



Libertarian Party of El Paso County
PO Box 7952
Colorado Springs, CO 80933

Please complete questionnaires by 3/4/2019 and return to chair@lpepc.org.

1. What is the legitimate fundamental purpose or function of government?

My name is Gordon Klingenschmitt, candidate for city council, and I was twice rated the most libertarian or conservative legislator from our county according to the Principles of Liberty scorecard, because I consistently vote for lower taxes, smaller government, Constitutional rights, and freedom. (See Colorado House 2015 and 2016 ratings, <http://principlesofliberty.com/ratings>)

The legitimate purpose of government is to protect the God-given rights of citizens to life, liberty and property, to secure public peace, common defense and means of commerce, and to enforce contracts between consenting adults.

2. What should your role be in carrying out the purpose of government?

To limit the size and scope of government so that people can enjoy liberty and the personal responsibility that comes with it.

3. What are your thoughts on term limits for city council members?

Term limits exist and I would not change them locally. Federal term limits are not enshrined in our Constitution and I support our Constitution.

4. Do you support the use of eminent domain? When is its use appropriate?

I oppose eminent domain generally and broadly, unless public safety necessitates it on rare occasion for public interest, not for private inurement.

5. Should elected officials be required to recuse themselves from making decisions/legislating on issues where they have potential conflicts of interest?

I would recuse myself from voting on issues in which I have a conflict of interest, and have done so in the past.

6. Should businesses, individuals, or entities that donate money to government agencies, campaigns, or candidates be excluded from consideration for bid opportunities or committee appointments?

There is too much influence in our city government for people who donate, and I would not grant favoritism to large donors, as apparently others do. Contracts and bids should be given fairly on a lowest cost, highest quality basis.

7. Should elected officials recuse themselves from decisions and/or appointments for those they have a direct or indirect business or personal relationship with to include relative, business partner (current or past), and campaign donors.

I would recuse myself from voting on issues in which I have a conflict of interest, and have done so in the past.

8. What are your plans for facilitating economic growth in the region?

I plan to negotiate to try to get big government off the backs of free-market entrepreneurs, and stop subsidizing favored businesses at the expense of others, so that free-market consumerism can pick the winners and losers by competition, rather than by government selection.

9. Do you support the concept that central planning is necessary for the long term viability of our city?

I oppose central planning of the economy, and we should de-regulate to cut red tape. We need more efficient planning with citizen input for use and maintenance of public resources such as roads, parks, and public utilities.

10. Do you support TABOR? Why?

As a legislator I was named a taxpayer champion or guardian by the Colorado Union of Taxpayers, because I consistently voted to defend TABOR. I am supported by Douglas Bruce who wrote TABOR. I believe TABOR holds elected officials accountable and gives the people a voice and a veto over unnecessary tax hikes.

11. How will you reduce the city budget and/or the tax burden on its residents?

Without violating existing contracts, I will negotiate to cut future city salaries and pensions of future government personnel.

12. What are your thoughts on tax incremental financing?

I oppose government-mandated wealth transfers from rich to poor or poor to rich. I am not opposed to TIFs if they are 1) transparent, 2) used for roads, lights, sewers, 3) not given toward corporate profits, 4) limited in time and scope. For example, I'd have voted against the recent Scheels sports subsidy.

13. Do you support the City for Champions initiative?

I support allowing private entrepreneurs to risk their own money, without subsidies or taxpayer risk of public money, which I oppose.

14. What can be done to address rapidly rising housing costs (for both renters and buyers)?

Up to 40% of the cost of new construction is forced compliance with government red-tape. I would de-regulate and get big government off the backs of those who provide affordable housing.

15. What are your thoughts on gun control, to include gun free zones? Under what circumstances should the right to bear arms be restricted?

I'm a strong supporter of Second Amendment rights, and would not infringe, period. I led the charge to eliminate gun-free zones as a State Representative. I earned an A rating from the NRA and am a life member of the NRA. I was captain of my high-school rifle team.

16. Do you support the re-implementation of red light cameras? Why?

I oppose red-light cameras which invade privacy and I believe do not enhance safety, in fact they are more akin to a hidden tax scheme. I strongly opposed them as a State Representative and co-sponsored a bill to remove them statewide.

17. What is your plan for reducing and preventing violent and property crimes?

Facilitate self-defense by citizens, but also support the efforts of law enforcement to catch and punish criminals who violate private property rights.

18. What is your position on allowing the sale and use of marijuana for recreational use within city limits?

Because I support liberty, I oppose the sale of any addictive substances that create a slavery or dependency relationship between neighbors. Government should not profit by enabling slavery-dependency relationships. Government should free the slaves.

19. What is your plan for improving traffic flow in areas that often become congested?

I would stop the expansion of bicycle lanes. Poor city planning is causing traffic congestion behind miles of empty bike lanes with no riders in sight. Central planning has failed. They built it and they did not come.

20. What are your thoughts on reducing lanes for autos to create/widen bike lanes, "lane dieting"?

I oppose lane dieting. I oppose expansion of the bike lanes. I support faster, better, cheaper government, and I consistently vote (as rated by principles of liberty) for lower taxes, smaller government, Constitutional liberties, and freedom.

My name is Gordon Klingenschmitt and I ask for your vote.