

---

**RE: Leann Olson | Poncha Springs 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).
  - As a homeowner in Poncha Springs I would like to build on the sense of community in the town and promote inclusion of all residents. Poncha Springs has grown rapidly and strategic planning for future growth is needed while keeping that small town feel. There are so many great assets that our town has to offer, and my goal would be to enhance those existing assets through planning and grants. Promoting and enhancing existing recreation areas would help to draw in additional business and create a town where folks would want to gather, recreate and patronize local businesses. Strategic short- and long-term planning for the future with community input is essential. Currently the feel is that we are a bedroom community to Salida, but we have potential to become much more!
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.
  - Strongly Agree
3. Development approval times are:
  - Slow, but necessarily so
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?
  - Implementing accurate land use guidelines for varying areas in town vs out of town limits. The Countryside should remain less dense while in town density can increase to accommodate affordable housing and businesses.
5. The Town's government is sufficiently connected to, and collaborative with, the school district.

- Somewhat Disagree
6. How can the Town's government encourage/support/facilitate increasing work-based learning programs for local youth?
    - The community needs to work together to identify business needs and collaborate with school curriculum as well as what CMC has to offer.
  7. Passing a local ordinance requiring the installation of broadband infrastructure as a part of all new development is a must.
    - Strongly Agree
  8. Internet infrastructure should be treated as equally important to other utilities (water, sewer, gas, electricity) in infrastructure projects.
    - Strongly Agree
  9. What is local government's role in increasing broadband availability and reliability for the community?
    - Local government's role is to ensure local reliable broadband is available to public institutions, businesses and residents at affordable costs. New developments should be required to provide access. These efforts can enhance economic development, improve distance learning opportunities, promote inter-jurisdictional communication, and improve health care delivery and to meet residents requests for better access to the breadth of services available over broadband.
  10. [BV/Poncha] has enough water to meet municipal, housing, and commercial development growth.
    - Somewhat Agree
  11. In the face of inadequate current water supply Town should...
    - Allow development but require development to pay for additional water rights
  12. What is the most important next step for Town in regards to water or wastewater?
    - For Poncha Springs to come to an agreement with Salida in order to remove the moratorium on development in Poncha Springs. Compromise is needed to ensure both communities share in the solution.
  13. Producing housing that is accessible to our local workforce requires public subsidy in amounts that directly affect affordability levels.

- Somewhat Agree
14. Density is directly linked to affordability (i.e. increased density lowers the cost of each housing unit).
- Somewhat Agree
15. Encouraging housing development, including market rate housing, is helpful to the overall health of the housing market and to the community.
- Somewhat Disagree
16. Housing policy is a local government responsibility.
- Strongly Agree
17. What specific policy would you change or advocate for that would have a tangible impact on workforce housing if elected?
- Reducing the Cost of Development (Reduced/Waived Fees, Decreasing the Cost of Regulation)
18. New rules & regulations for environmental sustainability should be weighed against, and modified for, their impact on the health of local businesses.
- Somewhat Agree
19. Environmental sustainability is inextricably linked with innovation and technology.
- Somewhat Agree
20. The single most important action [BV/Poncha] can take in 2024 to advance environmental sustainability is...
- Develop an environmental sustainability plan with input from the county and community. The plan should include education and communication along with community involvement.
21. "Closing question: What question have we not asked that you'd like to share (and answer?)"
- "Community is top priority. Be proud to be a resident of Poncha Springs.
    - Walkable downtown area
    - Family oriented and events
    - Park programs and recreation
    - Utilize and promote current assets
    - Promote local culture and businesses
    - Utilize local talent, promote volunteerism

- Transparency - communicate to residents and gather input on projects
  - New website - uptodate documents, easy to find information
  - Social Media - utilize for communication
  - Newsletter email list
  - Town meetings
- Strategic Planning for our future
  - Land Use
  - Development
  - Branding and marketing
  - Vision for future with short- and long-term goals
  - Grants to assist our town.
    - Facade improvements
    - Recreation
    - Safety
    - Affordable housing/Workforce housing