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**RE: Beth Mason | Chaffee County Commissioner 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've been participating in activities in this county since the mid-nineties and became a permanent resident 17 years ago. What I have seen happen here is a lack of thoughtful, fact based decisions being made for the good of our residents resulting in too much emotion driving the bus. I've owned a restaurant, landscaping company, been a project manager, caregiver, hospice worker, board member to name just a few hats I've worn, most of which required a budget. I have never left a position in the middle of a project or term, so you can trust I will accomplish what I set out to do.

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?

## Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation

123 G Street, Suite 7  
Salida, Colorado 81201  
Phone: 719-239-2018



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- First, I could not find any specific designation in the comp plan in regards to infrastructure. Density building should be done near existing infrastructure that is already in place. Allowing a house to be built on a two acre average lot in the country is not an eyesore.
5. The County government is sufficiently connected to, and communicative with, local school districts and higher ed institutions.
- Somewhat Disagree
6. How can County government encourage/support/facilitate increasing work-based learning programs for local youth?
- A trade school in the county is imperative. The CMC building in Buena Vista that was paid for and built by BV residents needs to be reopened as a campus. There needs to be a transit system in this county where it makes it easier to get to either campus.
7. I have read the latest strategic plan of the Chaffee County Early Childhood Council.
- Yes
8. County government should take tangible action to support the creation and maintenance of childcare slots.
- Somewhat Agree
9. What should the County government do starting in 2025 to support childcare?
- The county should look at programs that already exist for home child care. The regulations need to be toned down. I personally worked at a home based facility in Eagle County. The owner was vetted, received unannounced inspections and qualified for food assistance for the lunch program. There was an actual young learning model followed with a school curriculum.

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10. Passing a County ordinance requiring the installation of broadband infrastructure as a part of all new development is a must.

- Somewhat Disagree

11. Internet infrastructure should be treated as equally important to other utilities (water, sewer, gas, electricity) in infrastructure projects.

- Somewhat Agree

12. What is the local government's role in increasing broadband availability and reliability for the community?

- When I moved here there wasn't much in terms of internet accessibility. That has already changed. Is there any actual info as to who in this county does not have access to the internet? Most people use their phones to access the internet and information. The county needs to put pressure on service providers to put in place better access during peak seasons like in the summer and during events when more people are visiting in the county.

13. Chaffee County has enough water to meet municipal, housing, and commercial development growth.

- Somewhat Disagree

14. In the face of inadequate current water supply Town should...

- Pursue additional water sources to support future development.

15. What is the most important next step for the County Government in regards to water or wastewater?

- Slow down a bit and take the horse by the reigns and look at the whole picture. Hold meetings with those who have water rights to begin with. Also, let's see a comprehensive plan that focuses on infrastructure for wastewater. Perhaps the treatment plant

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needs to redone or expanded.

16. Producing housing that is accessible to our local workforce requires public subsidy in amounts that directly affect affordability levels.

- Somewhat Agree

17. Density is directly linked to affordability (i.e. increased density lowers the cost of each housing unit).

- Somewhat Disagree

18. Encouraging more housing development, including market rate housing, is helpful to overall housing affordability and thus to the community.

- Somewhat Disagree

19. Housing policy is a County government responsibility.

- Somewhat Disagree

20. What specific policy would you change or advocate for that would have a tangible impact on workforce housing if elected?

- To begin with, less regulations on building to lower the cost. Less outside interests. I've heard that it's hard to find local contractors who will work for what outside vendors pay. I don't believe that. There should be a program in school that teaches trade skills that can be used here in the county. That would lower the cost of building while helping people gain skills and start businesses here.

21. New rules & regulations to advance environmental sustainability should be considered in the context of their impact on the health of local employers.

- Somewhat Agree

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22. Environmental sustainability is inextricably linked with innovation and technology.

- Somewhat Agree

23. The single most important action the County government can take in 2024 to advance environmental sustainability is...

- education, researching facts and transparency.

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

- No answer.