



Questionnaire for Mayoral Candidates

7 responses

Contact Information

Last Name

7 responses

Wilson

fancher

Atencio

Gradisar

Nawrocki

Croshal

Flores

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7 responses

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7 responses

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7 responses

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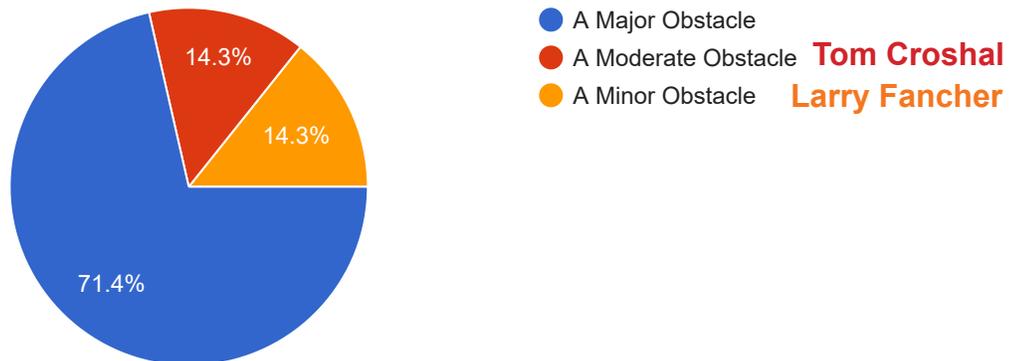
719-252-6707

719-406-9852

Questions

1. Pueblo has the highest costs for electricity of the 20 largest communities in Colorado. Those are the communities with which Pueblo competes for new business and business expansion. Our community's total annual payment to Black Hills Energy (BHE) is currently around \$115 million. In your opinion, how large an obstacle is Pueblo's higher electric bills to the viability and growth of Pueblo's economy:

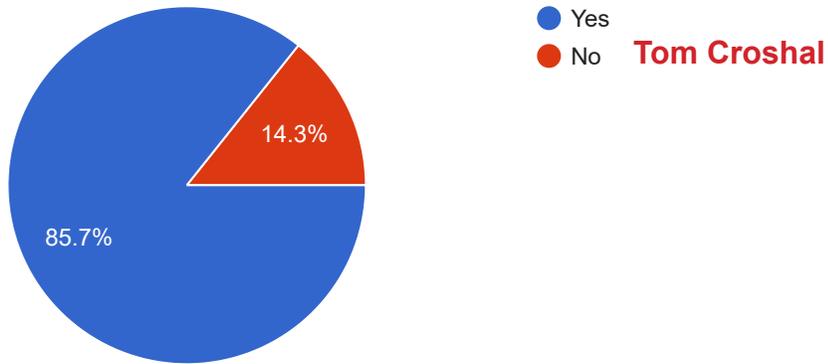
7 responses



2. Utility consultant Jerry Warren, who has conducted roughly 20 feasibility studies for communities that wanted to leave their electric utility, told Puebloans in May that virtually all 20 studies received a "yes" answer as to whether or not the financial benefits outweighed the financial costs of breaking away. He said the two key factors were 1) whether a community has high electric rates (Pueblo does), and 2) whether that community has access to lower-cost electricity on the wholesale market (Pueblo does).

If the feasibility study currently underway eventually confirms these two factors, would you be in favor of pursuing breaking away from BHE?

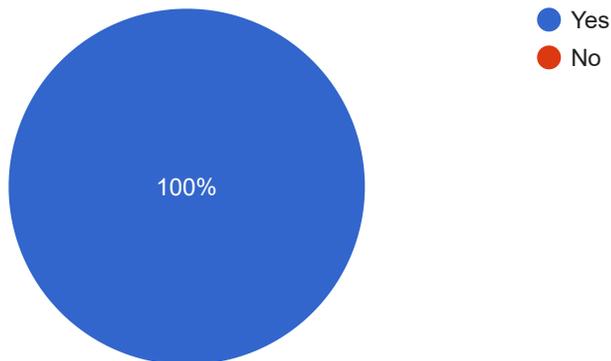
7 responses



3. In May/June of 2017, a professional company randomly surveyed 400 Pueblo customers of BHE and reported: "In nearly 30 years of polling for embattled electric utilities around the country on hostile takeovers, territorial fights, rate changes, transmission line siting, renewables issues and other controversies, we have never seen a utility as strongly disliked as is BHE in Pueblo." The same survey found that 83% of survey participants had a negative opinion of BHE's effort to keep rates low—more than double the normally reported percentage.

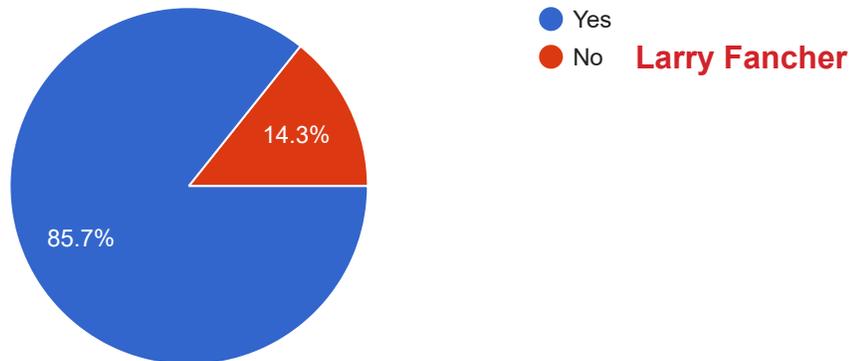
A .Have you heard from the community about problems with BHE and their high rates?

7 responses



B. Does that survey finding fit with your observations of your potential constituents' relationship with their electric utility?

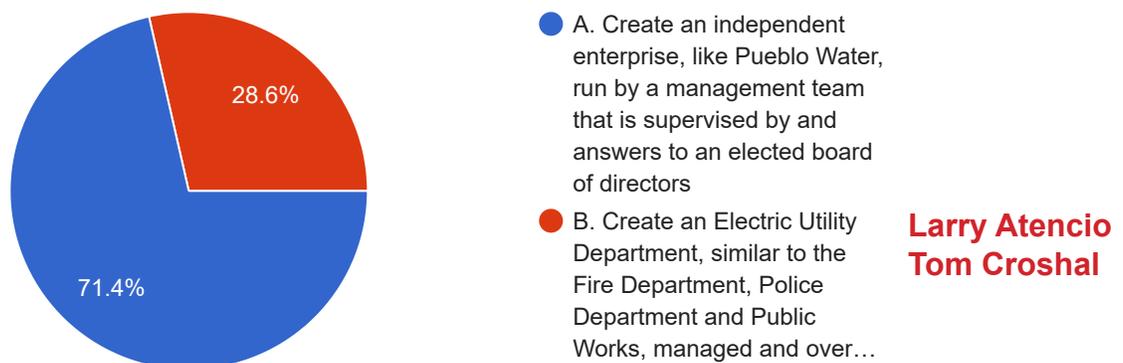
7 responses



4. For the sake of argument, let's say the citizens of Pueblo vote to leave Black Hills Energy in a referendum sometime during 2019. Of the two potential forms of governance listed below, which would you favor setting up to run that utility?

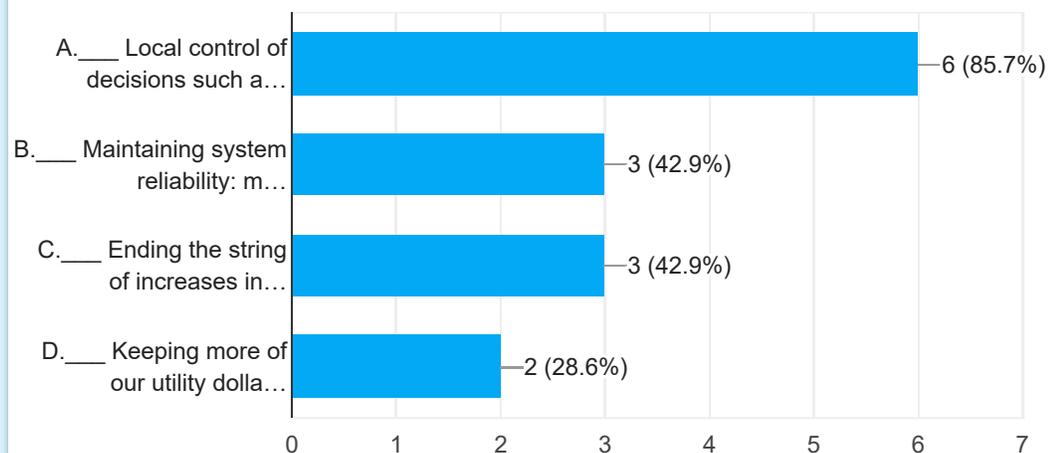
Select Which Option Do You Favor

7 responses



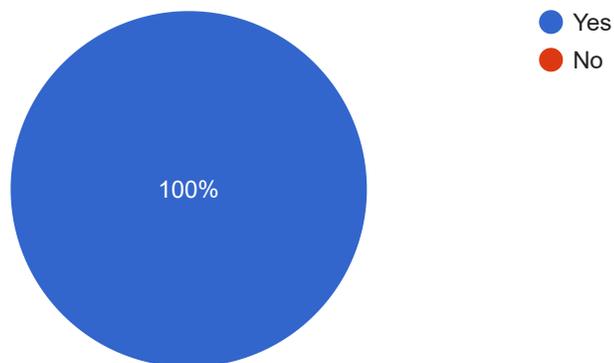
5. Of the potential assumed benefits of changing electric service from BHE to another circumstance, mark the two you would value the most:

7 responses



6. Will you form a Citizens' Advisory Council on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Sustainability to advise you?

7 responses

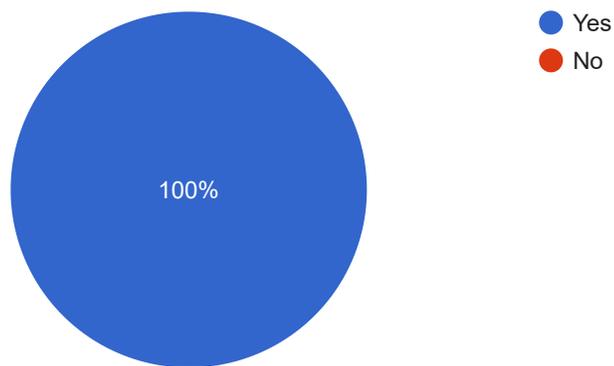


7. Pittsburgh, another former steel city, has spent the last 30 years trying to remake its economy in the mold that climate advocates envision. Once among the most polluted cities in the country, Pittsburgh today is increasingly rebuilding around

greener medical complexes, research universities and tech offices. Its local renewable energy industry employs 13,000 people.

A. Would you contact Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and ask his advice to help you guide Pueblo in forming a City/County sustainability plan for Pueblo's future?

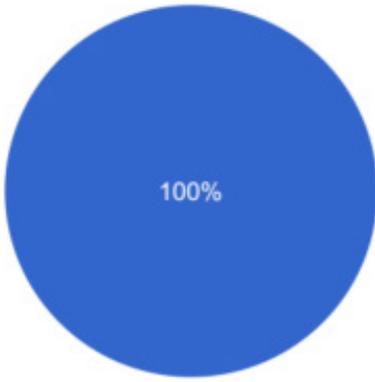
7 responses



8. 180 U.S. mayors representing 42 states have signed a pledge to make solar power a key element of their city's energy plan and to call on others to do the same. According to NOAA's annual average percentage of possible sunshine ranking, with an average of 76%, Pueblo ties 7th place as the sunniest US city.

A. As Pueblo's Mayor, will you sign the pledge to make solar power a key element of Pueblo's Energy Plan?

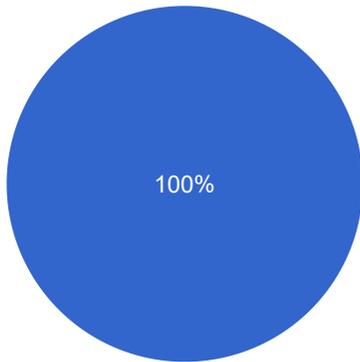
7 responses



● Yes
● No

9. Do you support City Council's Resolution of June 26, 2017 declaring the City of Pueblo's Affirmation of the Goals of the Paris Climate Accord?

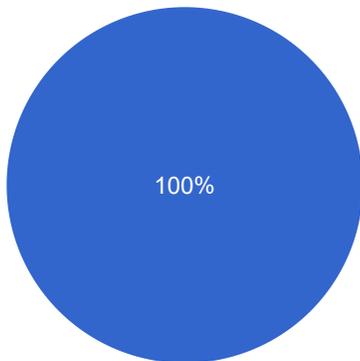
7 responses



● Yes
● No

10. Do you support City Council's Resolution of February 13, 2017 to achieve 100% renewable by 2035?

7 responses



● Yes
● No

Renewable Energy

Corresponding Bar (Left to Right)

1. Will you lead by example by installing Photo-voltaic systems (PV: conversion of light into electricity) on all City buildings and Electric Vehicle charging stations in public parking lots?
2. Will you replace aging city vehicles and establish a fleet of new electric vehicles?
3. In Denmark, they have developed a bidirectional V2G (Vehicle-to-Grid) system that uses the electric fleet's batteries as storage to help stabilize the grid. When available, will you install a V2G system for the city's and other electric fleets?
4. Will you incentivize solar-roofed / battery equipped parking lots with EV charging stations in commercial parking lots?
5. Would you support requiring new residential development to be rooftop solar ready or have access to community solar?

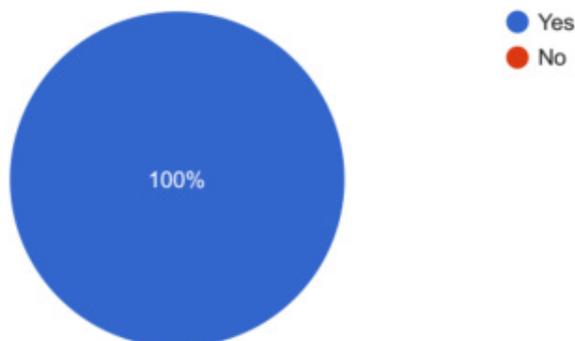
Questions 1-4 100% of Respondents said 'yes'

Question 5 had 2 'no' responses -- Larry Atencio & Nick Gradisar

11. The Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) is a financing tool that allows property owners to finance qualifying energy efficiency, water conservation and other clean energy improvements on existing and newly constructed properties. Its unique characteristic is that the assessment is attached to the property rather than the individual.

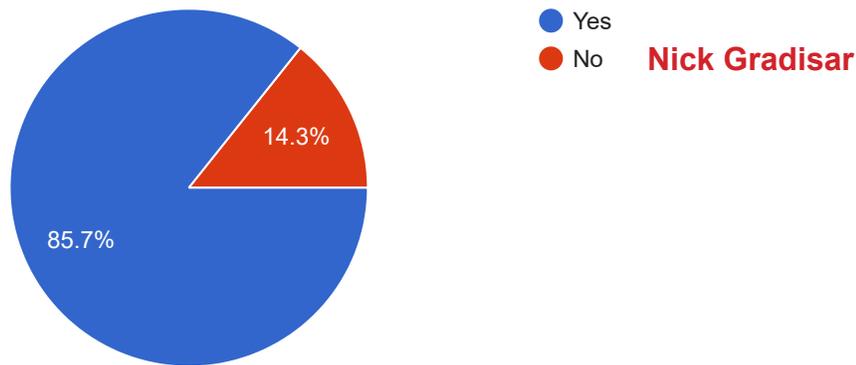
A. Will you coordinate work with the county to promote C-PACE in Pueblo?

7 responses



B. Will you lobby the state to institute an R-PACE program with property tax financing to finance energy efficiency & renewable energy for residential properties similar to C-PACE for commercial properties?

7 responses



12. Local solar installers have complained about the cumbersome permitting process. Cities can eliminate barriers by reducing fees, making permitting rules clear and readily available, and expediting permitting processes.

A. Would you lead the effort to streamline and coordinate the permitting & authorization processes for solar rooftop installations between the City, the County and utilities?

7 responses

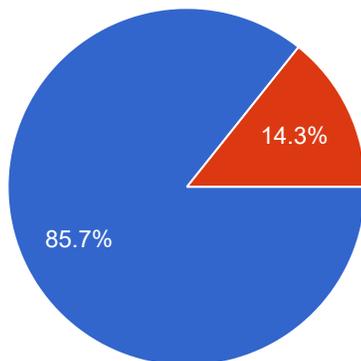


● Yes
● No

13. Only certain agencies have “intervenor status” (the right to participate in the proceedings before the court and provide comment on the legal issues being considered). On November 14, 2017 solar homeowners successfully petitioned Pueblo’s City Council to direct the City Attorney to intervene on their behalf in the 2017 BHE Phase 2 rate case. The City Attorney only intervened on the city’s behalf, not the solar homeowners.

A. As Mayor, will you direct the city’s attorney to intervene to protect solar homeowners’ rights in future rate case disputes at the PUC?

7 responses

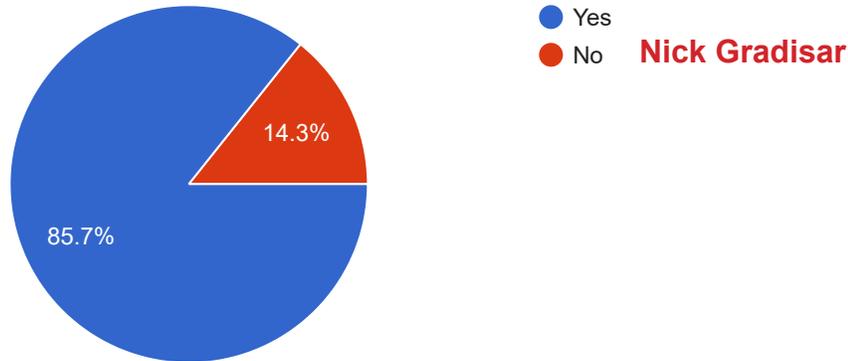


● Yes
● No **Nick Gradisar**

14. A microgrid is a local energy grid with independent control capability, which means it can disconnect from the traditional grid and operate autonomously. Microgrids generally include electricity users such as universities, hospitals, public buildings, commercial and residential customers, and energy suppliers such as wind, solar, battery storage and non-renewable energy sources.

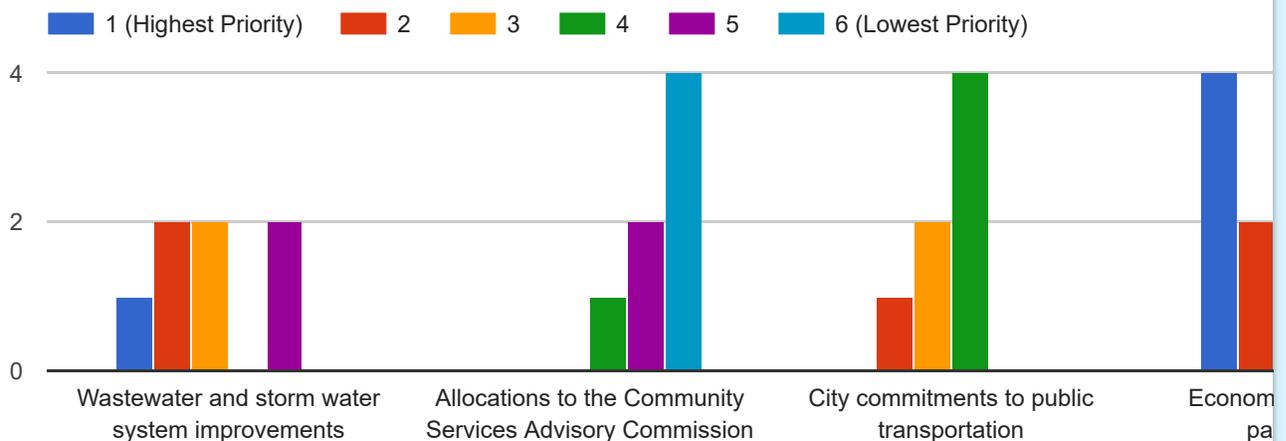
Assuming they are cost effective, will you support City-developed microgrids?

7 responses



15. In budget decisions, you will be asked to make tough choices between competing priorities

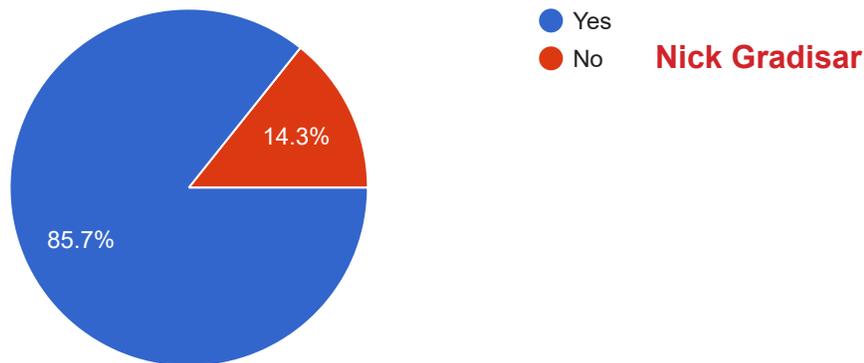
Please rank the order of importance of each of the following community priorities for annual general fund budget allocations under your leadership. (1=highest priority, 6=lowest priority):



16. Many cities have a sustainability plan, or a climate resiliency plan, along with a department or office to coordinate efforts around sustainability programs (energy efficiency, water conservation, multi-modal transportation, etc.)

A. Do you believe Pueblo needs a Climate Plan and a specific department charged with responsibility for sustainability planning?

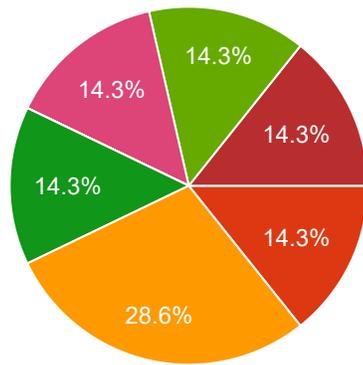
7 responses



17. One third of the farmers on the St. Charles Mesa have sold their water rights to Pueblo Water, with termination of agricultural uses of that water set for 2030. Most of these farms are in the heart of the Mesa, such that dry-ups will significantly degrade the quality of farming for the entire area, impacting Pueblo's and the state's agricultural economy.

A. When you become mayor, what will you do about this important problem for our community? Choose one answer.

7 responses

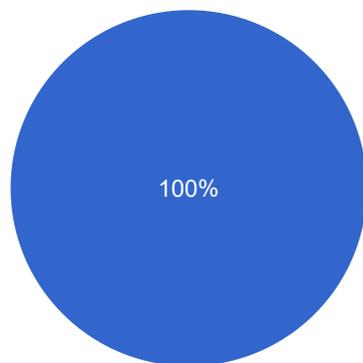


- Nothing. Not a City problem. Pueblo Water is an indepe...
- Support Pueblo Water. The...
- Champion intergovernment...
- Reassert the authority of th...
- Direct city staff to find new...
- Attempt to stop the transfer...
- Support Pueblo Water. The...
- As long as the city doesn't...
- Yes, The Pueblo Board of...

18. In the recent Public Utilities Commission case about Xcel Energy's intention of closing Comanche 1 & Comanche 2 coal fired power plants, Pueblo County and Pueblo Water (in addition to Pueblo's Energy Future, labor unions, and EVRAZ) intervened to address Xcel's plan to close Comanche and replace the generation capacity with new solar, wind, and storage.

A. If you had been mayor, would the City have intervened in this case?

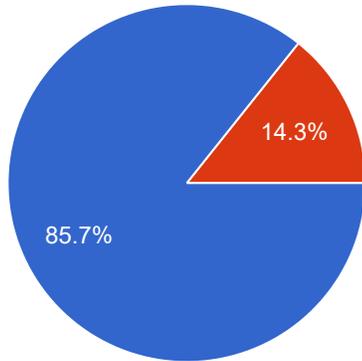
7 responses



- Yes
- No

19. Would you support partnering with the County 50%-50% to fund and conduct a new City-County Comprehensive Development Plan, beginning in 2019?

7 responses



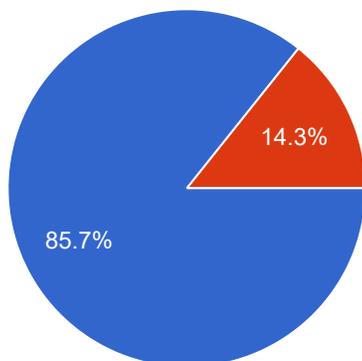
● Yes
● No

Nick Gradisar

20. In 2020, Pueblo may take the “off-ramp” (The city will be able to initiate leaving the Franchise Agreement with BHE). An important part of leaving BHE is the condemnation and purchase of Pueblo’s electrical distribution network. Pueblo has many other line items in its budget, such as water and sewer line maintenance and paving and street repair, to name a few.

A. Would you integrate the budgets of different city departments into a single project that would bury electrical infrastructure underground and lay fiber optic cable for high speed internet to improve the environment and turn Pueblo’s infrastructure into a possible technological industry magnet?

7 responses



● Yes
● No

Nick Gradisar

21. These last two essay-type questions can be used as your 1 to 2 minute opening and closing statements at the forum.

Opening Statement: What is your vision for Pueblo 20 years from now, to ensure that Pueblo is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable in the face of a potentially drastic climate change?

7 responses

My vision is to see Pueblo in 20 years as a thriving community, where its citizens are engaged in the conversations that make an impact on all of us, such as clean energy and recycling programs. It's our responsibility to be stewards of change and bring cleaner and more efficient technologies to our city. Municipal governments need to set an example for citizens by making City Hall as 'green' as possible. Improving systems that have been in place for decades, might seem costly at first glance, but making the transition to more environmentally friendly processes will save money and enhance productivity in the end. We should have full recycling programs, that pick up at our properties and eliminate the need for hauling across town. In 20 years we should hope to be making garbage into energy technology to greatly reduce, if not eliminate landfill waste. More solar and wind energy for businesses and residential customers are a must especially in a city with as much sun as we have each year.

Janet Wilson

What we need for the future will dictate what we need to do today. Needs assessments tell us where we need to go and prioritizing needs and then search for funding.

Larry Fancher

I sponsored both resolutions dealing with renewables and climate change, I see Pueblo being the leader in renewables, climate change and energy justice issues if I become mayor we will make Pueblo's energy future a high priority. We will lose a lot of momentum if one of the other candidates is elected, they are at least 2 years behind my efforts. they are giving a lot of lip service but have done nothing.

Larry Atencio

I want to begin by stating that some of my former answers are qualified and might be different depending on the circumstances. Some of the questions were compound and called for a yes or no answer and my answers may have been different to each part of the compound question. I tried to respect the request for a yes or no answer but, in some instances, it would be it depends.

I have driven a Chevrolet Volt for 5 years and I am fully committed to lessening our reliance on fossil fuels.

My vision for 20 years from now is that Pueblo will have a municipalized electrical system generating electricity from solar collectors and wind turbines with state of the art battery storage. As a member of the Board of Water Works, I am confident that our municipal water supply can withstand the challenges that we face.

Nick Gradisar

If it's feasible to take over and control our own electric utility, it will be critical that we purchase and produce renewable energy to meet our goal of 100% renewable energy by or before 2035. I see a city that sets the bar for renewable energy standards, a city that has re-mediated existing city facilities and is building LEEDS certified new construction. I see a community that is making wise economic decisions that are also the best decisions for our environment. As we continue to experience the impacts of climate change, city practices like converting our fleet to electric will not only meet our needs of being environmentally responsible but they also make economic sense. I envision a Pueblo that in 20 years has built a diverse local economy, not wholly

dependent on manufacturing. Diversifying our economy allows us the maximum flexibility to focus more broadly on environmental and social sustainability. I see a Pueblo where all residents are thriving, and our leadership makes decisions that are firmly rooted in the values of sustainability.

Steve Nawrocki

In 20 years my vision of Pueblo is a city with a mandatory recycling program and refuse collection funded through property tax collection. I would like the city to use its power to increase flows in the Arkansas River through Pueblo. I would like to have the city government be 90% to 95% energy independent utilizing electric vehicles and using PV technology to charge the cities fleet, light, heat, cool, and power our buildings. I would like to see the rest of our cities homes and businesses be well on the way to be independent of fossil fuels, we need to help lower income home owners realize the cost and environmental benefit of going solar. I feel that our climate and weather make these goals more attainable than a lot of other areas in the country. I would like to see new residential and business development be more urbanesque in design, utilizing solar, and encouraging biking, walking, and public transportation as a way of life to go to work, school, shopping, or just conduct any other business.

Tom Croschal

I see a bright future for Pueblo. I see a Pueblo that will be safer, cleaner, healthier, and with many opportunities for jobs. I see a Pueblo that will become the "alternative energy" capital of the United States. I see CSU-Pueblo and Pueblo Community College training a new work force that will take over the jobs of the future. We will change the image of Pueblo and bring in a tourist magnate that will bring more tourists into our community. I see Pueblo having an annual growth of about 3% and increasing our tax revenue to sustain many projects of fixing our streets, recruiting companies (especially in the alternative energy sector), hiring more Police officers, upgrading our IT department and our IT infrastructure throughout our city. I see a city workforce that is more accountable to the citizens and easier to do business with. I see a government that is responsive to citizen concerns. A government that is transparent, accessible and available to the press. I see the Mayor establishing a new culture of working with the City Council respectfully and collegially along with other government bodies to move the City and County forward. I see us reducing our carbon footprint and the use of alternative energy (solar, wind, water, hydroelectric etc.) as a way of life complemented by the advent of cutting edge energy storage. Mandatory trash collection will be the norm along with recycling. We will see that our economic development strategies have worked and we have new companies moving to Pueblo, paying higher wages, keeping our graduates in our city, retraining our workforce so they can take the jobs of the future. Building residential units in the downtown, Union and Riverwalk area to generate activity and increase sales for our businesses. A Mayor that will lead and be a champion of our community.

Dennis Flores

Closing Statement: How will you achieve this vision?

7 responses

I would scout technologies, and find stewards of change in, and outside, the city. By spending our tax dollars wisely, eliminating waste and thinking about the future generations, when making decisions we could pioneer our way to a better Pueblo. Since I'm a director with a "waste to energy" company in Switzerland, I stay current on technologies that are making progress in this field. I would definitely watch other more advanced countries and partner with them as a resource to getting us there more efficiently and faster. Technology has given us the ability to work in harmony with others no matter where they are located and that's something we should capitalize on so we're not reinventing the wheel. Collaboration works!

Janet Wilson

No vision required. Plans are required. Goals set and financing creates success.

Larry Fancher

First item on my agenda will be to create a commission to formulate the city's long range Energy Plan dealing with all facets of our energy needs. Second is to bring all city facilities 100% renewable, I am currently working

to bring 4- 500kw

low income solar gardens to low income neighborhoods, next step is 100% renewable for the rest of the city.

Larry Atencio

I will achieve this vision by developing a cooperative, collaborative relationship with the city council and reaching out to the entire community to develop a consensus on moving Pueblo forward. I will aggressively involve the city in developing renewal energy sources with willing partners.

Nick Gradisar

The most critical work in achieving an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable Pueblo is collaboration and strong relationships among all stakeholders. Step one is ensuring a positive working relationship between the Mayor and Council. I've never been a full-time elected official but during my time on Council, I was unanimously elected President by my Council peers five times and my leadership there helped Council work together more effectively. I am absolutely the right person to successfully institutionalize the relationship between the mayor's office and City Council, ensuring an inclusive and highly collaborative environment so we are all pulling in the same direction with shared values. The next step will be to work simultaneously on intergovernmental and public/private partnerships. I have a clear history of bringing together people who have competing agendas and supporting them to develop WIN-WIN outcomes. I am a leader who understands that when the right combination of people contributes, we all win. I have strong existing relationships with our federal delegation, key state electeds, and our County Commissioners. I am also proud of my relationships with local media, no small feat as Pueblo competes in the larger Colorado Springs media market. It will be imperative to work transparently and ensure good communication with Pueblo residents. Having run a multi-million dollar non-profit corporation, with 30+ years of perfect audits, I can ensure the highest levels of accountability and transparency. And, community feedback about my leadership always highlights my ability to ensure civility, something desperately needed in today's political landscape. We can realize our dreams of a great city – one that makes sound economic AND environmental decisions to improve the quality of life for all our residents – if we have the right leadership and work together. I have the experience, I'm tested and proven. I'm ready to be your mayor!

Steve Nawrocki

I would achieve these goals by leading by example, working with various government agencies, foundations, corporations and the citizens of Pueblo. I feel that once we have a viable 5 year plan in place and well under way we could use this as a recruiting tool for new industry. We can use our 300 plus days of sunshine, our 30 minute proximity to 2 major universities a liberal arts college, and 2 community colleges for a pool of trainable and qualified workers as a recruiting tool for companies in the solar industry. As mayor one of my first orders of business would be to develop a 5 year strategic plan for the city and going green would be a big part of that plan.

Tom Croshal

I will achieve this vision due to my education, work experience and government involvement. I will create a template for the new Mayor position. I have a BS in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management along with a background in Total Quality Management and I will manage over 20 department heads and 700 employees of the city of Pueblo. I will establish an environment that will foster innovation and accountability along with strong annual evaluations. I am not a micromanager and will allow our city directors to be creative with many opportunities for Professional Development. I will not be considered a boss but a leader. I will set the budget that aligns to my vision, philosophy and needs of our community. I will surround myself with the best people in their field. I have the knowledge of where to go to find best practices and best consultants available. Establish a plan to deal with other infrastructure issues and needs. I will establish a new department, "Internal Auditing" that will make sure all departments are running as intended. I will be the face of Pueblo and be the primary lobbyist. As such, I will sell Pueblo and establish a relationship with the State of Colorado legislators and act as the chief lobbyist for Pueblo and to remind them that they cannot forget us and Southern Colorado. If elected, I am ready to take Pueblo forward.

Dennis Flores

