

PPFC QUESTIONNAIRE

1. In the interest of saving the city money by sharing jointly needed assets, would you support a regional firearm range for use both by citizens and law enforcement in the metro area?

Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES - I believe in lean government that leverages scarce resources in innovative and strategic ways. We must do more with less. Currently, we have multiple law enforcement agencies including Colorado Springs Police and El Paso County Sheriff who should be able to share a shooting range and minimize costs to the local taxpayers.

I would support making such facilities open and available to the public in a common sense way that does not compete with law enforcement training requirements but serves both citizen and law enforcement personnel.

2. Many communities, even small ones like Pueblo (<http://www.puebloshooters.org/>) and Greeley (<http://www.greeleygov.com/recreation/GreeleyRecAmenities.aspx>), have public shooting facilities. Believing that responsible firearm owners should routinely practice, what will you do to see that the recreational opportunities for firearm enthusiasts in this community are met as well?
3. Do you believe that public shooting ranges are a benefit to the community? If so how would you support and encourage firearm ranges.

Questions #2 & #3 seem very similar and address common issues that I will answer together:

I am a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment and believe in unrestricted responsible firearm ownership. I'm also a fiscal conservative and believe government has limited and lean role. Currently, our city has dropped the ball on the basics, like public safety and maintaing our roads and bridges.

Rather than a government owned/operated shooting facilities, I believe these ought to be operated privately. With the exception of a joint law enforcement/public usage range/facility, I do not believe it is a primary function of government to provide shooting facilities.

However, there are appropriate ways to partner with and encourage gun enthusiasts and responsible gun ownership. The City of Colorado Springs has hundreds of acres of unused land, much of which cannot be sold for various reasons. Could the City make property available for such a facility? Yes, absolutely.

4. Do you believe the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution affirms every individual's right to keep and bear arms and that the Colorado Constitution reaffirms that right? Please answer: Yes or No _____

Absolutely. YES 100%.

5. Project Safe Neighborhood was intended to aggressively prosecute violent criminals who use guns during the commission of their crime. We feel, however, that this project and others like it have gone beyond their original intent and are being used to harass all gun owners in general. Would you support any program like Project Safe Neighborhood that is used to prosecute offenses involving guns, even if nonviolent?
Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO - Project Safe Neighborhoods has not been the proper or effective implementation of a well-meaning idea of safer neighborhoods. Initiatives like Project Safe have been abused by liberals and the courts. I support the rule of law and if someone breaks the law with a firearm they should be held accountable.

I strongly support the idea of aggressively prosecuting those who use guns in the commission of a violent crime while upholding the rights of citizens to carry firearms to protect themselves and others.

Law-abiding and responsible gun owners and conceal carry permit holders are simply not involved in this type of behavior and should not be harassed by these well-intentioned programs. A well-armed and responsible citizenry actually leads to safer neighborhoods.

6. Do you believe that the Rampart Shooting Range should be re-opened? Please answer: Yes or No _____

Closing Rampart Shooting Range was an overreaction to a horrible tragedy. It was also a convenient excuse by those seeking to limit lawful gun ownership and usage.

Rampart Shooting Range should be re-opened and used in a common-sense and responsible manner. I'm open to different innovative ideas including some type of private/public partnership strategy to re-open the range and to keep it clean.

7. In light of recent national events, do you believe that the City of Colorado Springs should enact an ordinance limiting magazine capacity? Please answer: Yes or No

No. Similar to what happened after the shooting death at Rampart Shooting Range this would be an unnecessary overreaction. Again, such regulations are being advocated by those who would deny law-abiding citizens their 2nd Amendment Rights. The opponents of the 2nd Amendment can be smart and savvy. Rather than confronting the issue head-on, they seek out ways to slowly erode our rights with regulation/legislation on cosmetic appearances, ammunition types, and now magazine capacity. This erosion must never be allowed to begin. We must stand strong in the defense of 2nd Amendment Rights.

We need to encourage and help law-abiding citizens who can protect themselves and others from armed criminals. If enough citizens were well trained and chose to conceal carry, it wouldn't matter how many rounds the criminal had in their magazine.

As Mayor, I will be a vocal champion of the 2nd Amendment and will oppose any local attempt to erode those rights.

8. Currently federal and state laws allow 18 to 20 year old law-abiding citizens to buy rifles and shotguns or possess handguns. Would you support laws that would further restrict 18 to 20 year olds rights to purchase or possess a firearm?
Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO – At age 18 one becomes by law an adult and therefore should have all the rights and privileges of an American citizen including the right to keep and bear arms. If one is old enough to serve in the United States military then one is old enough to own firearms.

I would never support any legislation or regulation that restricts the rights of any law-abiding American citizen to exercise their 2nd Amendment Rights.

9. Article IV of the U.S. Constitution says that “Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and Judicial Proceedings of every other State”. Would you support a Federal law that requires states to honor concealed carry permits issued by other states? Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO – This is a state's rights issue and also a matter of constitutional law. While in theory I understand the concept behind such legislation, this should not be a federal legislative issue. Courts should enforce the mandate already in our Constitution, that firearms ownership is a right not to be infringed. The Constitution is clear and

does not require legislation to further define what is already the right of every American to keep and bear arms, regardless of the state in which they reside or travel.

I believe that Colorado can and should lead on this issue by (eliminating the requirement for law-abiding citizens to have a concealed carry permit.) honoring every other states' conceal carry permits and asking them to reciprocate.

10. In Vermont and Alaska, law-abiding citizens have a legal right to carry concealed firearms without the requirement of obtaining a permit to do so. Would you support a similar concealed carry law in Colorado? Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES - Absolutely. 100%. A permit issued by the government should not be required for citizens to exercise their 2nd Amendment Rights and defend their families and property.

As Mayor, I commit to work to eliminate the current regulations prohibiting weapons in city buildings and parks. I'm hopeful that Colorado Springs could utilize our status as a home-rule city to override current state law requiring concerning concealed carry permits. The City could and should allow law-abiding and responsible citizens to carry without a government permit. As Mayor, I intend to put such legislation before the city council during my first term in office. Aside from protecting the constitution, this enhanced freedom will reduce crime within our community.

11. Concealed carry permit holders are more law abiding as a group than the average citizen. Do you support prohibiting law abiding concealed carry permit holders from carrying concealed within public schools or on school grounds?
Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO – All law-abiding citizens ought to be empowered to enjoy their 2nd Amendment rights including teachers. In fact, such prohibitions simply create kill zones for those criminals who wish to perpetrate a crime with a firearm by ensuring that there will not be a responsible armed citizen to stop them.

The individual carrying that concealed weapon must be responsible and accountable for doing so. I would support an employer or school's right to dismiss any individual found to be exercising their rights irresponsibly, including unnecessarily displaying or brandishing a weapon without cause.

12. Some proposed laws would limit gun ownership based on the appearance of the firearm or the caliber. Would you oppose any law that limits lawful citizens from owning a specific firearm based on its appearance, cosmetic features, or caliber?

Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES – I oppose limiting gun ownership based on cosmetic appearance or caliber criteria.

13. Some lawsuits have been pursued against firearm manufacturers because of crimes committed with their product. Do you believe a manufacturer should be held liable for illegal activity that occurs using their product? Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO – Individuals must be responsible for their own actions. Someone could use a medical scalpel or even a butter knife to murder someone, should we hold these manufacturers liable for the death of a victim. Absurd!

14. Will you oppose the creation or maintenance of any database of firearms purchasers or any database that, in any way, mingles information about lawful firearm owners with that of criminals or suspects? Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES - To begin with, I oppose any registration of firearms. Should that information be collected, however, it should never be co-mingled in the manner suggested. Lawful gun owners keep us safe, not the other way around. We must recognize that and oppose any attempt to create fear or suspicion of law-abiding gun owners.

15. What is your favorite firearm?

My AR-15. I own several rifles and a shotgun that I use to take my three sons out to shoot. My oldest brother shares my interest in firearms and after recently firing his Springfield XD, I've decided to personally purchase one as a new concealed carry weapon.

16. Despite millions of dollars spent on the federal Brady background check and the redundant Colorado background check, there is no evidence that either program has stopped a single criminal from acquiring a firearm. Would you support the repeal of background checks to purchase a firearm? Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES – These laws do not stop criminals from obtaining firearms; they simply create the incentive for an underground, black-market gun industry. Law-abiding citizens should not have their constitutional right to own a firearm questioned or monitored by the government.

17. Do you believe gun owners should be required to register their firearms?

Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO – It should never be allowed to happen. Ever. That’s what happens in other countries right before freedom is destroyed. I would use our status as a home-rule city to fight any such legislation.

18. Do you believe there should be a limit on the number of firearms any one individual may purchase in any specific time period? Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO – Clinton’s proposed one gun a month plan would have been very hard on some enthusiasts or on families choosing activities such as hunting or shooting.

19. Do you believe there should be a limit on the number of firearms any one individual may own? Please answer: Yes or No _____

NO – It’s the beauty of owning firearms, neither the government nor criminals are entirely sure how many you actually have!

20. Do you support upholding the state law (SB25, passed in 2003) that prohibits localities, even Home Rule entities, from limiting the rights of citizens to purchase, possess, or carry firearms (including open carry)? Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES – I believe in the Constitution and as an elected official will always err on the side of defending the Constitution as it was written. While a firm believer of county and municipal governments having control of local affairs they cannot override a Constitutional right.

21. Do you oppose the passage of “safe storage” laws or ordinances that make it impossible for a law abiding citizen to keep a firearm in a condition ready to defend their family? Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES – “Safe storage” is different for different people. A concealed holstered firearm on a person may actually be stored in a safer manner than one locked in a car that can be broken into. These types of laws limit the ability to respond to a threat and must be the decision of the individual. We must hold individuals accountable for responsible use and storage of their firearm but the onus is on the individual, not the government.

22. Sportsmen/women in Colorado face a problem of not having access to forest land where hunting and other recreational activities are allowed. Would you support legislation to increase access to publicly owned lands for recreational purposes, including hunting? Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES. This is an area where common sense should carry the day. These public lands ought to have increased access and be used in a wise and responsible manner. We have a well run wildlife management system in Colorado and we know that hunting is an important part of wildlife sustainability.

Currently the Colorado Springs municipal code states, in part:

C. For purposes of this section, "display" means any opening, or unfolding, manifestation, exhibition, ostentatious showing, or exhibition for effect meant to intimidate, threaten, alarm, or frighten any person.

D. It shall be an affirmative defense that the actor displayed the weapon in self-defense, or to defend another person, or to defend the actor's premises or property. All other applicable State defenses apply. (1968 Code §8-14; Ord. 80-13; Ord. 97-132; Ord. 01-42; Ord. 03-105)

23. In effect, Colorado Springs code allows one to "menace" an aggressor to protect one's self, family, or property. Would you support a change to the Colorado State law that would allow the presentation of a firearm as a less than lethal show of force to protect one's self, family, or property? Please answer: Yes or No _____

YES – Colorado Springs law correctly allows one to protect themselves, their families, and their property. If someone has reason to believe that they or others are in danger they should be able to utilize their firearm as a non-lethal tactic of appropriate intimidation in an attempt to resolve the situation. These individuals should not be prosecuted for responsible use of their weapon in a self-defense situation. We must always protect the rights of our citizens to act in self-defense.

24. If offered, would you accept:
_____ A PPFC Endorsement _____ A PPFC Contribution to your campaign

YES - I would accept both the PPFC endorsement and financial partnership on this campaign.

25. Any further comments you would like us to consider:

The city's law enforcement sells confiscated property from criminal activity with the exception of firearms. Many of these agencies destroy those confiscated firearms. As a fiscal conservative I believe this is a tremendous waste. Firearms should be treated in the same manner as other property, there should be no distinction.

As Mayor, I would make immediate changes in legislation/regulation including executive order directives to Colorado Springs Police Department to cease this practice. I consider this issue to be an economic opportunity to generate revenue for the law enforcement agencies involved.

After Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans police began confiscating the firearms of homeowners who were defending their families, homes, and businesses. This confiscation was stopped only after a lawsuit brought by the National Rifle Association. What happened in New Orleans was not the result of a shooting incident or appropriate evidence collection but it was a systematic and unlawful search and seizure of personal property and a clear violation of 2nd Amendment rights.

As Mayor, and the CEO over the Chief of Police, I would never allow this type of behavior to occur in Colorado Springs. The right to defend self is inherent in the 2nd Amendment. State/Municipal law, regulation and behavior should protect that right and never violate it.

As Mayor, it will be a high priority to ensure that those charged with public safety and those leading our local law enforcement agencies be individuals who respect and uphold 2nd Amendment Rights. Currently, our Chief of Police opposes legislation that would allow citizens to conceal carry without a permit. This is a concern for me as I believe a well-armed, responsible citizenry will prevent crime.

Finally, as alluded to earlier, as Mayor, I will make immediate changes to current city policy. Prohibitions on law-abiding citizens to carry their firearms, concealed or open carry on city property and in city buildings would be repealed immediately. These are unconstitutional regulations and must cease.

Second, as a Home Rule city, I believe that we could implement an ordinance change to allow law-abiding citizens to carry concealed without a government issued permit. I would be a strong and vocal proponent of such ordinance adoption.

I certify that the above responses are mine and reflect my true position on the stated issues:

Signature

Printed Name

Date