
RE: Andy Matkovich | Buena Vista Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. In a few sentences, please briefly share why you're motivated to run for public office, and why you believe you're qualified to serve in this context. (your response will be printed on the in-person Forum Program).
 - Since relocating to Buena Vista in 2020, my wife and I have actively engaged in various town community events, celebrations, and community service initiatives. Our commitment to participation reflects our genuine desire to be involved and make a positive impact in our community. I am enthusiastic about deepening my involvement as an active citizen and contributing positively to Buena Vista. I believe the role of a trustee is to be open minded and listen to all viewpoints, contrast them with each other, as well as apply personal experiences and observations before coming to a conclusion or compromise. I have spent the last 20 years as a Product Manager doing exactly that. I lead teams of diverse skill sets to collaborate in a unified vision to build digital products and services - a skill set that can translate well in a Trustee role.
2. I support changing codes and processes towards increased use of Administrative decisions by public sector staff, while focusing public input on changes to the code itself.
 - Somewhat Agree
3. Development approval times are:
 - Prohibitively slow, thereby discouraging development
4. As you are likely aware, the Chaffee County 2020 Comp Plan stated, "keep the country country and the towns towns". What does this statement mean to you and how would you use this guiding principle in setting land use policy?
 - For me this is about optimizing density for residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments, particularly along corridors adjacent to city centers. By strategically varying density levels, we aim to enhance walkability, foster community interaction, and create diverse economic opportunities.

5. The Town's government is sufficiently connected to, and collaborative with, the school district.
 - Somewhat Agree
6. How can the Town's government encourage/support/facilitate increasing work-based learning programs for local youth?
 - The town has the potential to establish an open market that supports local businesses, offering valuable opportunities for its youth. Collaboration with key stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Mountain College, and local educational institutions is essential to successfully implement this initiative
7. Passing a local ordinance requiring the installation of broadband infrastructure as a part of all new development is a must.
 - Somewhat Agree
8. Internet infrastructure should be treated as equally important to other utilities (water, sewer, gas, electricity) in infrastructure projects.
 - Somewhat Agree
9. What is local government's role in increasing broadband availability and reliability for the community?
 - I know it's important for long term economic prosperity and education. I can personally testify to this as it was a major factor in why my wife and I were able to relocate to Buena Vista. The government should work with providers to ensure internet infrastructure is installed in correlation with infrastructure projects such as water, sewer and electric.
10. [BV/Poncha] has enough water to meet municipal, housing, and commercial development growth.
 - Strongly Disagree
11. In the face of inadequate current water supply Town should...
 - Pursue additional municipal water sources to support future development
12. What is the most important next step for Town in regards to water or wastewater?
 - It is important that we promptly pursue the acquisition of water rights, whether through land purchases, well drilling, or other viable means. Furthermore, we must prioritize the maintenance and financial support of our existing water resources to ensure long-term stability and resilience

13. Producing housing that is accessible to our local workforce requires public subsidy in amounts that directly affect affordability levels.
 - Strongly Agree
14. Density is directly linked to affordability (i.e. increased density lowers the cost of each housing unit).
 - Somewhat Disagree
15. Encouraging housing development, including market rate housing, is helpful to the overall health of the housing market and to the community.
 - Somewhat Agree
16. Housing policy is a local government responsibility.
 - Somewhat Agree
17. What specific policy would you change or advocate for that would have a tangible impact on workforce housing if elected?
 - We must invest capital in incentive programs targeting landowners, businesses, and builders to encourage the development of multi-residential housing. Furthermore, exploring new dedicated revenue streams is essential to strengthen housing incentives and address our community's housing needs effectively.
18. New rules & regulations for environmental sustainability should be weighed against, and modified for, their impact on the health of local businesses.
 - Strongly Agree
19. Environmental sustainability is inextricably linked with innovation and technology.
 - Somewhat Disagree
20. The single most important action [BV/Poncha] can take in 2024 to advance environmental sustainability is...
 - While my personal experience and expertise in this area are limited, my passion for outdoor activities such as hiking, rafting, fishing, and hunting has instilled in me a deep appreciation for the significance of a thriving ecosystem and a pristine, biodiverse river. I recognize that maintaining the health of our natural environment is not only the right thing to do but also serves as a crucial economic asset for our town.

21. "Closing question: What question have we not asked that you'd like to share (and answer?)"

- How do we keep Buena Vista unique as it grows? ... Buena Vista has a lot going for it. Our community is special because of the people who live here. We genuinely care about each other and the natural beauty that surrounds our town. Unlike some other towns in Colorado that rely solely on tourism or commuters, Buena Vista is a working mountain town at its core.

Apart from the stunning river that runs through our town, we also have a business corridor off the highway that encourages walking and interaction. It's important for us to maintain and encourage walkability, public spaces, and population density to keep our community thriving. These efforts not only benefit us now but also ensure that Buena Vista remains a great place to live and visit in the future.