



## **Greeley Area REALTOR® Association November 2021 Election Guide**

### **Greeley City Council**

A committee of Realtors® interviewed Greeley City Council candidates and made recommendations for endorsement based on their answers to real estate related questions. The Board of Directors then reviewed and approved the following recommendations:

#### **Mayor – John Gates**

John has always stood with GARA on real estate-related issues. He makes himself available when GARA has an issue to discuss. He's a capable leader who offers a fair and reasoned voice to controversial issues. In addition, he is a vocal ambassador for the City of Greeley

#### **Council, at large – Brett Payton**

Brett currently serves City Council representing Ward II. He has demonstrated his support for real estate by his votes as a Councilor. He wants to encourage residential development by ensuring the City has a number of tools to offer development choices. Brett also supports using metro districts for development with "with reasonable limitations and restrictions on how funds are used, repaid, and raised and with controls on board membership and oversight."

#### **Council, Ward II – Louisa Andersen**

Louisa currently serves on the Greeley Planning Commission and is well educated on issues relating to real estate and housing in Greeley. She agrees with GARA's positions concerning ballot issues for the November general election, including two very important water-related charter questions.

#### **Council, Ward III – Johnny Olson**

A former CDOT Regional Director, Johnny believes it is important to bring more businesses to Greeley. He wants to a diversity of home types and price points, saying the City should make it easier to develop in Greeley. Johnny said one of Greeley's biggest challenges is to maintain what is already has and improve interchanges for major intersections. In order to accommodate future growth, the City needs to acquire more water; Olson opposes the water charter amendment ballot questions.

## **Ballot Items**

### **City of Greeley Ballot Question 2F - Keep Greeley Moving Sales Tax Renewal SUPPORT**

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this ballot question. Good streets and infrastructure are important for existing businesses and citizens; they are also key factors for businesses and families considering relocation. This is not a new tax but rather an extension of an already existing tax.

The renewal of a dedicated .65 percent (65 cents on \$100) sales tax through 2029 for road maintenance with food sales being exempt. The money can only be spent on street maintenance and improvement. It **cannot** be used for internal city administrative expenses. The expenditure of funds is overseen by a citizen committee and subject to an independent audit.

### **City of Greeley Ballot Questions 2G and 2H - Water-Related Charter Amendments OPPOSE**

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to oppose these ballot questions. These measures would disrupt and impair how Greeley manages its water by requiring every decision to purchase, lease or use critical portions of the City's water undergo costly redundant engineering analysis and then be approved by a majority of Greeley's registered voters. Each special election would cost approximately \$200,000.

If approved by the voters, Greeley would be the only city in Colorado to administer water this way, slowing down decisions and jeopardizing the City's ability to acquire water effectively and efficiently, putting Greeley at a serious competitive advantage with other cities. \*\*\*\*

In addition, the measures threaten Greeley's agricultural economy, making it difficult for farmers to lease water long-term from the city. It would impede the City's ability to use all its water supplies, which potentially places the community at great risk from droughts and wildfires.

Read more here: <https://www.defendgreeleywater.com>

### **Your Sample Ballot**

Our association members live in multiple towns and cities. To review a sample ballot that includes only the candidates and/or issues on which you will vote, follow this link to the Colorado Secretary of State's website: <https://myballot.sos.colorado.gov/app/sb/vr>