
RE: Thomas Brown | 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).
 - Buena Vista is special, and elected members of the Board of Trustees should promote intelligent smart government solutions for the health, welfare, and well-being of its residents and businesses. I am a 5th generation Coloradan, educated in Colorado schools, an Army veteran, a former intelligence officer, and a previous small business owner. I have led and served on many boards and commissions to include the Buena Vista Planning and Zoning Commission, the Chaffee County Transportation Advisory Board, and the Colorado Veterans Community Living Centers Commission. I seek to preserve the small town vitality of Buena Vista and look forward to serving the community as a member of the Board of Trustees.
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 Disagree
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?
 - I view Buena Vista as a clean, safe, quiet, and secure community that is a desirable place to live, work, and play.
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?
 - Continue to support, promote, and expand a variety of learning opportunities from preschool to advanced degrees. This can be in class and virtual learning opportunities.
7. Passing a local ordinance requiring the installation of broadband infrastructure as a part of all new development is a must.
 - No answer
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?
 - High-speed broadband access is available for all Town residents. Buena Vista broadband providers have been generally reliable.
10. [BV/Poncha] has enough water to meet municipal, housing, and commercial development growth.
 - No Answer
11. In the face of inadequate current water supply Town should...
 - All water related options should be considered on a case by case basis and as appropriate.
12. What is the most important next step for Town in regards to water or wastewater?
 - See "other" comment above.
13. Producing housing that is accessible to our local workforce requires public subsidy in amounts that directly affect affordability levels.
 - Somewhat Disagree
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 Agree

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?

- As Trustee, I would seek to review, update, and revise as necessary relevant municipal codes and ordinances to determine they are best meeting the affordable housing needs of the residents of Buena Vista.

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.

- Strongly Agree

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

- Assess and implement best management practices to reduce wildfire risk to the Town, the infiltration gallery, and associated watershed.

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

- No Answer