the safety of our police officers and residents.

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

Ensuring our police officers have the protection of body cameras is essential to promoting transparency and community building between the police department and the residents served by this department. As your City Council representative I want to ensure we are equipping our police officers with all the tools that will ensure their safety and your safety. Making body cameras, along with the most sophisticated training opportunities available to our officers, will ensure we provide a competitive work environment that officers want to be a part of and that they feel supported by their leadership with the City of Arvada. When on Council, I will advocate to invest in resources that will demonstrate how effective, inclusive and equitable our police department is.

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

As the representative for District 3 of the City of Arvada, I would again go back to my neighbors and ask them what their opinions are regarding the formation of a resident advisory committee to support the Arvada Police Department. I would conduct this process through a survey, community town hall, or both. This is a decision that should come from the residents of our community. The values of my fellow residents will be what drive every vote I cast as your City Council representative.