

2021 City Council Candidate questions

Candidate Name: John Marriott

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

In my view either the Jefferson Parkway, a different beltway alignment, or expansion of Indiana St is inevitable. Much of the traffic that impacts our local community is generated outside of Arvada and is passing through on our neighborhood streets. Given the State of Colorado's abdication of their responsibility for completing the beltway around the metro area we are left to accomplish as much as possible on a local level. I support the Jefferson Parkway because it is a long time local collaboration that may be doable to help relieve our local streets from cut through traffic. I would also support a different beltway alignment if all stakeholders could agree on a suitable alignment. Baring either completing the Jefferson Parkway or a different beltway alignment I believe that Indiana St. will have to be improved with 2 lanes in each direction as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. With regard to the safety of building along the eastern boundary of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, I trust the experts and scientists at CDPHE who gave the approval for road construction in that area.

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

I believe that Arvada Urban Renewal has been instrumental in revitalizing and removing blight from several areas of town. Urban renewal not only provided building facade grants for the property owners in Olde Town, they also were a vital component of protecting the first schoolhouse in Arvada. Our single largest sales tax generator is a direct result of Urban Renewal, as well as many market rate and affordable housing units. Currently the Arvada Urban Renewal Authority is providing money for the enhancement of the street scape along Ralston Road, and land near Ralston Road and Garrison for subsidized housing, as part of the Ralston Corridor project, just as they did years before in Olde Town to set the table for the vibrant city center that we know today.

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?

Tif's of one kind or another can play an important role in economic development. In my time on council I have approved some economic incentives, and not approved others. For me a TIF must be either bringing in goods or services that currently don't exist, or bringing in a one of a kind and needed establishment, or providing a significant number of primary jobs. Almost all of the affordable housing in Arvada would not exist without some form of economic incentive.

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

The city already partners with broadband providers to co-locate conduit and fiber when possible. This has helped us continue to build out our fiber master plan, which connects city facilities, schools, fire services, and other infrastructure like traffic signals, while following our dig once policy which preserves our streets. The city should continue to be a good partner with the private sector to enhance the broadband options that Arvada citizens have. The city should not get into the business of broadband connectivity to businesses or homes at this time, as Arvada doesn't own the electrical infrastructure which could make city delivered broadband practical.

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

I don't have the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. Many of the functions the city does require heavy or specialized equipment that may or may not be applicable to renewable energy. However, the city already uses best practices in managing our fleet vehicles and as technology advances I expect that much of our fleet will become electric. The city also took action just last year to upgrade the HVAC equipment on several city facilities including the Arvada Center, in an effort to use more effecient mechanical equipment to save energy. We also upgraded the solar equipment that exists on most city facilities. The most important goal for the city should be to deliver superior city services in as cost effective manner as possible. Evolving technology will undoubtedly make this possible with less energy expenditure.

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?**

Like all development, proposed housing navigation centers will need to go through the development review process where all stakeholders and residents will have a chance to give their input and opinions on the proposed project. And like all development, any delivery of homeless services should be done in an appropriate setting that is adequately zoned for that purpose. I believe that following a certain well established process will help the community engage in future homeless outreach services.

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.**

I disagree that existing city policies have created "two Arvada's". In fact I believe that the city goes above and beyond to provide city services equally everywhere in the city. It is true that our community developed differently and at different times, which has created the diverse community that we enjoy today. But rather than seeing our diversity as a negative, I see it as a positive allowing a far greater diversity of people to become our neighbors.

- **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?**
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- The city should continue to work with the developers who are interested in bringing LIHTC or CHAFA funded income restricted projects to the city. It is important that these projects comply with our existing development standards and codes to insure that residents live in quality housing and are not stigmatized by where they live.
- **Do you support formation of a citizen's Housing Advisory Committee?"**
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- I only support the formation of a citizens housing advisory committee if their role, and tasks to perform can be limited, useful, and clearly defined.

7. 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?

Our paths, trails and connected green spaces is one of the best and most treasured features of our community. It is vitally important that they remain a core city responsibility. That is why my view of municipal government is to do all of our core responsibilities to a superior level before we delve into areas that are not our core mission. Water and sewer, parks and trails, roads, public safety, and city services such as building permits are where we must focus our time and resources, to continue to have one of the most highly valued and desirable communities in the region.

8. 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?

I would absolutely not sign a resolution advocating for a single payer universal health care system. First, the city of Arvada does not make national or state health care policy, second neither the Arvada City Council nor the city of Arvada staff have the relevant expertise in health care policy to be making recommendations in this area, and third there are many different health care changes that are possible. Choosing just one of them like single payer universal care is not necessarily the right answer in all situations.

9. 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?**
- The city of Arvada already sends co responders on many police calls especially those dealing with mental health issues. I will continue to advocate for this approach.

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

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- The city of Arvada already plans to implement body worn cameras around July of 2022. that is a small window of time to accomplish a very large change in how we do our daily business.

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

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- I do not support a citizens Police oversight committee at this time. We have an excellent police department, with the best officers who are well trained and equipped. Additionally we have great working relationship and respect between the citizens of Arvada and the APD, I see no issues or problems for a citizens oversight committee to address at this time.