

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICE  
PRESENTED BY RESTORE THE BALANCE, DELTA COUNTY  
a nonpartisan, nonprofit, organization

PLEASE RETURN YOUR RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE NOT LATER  
THAN 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024, BY EMAIL TO:  
[rtbdeltacounty@gmail.com](mailto:rtbdeltacounty@gmail.com)

**To: Candidates for Municipal Office  
Town of Orchard City, Colorado**

1- What qualifications do you have that can give voters confidence that you should be a member of the Orchard City Board of Trustees? Please be specific.

1. *Orchard City, Colorado Municipal Code Chapter 2, Section 2-2-10 states in Paragraph (d) states the legal qualifications:*

*Each Trustee shall be a resident of the Town and a registered elector who has resided within the Town limits for a period of at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. However, in case of annexation of property, any person who has resided within the annexed territory for the time prescribed in this Subsection shall be deemed to have met the residence requirements for the Town*

2. *Armchair politics only aggravate the occupants of a house including the dog. I can get stressed out over the way things are going in my world and be unhappy with the decisions which are made and just complain or I can become actively involved and work to make changes I believe will make a positive impact. As Americans we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to become actively involved in what direction our cities, states and country head. Through the voting process we trust the voters will put together a team of representatives who will work to represent them.*

3. *My family has lived in Orchard City for over 35 years. I have lived in Eckert with my wife for 6 years. We own a home, we have a business and we pay taxes. We use the water. We see every day changes occur and the impact those changes have on our lives and our families lives. I know I do not have all the answers, but I believe I may be able to help come up with answers which can make the community a better and safer place to live.*

2- By now, upon reading and considering the seven political principles we feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado.

- a. Do you endorse each of the seven principles restore the balance feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado?

*I grew up believing and still do - "Do unto others as you would have done unto you". The 7 principles are great principles which can help everyone approach often difficult subjects with the understanding that everyone may not agree, but we treat everyone with dignity and respect even when we disagree.*

- b. If you endorse them all, please explain how you will work to execute these principles.

*I go back to the Golden Rule. When I'm elected I will inevitably sit with others who see things differently. I can be passionate and argue my position and I expect nothing less from others. In the end, there will be a vote which will decide the outcome. History will judge us on the decisions we made and we will have the opportunity to look back and review previous decisions made by us and others. If poor decisions were made we can examine where things went wrong and hopefully have a 2nd chance to correct the direction we head. It's never too late to admit when I have made a decision I wish I had not made.*

- c. If there are any principles you do not endorse, please identify them and explain why.

*Words matter. As I interpret and understand these principles, I agree with them. I often state my opinions with passion and I will never change my core values I believe in, nor will I vote for something I fundamentally disagree with. I have learned in the past it takes patience and respect for others; speak with passion, argue with conviction and stay focused on the subject at hand. I will not always say things the way I should, however I will always be willing to apologize if I have offended someone by making comments without considering everyone involved. My Grandfather had a plaque on his car dash I heed not nearly enough "Start brain before engaging mouth".*

- 3- It is important to let people know that you put the public interest first. In looking back over the past year or two, are there any decisions of the Orchard City Board of Trustees has made that you do not agree with?

*In my case I have tribal knowledge concerning the decisions trustees have made for the most part. I have only had one instance where Orchard City was involved in an issue that concerned me. They took the time to hear out the issue, visited the location involved, and discussed all sides and opinions before making a decision. I believe they ruled with the public's best interest at heart.*

If yes, how would you change them?

- 4- In the aftermath of recent political events, some security experts cite increased risks to local governments from extremist groups which pose a threat to the right to peacefully assemble and to the proper functioning of government.

- a. How would you define "extremist" activity and do you view it as a threat to the proper function of municipal government?

*I am one of the first to support freedom of speech and freedom to protest peacefully. I watch many recent examples of proclaimed peaceful protests on the news where people are beaten, spit at, called names and worse. Buildings are set on fire, monuments destroyed, homes and businesses are burned. These are examples of extremism. When police have objects thrown at them and are cursed and spit at, and worse - these are extremist activities that are unacceptable. These radical extreme activities do not respect, and do not encourage opinions from other Americans. As Americans we each are governed by the very same Constitution and protected by the same Bill of Rights. When we start to promote these extremist behaviors we are silencing the voice and freedom of speech of other Americans.*

- b. What, if anything, should be done to protect elected officials and the public from those using harassment to stop civil engagement in the exercise of democratic processes?

*If someone throws a rock or a bottle, if someone burns a building: when someone threatens someone's safety or family- I believe they are no longer "peacefully" demonstrating and should face charges,*

*civil fines and possible incarceration. We have laws and we should always be willing to enforce those laws and when they are broken, there should be prosecution. Personal accountability and respect for others is critical and starts in the home and through education.*

- 5- Our county allows the use of mail-in ballots. Do you feel this method serves the public interest?

*I think when someone is unable to vote in person because of health issues or other acceptable extenuating circumstances; or is in the military outside of the country or State - these reasons best serve the public's interests. I would personally prefer voting being done in person and only upon presenting a legal form of ID. In my opinion there is way too much controversy regarding elections anymore. I think it is an honor and privilege to be allowed to legally vote in person, but if mail in voting is the law, I may not like it or feel it best serves the public interest but I support it.*

- 6- Do you feel municipal government in your Delta County community in the recent past has been moving in the correct direction?

*I am concerned about the direction things are going because I care about what we leave our children and grandchildren. I believe it takes a lot of forward thinking and less personal agendas to effect changes which will stand the test of time. We all have experienced knee jerk reactions and decisions which have left us wishing we would have taken more time and thought, I strongly believe we need to be consciously aware at all times there is a danger in implementing changes based on what may have worked in some other city or state without careful thought and consideration; while also realizing using the excuse "well, that's not how we used to do it" can ruin the future success and necessary growth of Orchard City. I believe safety, environment, infrastructure/roads and highways all need to be considered and always consider the tax burden which will be placed on taxpayers. Every decision that Delta and Cedaredge make for example can have an impact on Orchard City when it comes to the highway, safety, emergency services etc. It's a balancing act which impacts everyone. Personal agendas rarely serve the public's best interests.*

- a. What additional steps would you promote to maximize serving the interests of your community in an efficient and cost-effective manner?

*I always push for more education. I think it is difficult for many of us to see the forest for the trees. I would encourage everyone in any situation to make a list where every issue has a pro and con column and these options are weighed and scored, then brought for discussion. If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right!*

- 7- What do you feel are three important issues and/or concerns facing the municipality in which you are seeking elected office and what solutions do you have in mind?

- 1. Highway 65*
- 2. Growth and Business development*
- 3. Personal property issues and ordinance development*

*I could spend hours on each one of these, and everyone who lives in Orchard City has an opinion. A wise man once said "this city wants the absolute best of everything and no one wants to pay for it". There needs to be a balance but the reality is here now. I have ideas I can throw out on the table and I look forward to working with others who have ideas as well. Here are some thoughts.*

- 1. I hear political sorts run from the issue over safety involving the amount of traffic on Hwy 65 and quickly blame the State. I hear those who believe all old people should get off the road and increase the speed - got to go! Got to go!. I hear people who have lived here for years begging everyone to slow down and even using the brake check system to aggravate speeders. Safety is a real concern and needs to be seriously looked at along with any possible options. I think it will need to involve other cities. Rumor is Delta is weighing a 159 home subdivision behind the bowling alley on Hwy 65 and 92. Think that intersection might need some discussion? When Cedaredge builds new businesses and sub-divisions it affects Orchard City on Hwy 65. Lots of issues and concerns.*
- 2. Responsible growth and business development along Hwy 65 needs to be thought out and handled carefully. The Orchard City planning division in my mind has done an excellent job and I encourage residents to follow along with what the planning department faces. Education starts with a willingness to learn! Water is an issue in Orchard City, fiscal responsibility - don't make decisions to implement anything unless you already have a way to pay for it.*
- 3. Don't like to see the houses which are trash ridden? Don't like the barking dog all night? Don't like the RV the neighbor parked on their property on the other*

*side of the fence? How many of us have said- "they shouldn't allow that"? . City ordinances, nuisance laws, someone ought to go and check that house out and make them clean up that place! Let's call the Orchard City Code Enforcement, dog control or the police! Wait a minute - Orchard City does not have a police department, ordinance/code enforcement or animal control. Do we really want to go down that road? Who is going to pay for it? How much will the taxes need to be raised to meet these needs? It is a slippery slope we go down when we try to make Orchard City the perfect little town most of us left because we wanted to go to a town that doesn't have all that! You know, live and let live! . Do I see changes which will need to be considered? Yes, I am willing to look at possible solutions. No easy answers and lot's of hard work needed by committed individuals willing to take on the challenge. I realize I know very little and have a lot to learn. I am up for the challenge!*

4.

Thanks for your help in encouraging public participation in our election process.

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[rtbdeltacounty@gmail.com](mailto:rtbdeltacounty@gmail.com)

David A. Murphy