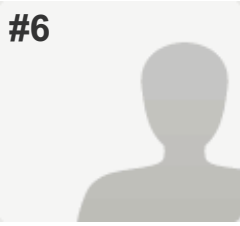


#6



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)
Started: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:07:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:10:07 AM
Time Spent: Over a week
First Name: John
Last Name: Kidd Jr.
Email: john@john4denver.com

Custom Data: City Council
IP Address: 174.51.200.91

PAGE 1

Q1: What is your name please?	John Kidd
Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?	District 2
Q3: Please tell us the best way to contact you if we have a question..telephone or email. Please provide either or both in the comment box below.	

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Q4: Do you believe it is the ultimate obligation of City Council members to represent and advocate for their constituents in the neighborhoods they represent, rather than expedite the Mayor's office or private businesses that may benefit from these types of transactions between governmental entities?	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Comment: I believe the essential role of a Denver city council member is to represent and advocate for the people who elected them to office. The point when a council member stops doing just that is the point when the People should be moved to action and remind the council member why they were elected to office. In circumstances where public land and public buildings are being considered for uses other than what they were originally intended or designated for, I do believe the citizens should have a say in approving or disapproving those changes as is currently required by the city charter. With a vote of the citizenry, at least city government will be required to present all the facts to the people and avoid the perception of "closed door meetings" and "back room deals" which only diminish public trust. After all, it is public land or property first and foremost and should involve community input as to its use or sale.</p>
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Q5: Do you believe that preserving strong public neighborhood schools in each of our communities is very important to the viability and strength for the future of our neighborhoods?

Yes,

Comment:

As I've walked door to door through the many neighborhoods that make up Council District 2, it is very evident that the people are very concerned with having access to strong public neighborhood schools for their children. The primary concern of those who do not have children in DPS is that new families will choose not to purchase homes and move into the district because of the lack of access to high quality / high achievement schools. Without good schools for our kids, the sustainability of our neighborhoods and the city in general is problematic. Lincoln and Kennedy High Schools are located in Council District 2 and are struggling with many issues ranging from a majority of the student population living in poverty to English as a second language challenges that adversely affect state testing scores, college preparedness, and dropout rates. I believe it is the responsibility of the DPS Board and the State Legislature to focusing on improving our public schools, not the city council's. But there are opportunities for council members to get involved to help keep kids in school. I support efforts to promote public / private partnerships that help kids not interested in going to college build skills for employment after graduation. There are numerous unfilled apprenticeships and skilled jobs available in the community but require dedicated students willing to learn a trade.

PAGE 5: I. DESIGNATION OF UNDESIGNATED PARKS, PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE, MORE PARKLAND

Q6: INC, in response to a request from the Department of Parks and Recreation, formed a committee to aid the department's effort to designate undesignated parks. While this committee has made progress over the past two years, the work is not finished. Would you support a concerted effort within all city departments affected to complete the designation of all undesignated Denver parks that are legally available for designation?

Yes,

Comment:

I would support this effort to complete the designation of all undesignated Denver open space parks as long as it did not result in a substantial increase in park maintenance costs which are not currently budgeted for. I agree that undesignated parks are at risk of being used for unintended purposes or even possibly sold for development. By designating these undesignated parcels, at least the voters would be allowed to approve or disapprove any changes to the intended use as is required by the city charter.

Q7: In addition to designating undesignated parks, we also need to prevent the transfer of open space within designated parks to institutions within parks. Over many years, open space in designated parks has been re-allocated by the Manager of Parks and Recreation to institutions within parks such as recreation centers, museums, and zoos. It is important that open space within parks is protected. Would you ask for policy changes to protect open space within designated parks?

Yes,

Comment:

Currently, the Manager of Parks and Recreation has full authority to re-allocate open space to allow for the building of recreation centers and other public buildings. I would support efforts that would require the Manager of Parks and Recreations to hold open public meetings to allow input and discussion by members of the community before the final decision is made to re-allocate open space.

Q8: There is inadequate urban parkland in Denver given the size, density, and expected growth of Denver's population. For example: The city had 555,000 residents in 2000 and is projected to have 700,000 in 2020. While the Hancock administration may add additional parkland to the park system, the current plans focus on the acquisition of land at the periphery of Denver. We need parkland in the center of the city where the population is growing and "density" is a goal of the administration's urban development plan. Would you support the acquisition of additional parkland and open space within the center of the City of Denver?

No,

Comment:

At this time, I would only support efforts to make sure first that we are taking care of the over 200 parks in Denver that we have a responsibility to the taxpayers to maintain and keep operating safely. Several of our parks are severely distressed and need some attention to make them safe and usable again. Let's first focus on maintaining our existing parks before we consider adding even more responsibility to Parks and Recreation Department and creating additional costs to the taxpayers.

PAGE 6: II. ACQUISITION OF PLAYING FIELDS AND A FESTIVAL SITE

Q9: The urban parkland that does exist is viewed increasingly as a site for multiple and oftentimes conflicting purposes-- opportunities to experience nature, spaces in which teams can play, and sites for large festivals. These uses of the same land has created problems within our parks including damage to parkland and vegetation, limitation of public access to parks, and distress for neighborhoods bordering parks (eg., unacceptable levels of noise, traffic congestion, threats to public safety, and problems parking). As a result, a site is needed for large ticketed events such as festivals that is not located within neighborhoods. Well-lighted playing fields with bathrooms and parking outside of city parks are also required. Would you support the development of a Festival Site?

No,

Comment:

The big question regarding the development of a Festival Site in Denver is where would you build it? As with most large venues, the issue would be that no matter where you locate a facility like this, there will be an issue with noise, light, parking and traffic affecting surrounding neighborhoods. I believe that with Red Rocks Amphitheater, the Pepsi Center and even Sports Authority Field at Mile High, we have several great concert venues already in place and have benefited tremendously over the years with attracting major performers. Civic Center Park is also a central venue that has served the people of Denver as a Festival Site (Taste of Colorado, Cinco de Mayo, etc...) so well over the years. To develop a new Festival Site in my opinion would require that it be located so far outside of the Downtown area that it would be inconvenient to get to unless it was located within walking distance from existing and future RTD light rail lines.

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

Q10: Would you explore opportunities for and support the development of playing fields outside of city parks for Denver citizens?

No,

Comment:

Again, as in the previous question, I believe that noise issues, light pollution, and parking and traffic problems would adversely affect whichever neighborhoods these fields would be located in. It's important to me to make sure that the people who purchased homes next to parks don't suddenly find it undesirable to live next to a park because of noise and light issues. I would be open to exploring the re-development of under-utilized parks that currently do not have residents living on the parameters of the parks to playing fields.

PAGE 7: III. USE OF RECYCLED WATER IN PARKS

Q11: Would you ask the City administration to convene a panel of independent experts in plant physiology, soil chemistry etc. to evaluate the safety of the type of recycled water used in our parks and to report the results to the public?

Yes,

Comment:

Yes, I believe that in order to make our parks more sustainable, we need to make sure the new and innovative ways to reuse water are not detrimental to people or the environment. As the population of Denver increases, demands for water will also increase. As responsible citizens, we need to support efforts in making our city as sustainable as possible without putting public safety at risk.

Q12: If the risks of the type of recycled water currently in use are found to be too high, would you support all steps necessary to eliminate these risks?

No,

Comment:

I would support reasonable efforts to eliminate risks associated with the use of recycled water. If the overall cost far outweighs the benefits to the public, we may need to rethink our position and search for other options that make good sense.

PAGE 8: IV. PARK ADMINISTRATION

Q13: Effective government requires citizen engagement. INC has received multiple complaints and over many years pertaining to the use of parks. Complaints include the difficulty citizens have in influencing park policies. A new Office of Special Events has been formed by the Mayor and its function will have an impact on what events occur in parks. Would you advocate for INC representation on an Advisory Board for the Office of Special Events?

Yes,

Comment:

My understanding is that INC currently has a member on the Advisory Board and would support keeping an INC member on the board.

Q14: Would you direct funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure enforcement of park rules and regulations within the entire park system?

No

PAGE 9: V. PARK FUNDING

Q15: Denver's park and parkway system is grossly under-funded. A broad range of funding sources must be pursued in order to sustain and to expand Denver' park system. This funding includes local and state-level dedicated revenue sources. Denver is surrounded by municipalities that fund their parks with a tax levy dedicated to parks. Would you support a tax levy to provide a stable funding source with which to acquire land for parks, open space, a festival site, playing fields, and for maintenance of all these for Denver's park system?

No,

Comment:

I would not support a tax levy because I believe it is up to the voters to approve any tax increases. I would support efforts to find cost saving measures to reduce the operational expense of our park system.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

Q16: If elected, would you support an increase to Public Works funding for discretionary projects in neighborhoods?

No,

Comment:

Again, I believe it is the responsibility of Public Works Management to focus on cost saving measures that could potentially provide additional funding for discretionary projects.

PAGE 12: Commitment to Vision Zero

Q17: Would you support Denver joining the ranks of cities that target elimination of traffic deaths and serious injuries as a moral priority by adopting a Vision Zero approach?

Yes,

Comment:

Within District 2, we have several areas that are of major concern for pedestrian and bicyclist safety and have experienced several fatalities recently. I would support efforts to make street crossings safer and also efforts to educate the public as to the risks of crossing major streets between stoplights and outside of crosswalks.

PAGE 13: Best Practices regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance

Q18: Would you support Denver pursuing and implementing best practices from other cities regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance, with the goal of increasing walkability?

Yes,

Comment:

In Council District 2, we have many Hollywood style sidewalks and some areas even without sidewalks that pose a serious threat to public safety and walkability. We need to look at ways to make these areas safer and provide walkability for the residents of the community. The Denver Living Streets initiative is a perfect example of how we can make our sidewalks safer and also increase their walkability.

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Q19: . Would you support the City of Denver engaging consultants to study the effects of parking on neighborhoods in areas where high rise development is contemplated prior to approval of the development. If so, what parking study process would you suggest?

No,

Comment:

I believe that the City currently has an appropriate process in place regarding parking requirements through the office of Community Planning and Development and Development Services.

Q20: Do you believe the 2010 Zoning Code adopted by City Council in 2010 has benefited all neighborhoods in Denver or some neighborhoods? Please cite examples.

Yes,

Examples:

Cherry Creek seems to be the neighborhood that has benefited most from the 2010 Zoning Code.

Q21: What changes do you believe need to be made to the 2010 Zoning Code,if any, and why.

n/a

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Q22: Will you urge the Mayor and city officials to appoint representatives of residential neighborhood organizations to all city boards, commission, advisory committees, collaborative groups and task forces which consider planning and zoning issues. If so, describe the efforts you would take to ensure such appointments are made.

Yes

Q23: INC has been advised that the Director of Community Planning and Development is recommending Blueprint Denver be revised and updated. Do you support such a recommendation and describe what process you would support to ensure neighborhood participation.

Yes,

Comment:

I would request that members of the public and neighborhood organizations be involved in and allowed to provide input in the revision process.

Q24: Please describe your vision of “smart growth” for the City of Denver in ten words or less. The vision should capture stakeholder expectations of your anticipated leadership on City Council.

Intelligent community planning and development with improved quality of life

Q25: . Entertainment districts which extend the hours for alcohol to be served, often until 4:00 a.m., have been adopted in a few cities throughout Colorado. Would you support an entertainment district in certain areas in Denver? If so, where and until what time?

No,

Comment:

I believe Denver has adequate service hours in place now and do not need extending.

Q26: Short term rentals, that is rentals for less than 30 days are now illegal in Denver residential neighborhoods. Do you support the adoption of an ordinance which would permit short term rentals in Denver residential neighborhoods. If not, why not. If you would support an ordinance to allow short term rentals in residential neighborhoods, please describe the process you would support, including the process for funding.

No