
RE: Nancy Compton | 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).
 - I grew up in Poncha Springs. I recently was able to purchase a home and am now raising my two boys in Poncha. As our community continues to expand, I am committed to fostering its growth in a manner that ensures the safety and economic prosperity of its residents. My professional background includes running a local business, and I have also pursued coursework in governmental studies during my college education.

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:
 - I don't feel that I am knowledgeable enough on this topic to answer

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?
 - Our county boasts a rich agricultural heritage, yet evolving circumstances have necessitated a reevaluation of land use within this sector. While we cherish our rural and wild landscapes, we must also recognize the importance of accommodating growth in other industries to sustain economic development. As we explore opportunities for expansion, it is important that our community assesses all avenues of productivity and traditionality to ensure economic sustainability for our town.

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?
 - Knowing how hard it is to set up businesses and programs, I assume it will be just as hard to establish work-based learning programs for local youth. However, I am dedicated to help research and support programs that will help to continue education in work-based learning. The town's government may find resources to help youth by offering forums or classes lead by local businesses.
 7. Passing a local ordinance requiring the installation of broadband infrastructure as a part of all new development is a must.
 - Somewhat Disagree
 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?
 - As our community continues to evolve, the increasing reliance on technology has become apparent. The aging communication infrastructure in our area has led to disruptions in internet and communication services, particularly during inclement weather. While I do not believe it is the government's responsibility to ensure the reliability of technology, I do advocate for their support in facilitating growth and change within the private sector. Should the government choose to assume responsibility for telecommunication devices, it would necessitate a large expansion of their role, adding a separate class within their current infrastructure. This could lead to challenges in managing mass outages compared to the current diverse businesses providing these services.
 10. [BV/Poncha] has enough water to meet municipal, housing, and commercial development growth.
 - Somewhat Disagree
 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?
 - I am unaware of the current restrictions that the Town faces. However, it is important to realize that we are in a frequent drought area. I feel in times of great duress, the town will need to monitor water usage and implement additional water right fees to the larger developing areas. The current water system was built during a time of small growth. With our large expansion in the last decade, I am sure there are strains on the water system that need to be addressed.
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).
 - Strongly Agree
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?
 - I advocate for the Town to explore development strategies that prioritize workforce housing, taking into account varying income levels. The presence of high-value homes in our vicinity has led to an escalation in property prices, compounded by the Federal Reserve's increased interest rates, thereby posing challenges for the working class to afford homeownership. The provision of rental units, supplemented by government subsidies, with rents pegged to income levels, would be advantageous for our community. Given our area's reliance on seasonal tourism, many employment opportunities associated with this industry do not offer sufficient wages to sustain independent living.
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 Disagree

20. The single most important action [BV/Poncha] can take in 2024 to advance environmental sustainability is...

- Looking at recycling options for its inhabitants and promoting energy efficiency in homes. The Town should look at subsidies to help home owners of homes, older than 25 years, to help replace windows, doors, etc. to promote lower energy uses.

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

- No Response