

## **I think....**

### **Government should CONTINUE or DO MORE of....**

- Getting involved and informed (for example. This program – no council representatives or any city management)
- Advocate what citizens get from their government
- Street & Highway maintenance
- Privatizing non-essential services (ie: cultural and recreational)
- Planning for the future as opposed to reacting to the past
- Discussing with all major communities and towns in Northern Colorado, from Berthoud north to increase sales tax regionally. Each community would benefit based on population size with tax increased by 1%. At the end of the year, each city or town would get a portion of this tax based on its size or other pre-determined criteria. This would help reduce dependence on sales tax revenue as a primary source of funds for each community – as all would benefit. Sales tax revenue is a huge factor in urban sprawl as each town seeks to develop more and more shopping areas to keep dollars from leaking out. This uses up valuable land for commercial business or industrial use when it could be used for more recreational amenities as cities grow. Land is not an infinite resource and some of it needs to be preserved. People move here for many reasons, and recreation is a major component..
- Explore ways to cooperate to benefit citizens instead of building bigger fences.
- Recognizing their role and duty in job creation and workforce development.
- Infrastructure is a very important part of government. Need to improve roads, bridges and buildings. These assets are in need of repair.
- Create special improvement districts for new subdivisions or equal. Fund with bonds.
- Cities visioning with counties visioning with state.

## **Government should RE-EVALUATE**

- The sales tax model of funding that has lead to too much retail and competition for sales tax dollars.
- Duplication of services by departments (ie: restructure)
- Blanket cutting of programs and services versus focusing on efficiency as a means of cost control.
- Colorado Municipal League is relied upon by cities for legislative assistance. Yet, CML state they stay out of heated debates between cities (water). Huh?
- Is regionalism really joint elected official meetings between Fort Collins, Loveland and Larimer? What is the region?
- Consider making I-25 and I-70 toll roads for collection of funds to improve, maintain and expand the highways. Massachusetts is a great example of the Mass Turnpike as a beautiful road because for over 50 years vehicles have paid to maintain it.
- It's Wants versus Needs. Focus on the BASICS to provide a safe community and quality recreational opportunities. Transportation and road repair needs to take a top position. Adequate Fire Protection and enough firemen to be available to cover emergencies. Adequate police protection as community grows. Stop funding all the "little extras" right now – we can not afford them. You risk alienating the populace when you want to raise taxes and then don't take care of basics. The Chamber needs to take a more active role in and be visible proponent of responsible city budgeting.
- Overly restrictive zoning. Up front permitting and tap fees (reduce to spur growth).
- Allowing initiative process to change city charter (campaign finance)
- How an MPO fits in with all of the other layers of government
- An RTA in Northern Colorado!

## **Government should STOP doing...**

- Mandates requiring businesses or homeowners to upgrade energy efficiency
- Competing for retail sales tax.
- Finger pointing at each other in regards to where their funding does/does not come from.
- Jailing non-violent criminals. Put them to work to be productive society members.

- Delaying infrastructure maintenance.
- Health Clubs
- Say away from rental registration
- Stop covering their own backside and deal with the need to increase property taxes (at least come out publically in support).
- Don't say that you cooperate just because you meet once in a while.
- Calling regionalism when you rely on each other for basic services – or share necessary services for outcomes.
- The continued disconnect – the citizen needs jobs, job creation and job development. No one had the workforce department on their slides (except Frank). How does a citizen find this department?
- Finger pointing – one party to the other. The party system creates more gridlock in the legislature than anything else and keeps good solid communication at the door. Citizens are sick of the infighting, the constant campaigning and fundraising. Start focusing on finding common ground to get to solutions.
- Messing around with the goals/structure of PRPA. It provides us with some of the lowest electric utility rates in the country.