



Candidate Questionnaire

CleanSlateNow Action is committed to eliminating the corrupting influence of big money in politics. We believe candidates best represent the public interest by choosing to accept contributions only from natural persons. We encourage candidates to reject contributions from political action committees (PACs), special interest groups, and corporations. *We are active at the local, state, and national levels across the country.*

The questions below are meant to provide information to voters about the kind of campaign contributions you are taking in your pursuit of public office and the kind of legislation you would support and propose if you take office. Your answers will also help us when considering if we will endorse a candidate in your race. Though we publicize the names of candidates who do not take PAC and special interest group money, no question is meant to serve as a litmus test. We seek to inform, educate, and engage you, other candidates, elected officials, and the public about issues surrounding campaign finance reform, and we hope the information you provide will help voters make up their own minds about the candidates. **Please complete and return the questionnaire at your earliest convenience** so we can share your responses with voters.

Thank you for your participation, and good luck in your campaign!

<u>Nick Armstrong</u>		<u>Fort Collins City Council District 1</u>
Name		Office Sought/District
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e-mail address	website	phone number

1. If elected, will you use your stature as an elected official to actively support meaningful campaign finance reform in the following areas?
 - a. Support overturning *Citizens United*? Yes No
 - b. Ban contributions in Fort Collins elections from corporations, unions, and other organizations banned from donating directly at the state level and from municipal campaigns in Denver, Lakewood, and Aurora? Yes No
 - c. Limit special interest group contributions? Yes No
 - d. Incentivize small-dollar contributions (\$100 or less) from individuals with publicly-funded matching funds for qualified candidates? Yes No
 - e. Accept spending caps of \$25,000 for mayoral races and \$15,000 for Council races as part of an opt-in for matching funds? Yes No

Are there other reforms you would propose?
Eliminate the ability of official political parties to participate in non-partisan elections

2. Will you accept, or have you accepted contributions from special interest groups or organizations, including political committees, political action committees, or small donor committees? *(This does not include political party contributions.)*

Yes No

3. Will you accept, or have you accepted contributions from Leadership PACs (a committee an elected official uses to donate to other candidates and elected officials, separate from their candidate committee)?

Yes No

4. Will you establish, or have you established your own Leadership PAC?

Yes No

5. Will you accept, or have you already accepted contributions from large corporations (i.e., offices in more than one locality, or based out of your state with a regional or national focus)?

Yes No

6. Will you accept, or have you already accepted contributions from small corporations (presence in only one locality, i.e., "Mom-and-Pop Shop")?

Yes No

7. Will you accept, or have you already accepted money from lobbyists?

Yes No

8. Will you accept, or have you already accepted money from unions?

Yes No

#9 is a good idea except for the \$25 or less part (FoCo limits contributions to \$75/individual for Council or \$100/individual for mayor) Getting 60 individuals to donate in my campaign didn't happen until month 2, so I feel this would disincentivize newbies like me or folks from poorer communities from participating.

9. Do you support a **proposal to establish publicly funded campaigns in Fort Collins**, which features an opt-in program requiring candidates to meet threshold requirements of raising \$1,500 for council races and \$2,500 for mayoral races in qualifying contributions of \$25 or less from Fort Collins residents and to commit to turning down corporate, PAC, and special interest money and accepting campaign contributions only from natural persons, accepting spending caps based on historical spending data (\$25,000 for mayor and \$15,000 for Council), and limiting self-financing, all in exchange for a 1-to-1 public match on contributions from Fort Collins residents? Yes No

Would you use your influence as an elected official to support similar reforms for state and federal offices? Yes No

10. Please use as much additional space as you'd like to share any thoughts about campaign finance reform and the role of special interest, corporate, and PAC money vs. contributions from natural persons in political campaigns.


Signature

3/12/2021

Date

I'm a HUGE proponent of campaign finance reform.

Here are my "additional thoughts" that were asked for in the last question:

- In general everything about #9 is awesome, however, the limits you've proposed in #9 mean that 60 people need to chip in \$25. This is my first campaign and I'm pretty well-known in my area, and getting 60 donations did not happen until MONTH 2. If you kept the limits at \$75 (council) and \$100 (mayor) per individual as they are now, you only have to net 20 donations which is a fine threshold and isn't disincentivizing for newbies
- Polling should be conducted by the city and provided free of charge to every candidate
- Official political parties should be banned from making any contribution, in-kind offering, or service to candidates in non-partisan races (e.g. VAN, phone bank, text, ACTBlue, and endorsement engines)
- Signs + advertising should be disallowed entirely. It's a horrendous waste of time and money (and I'm in marketing). Instead, every municipal bus stop and/or certain spots in the city should be offered up as a location for political candidates to advertise
- The City should offer mailers for each election and host 2-4 public forums on issues in each district
- The City should offer a year-round ongoing municipal civics education course for any interested residents