

The Littleton EXAMINER

A News and Ideas Magazine for the People of Littleton



Election Information

Last Day to Register to Vote:
October 5, 2009

Ballots Mailed to all Active Voters:
Oct. 13 – Oct. 16

Election Day:
November 3, 2009

Contact the county clerks' office if you have questions about your registration status:

Arapahoe County
303-795-4511

Douglas County
303-660-7444

Jefferson County
303-271-8111

Littleton City Clerk's Office
303-795-3753

www.arapahoevotes.com

Littleton City Council Candidates and Ballot Question Certified

Littleton City Clerk Wendy Heffner has certified the nomination petitions of six candidates for the Littleton City Council. The municipal election will be held November 3, 2009.

In District I, the northwest quadrant of the city, **James A. Taylor** will run unopposed for a four-year term.

In District III, the southeast quadrant of the city, the two candidates are: **Phil Cernanec** and **Travis Nicks**. Voters will select one candidate for a four-year term.

In the At Large race, the candidates are: **Peggy Cole**, **Yoon Joo Mager**, and **Bruce Stahlman**. Voters will select two candidates – the candidate receiving the most votes will serve a four-year term; the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will serve a two-year term.

Council terms begin November 17, 2009; departing council members and new council members will be recognized at a reception at 6:30 p.m. The new council members will then be sworn in by Presiding Judge James S. Kimmel.



Nancy Doty,
Arapahoe County Clerk

There are no polling places in this election.

Your ballot will be mailed to you.

Members of the city council will elect the mayor and mayor pro tem at that meeting for two-year terms.

Also, Littleton voters will consider a ballot question referred by the city council:

“Shall there be an amendment to Littleton City Charter Section 58 deleting outdated language and eliminating the requirement that the municipal court judge live or maintain a law office within the corporate boundaries of the City of Littleton?”

What We Asked the Candidates

The Littleton Examiner will publish your contact information and website address with your answers to these questions. If you provide a photo, it will be included.

Each candidate may respond at any length to any of the questions. The responses will be posted on the web. **Only 1,000 words will be published** in the main section of the Littleton Examiner with the candidate's photo. If a candidate doesn't choose which responses to publish with the pictures, the Littleton Examiner will make that choice by truncating the copy.

Additional response in depth will be archived and a link to the extended response will be posted.

As of press time we did not receive a response from **James A. Taylor**. All other candidates' responses are in this document.

Candidates on the Issues

Questions Asked

1. What are the major responsibilities of Littleton City Council?
2. What do you see as the most important issue facing Littleton City Council in 2010?
3. How will Littleton be better served if you are elected?
4. Ask and answer a question you wish the Littleton Examiner had asked you.



At Large / Incumbent

**Peggy
Cole**

- 1.**
 - Ensure that the City Charter is followed.
 - Approve ordinances & resolutions that ensure the health, safety & welfare of the citizens.
 - Establish priorities & policies that guide the development of an annual budget that ensures the health, safety & welfare of the citizens.
 - Appoint & evaluate a City Manager to carry out policies & priorities.
 - Appoint & evaluate a City Attorney & municipal court judge.
 - Approve zoning changes & the Comprehensive Plan, which expresses the vision for the City.
 - Appoint members of Commissions & Boards.
 - Establish fees for the services the City provides (e.g., sewer tap fees & user rates, storm drainage fees, open space fees, & permit fees).
 - Keep citizens informed & welcome their input at Public Hearings, unscheduled public appearances & outreach activities.

2.

The biggest issue is ensuring the safety, health & welfare of the citizens while dealing with the recession & marketing the City to increase economic vitality.

As a member of City Council, I am focusing on cost containment and am paying very close attention to revenue and expenditures. As the metro area begins to emerge from the recession, I want to engage as many people as possible – City staff, business owners, realtors, journalists, & citizens – to join me in promoting Littleton as a great place to live & do business so that we can fill the business vacancies caused by the recession. Together, we can make a difference.

3.

Littleton's most important asset is our citizens. As a Council member, I will continue to encourage everyone to share their concerns & ideas. And I will ensure that those concerns & ideas are voiced at City Council. I will also continue to try to

- Improve transparency & open government
- Improve efficiency & effectiveness
- Promote economic & social vitality
- Improve efficiency & effectiveness – as we do now, by working with other government entities formally & informally
- Promote economic & social vitality

4.

This question was not answered.

Peggy Cole's answers included additional sub-bullet points. To see her full response, please go to:

<http://is.gd/3UdWn>



At Large

**Yoon
Soo
Mager**

1.

From my perspective, a member of City Council is to provide leadership, answers, decisions, guidance, and most importantly, problem solving. The Council is to provide the best possible solution to any given problem. A Council member needs to be fair and impartial in all aspects of decision making. With each issue we are to review the facts, weigh the pros and cons, and then make logical, but fair, decisions. All issues are important because they affect the people of Littleton. I feel it's important to lead by example, and as a leader it's important to strive to always put one's best foot forward.

From an inward perspective, I think it's important that Council members be positive, exerting self confidence.

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City Council Candidates

Yoon Soo Mager, continued

When tough issues are presented where tough decisions are required, it takes self confidence, willingness, fortitude, and heart to withstand the stress and pressure. History indicates that a minority will not always agree with the Council's final decision. It's at these times that Council members need to stand tall, stand behind their decisions, knowing that their decisions were derived for the betterment of society as a whole. There must be no second guessing or waffling back and forth. I'm of the understanding that once you've made your decision and believe it is correct, you stand behind it.

2.
This question was not answered.

3.
Littletonites can be assured that their interests will be my top priority. I'm here to serve them, to see that their needs are met. I'm here to listen, to provide support, to get the needed work done. As I have lived in Littleton for nearly two decades, it is second nature for me to want the best for Littleton. Your city is my city. It would be counterproductive for me to do or act in a negative fashion since what the council decides is what we all have to live by. It would make no sense for me to give negative, bad advice, or provide poor decisions. I too have to live by my decisions, so why not make them positive, proper and of benefit to all of Littleton.

I plan to be a motivated leader while serving with heart and unbridled passion. I realize I have much to learn and am willing to be humble and learn while serving. With many of you, I believe we continue to learn as we age, experiencing new ideas, ways, growing in life. With this lively enthusiasm I believe I can listen more intently and reach out to the people more effectively. It is an exciting time to serve, give, to be able to help, assist people. The feeling of knowing that I'm helping others improve their city and livelihood is an exciting venture for

me. As Michael J. Fox once said, "being positive is contagious." I too want to continue being positive. We as a society need positive influences in our lives. While the economy is down and people are hurting, negativism is easily bought in to. We don't need any more negatives in our lives. We need to look forward and upward. We need the hope that the future is positive. We need to believe and know that the future is both bright and good. We need this in our lives. I will work to bring a positive influence, spirit, passion to the Littleton's City Council, and hopefully into the lives of these great Littletonites. Littleton is good. People are good.

4.
This question was not answered.



At Large / Incumbent

Bruce Stahlman

1.
Littleton City Council members have three principal responsibilities. First, City Council members have a responsibility to seek out citizens' ideas and concerns, and to be accessible and available for communication with

citizens. Open, transparent government requires that Council members seek to understand the community's thoughts, ideas and wishes, so as to be able to make informed, responsive decisions. When I was on Council in 2007, I felt one of the most important aspects of the position was to be available to citizens who had problems or issues. I believe that distrust of government is often the result of citizens being cut-off from direct personal interaction. My ability to reach out and connect with citizens as the personal face, phone number or e-mail address of government will be essential to breaking down barriers and helping citizens feel more connected with their City.

Second, City Council members have the responsibility to bring proactive leadership and vision to the City as a whole. Council has a duty to shape the City's strategic objectives and to bring together citizens, stakeholders, partners and others to ensure that Littleton remains a vibrant community. Council members must "do their homework" to understand the short-and long-term implications of proposed ordinances, should learn from other communities what works and doesn't work, and should seek partnerships with organizations such as LPS, South Suburban and neighboring communities to streamline government services.

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CITY COUNCIL Candidates on the Issues

sponsored by
Valley Feed & Lawn Center

2679 West Main Street
Littleton, CO 80120
303-794-2771

Possibly the oldest family owned business in Littleton.

Bruce Stahlman, continued

2.

The most important issue facing Littleton is the need for leadership and vision to: (i) Positively impact the projected General Fund shortfall depicted in the Five Year Forecast section of the City's 2010 Proposed Budget book; and, (ii) develop and implement solutions that will retain the character and essence of Littleton as a special place we value.

We have seen upgrades in the areas of open communication, transparency and attention to detail per resolute citizen feedback and Council commitment. The budget communication process, for example, is dramatically improved over the approach I witnessed just two years ago, and Channel 8 makes Council and Commission deliberations readily accessible to more of the community.

Having materially addressed these concerns, the Council now needs to shift their priority to other pressing issues starting with declining revenues, how lower revenues will impact City services and how we can navigate our City through these tough economic times. As a strategic leader, I know how the planning process is fraught with uncertainty and I also know there are possibilities that revenues could begin growing again as the economy improves. I want to help Littleton plan and prepare for this recovery. But I also understand a complex organization like the City of Littleton is counted on by thousands of citizens for the services it provides and we must have realistic plans beyond just hopes and prayers.

3.

Three years ago I left corporate America to become Chief Financial Officer of ARC Thrift Stores, a Colorado charity. With 19 stores along the Front Range, we exist to fund the ARC Chapters who advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Over that time, we've grown revenue to \$43 million and distributed \$10 million to the ARC Chapters mainly because the management team focused

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on leadership and the vision of what we could become. We've done all this by: (i) Partnering with our stakeholders; (ii) adopting best practices to grow the business; and by, (iii) promoting ARC Thrift Stores so customers know they'll get great value and they'll feel good by supporting a good cause.

I recently served on City Council and currently serve on the City's Historical Preservation Board. I am president of the Friends of the Littleton Library and Museum, have graduated the Littleton Police Department Citizens Academy and am a member of Littleton Rotary Club. I understand Littleton from many perspectives and my vast experience with Littleton City Government makes me uniquely qualified to serve again on Littleton City Council.

I am 52 years old, married 24 years to Kelly, three children including Jay, a graduate of Littleton High School and presently a sophomore at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington; and, Mark and Eric, twins with cerebral palsy at Littleton High School. My initial interest in public service stemmed from work with a grass-roots parent group advocating for the developmentally disabled before the State legislature. We've been Littleton residents for 15 years. I resonate with US Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's quote: "I aspire to be more than the sum of my experiences while acknowledging my limitations."

4.

The other question I'd like to address is, how do we do a better job of bringing the community together? Groups like the Sunshine Boys and Citizens for

Littleton's Future seem on occasion to be more preoccupied with each other than with the community at large. At the same time, other citizens feel isolated. While walking the Oakbrook neighborhood in SE Littleton recently, I knocked on a door, introduced myself, offered a flier and had a quick chat with the home owner. Upon closing the conversation, the gentleman said, "Hey, thanks for remembering we're part of Littleton." In short order, we need to become a more inclusive community, and refocus non-productive energy into making Littleton a better place to live. There's an opportunity to tap into the community's significant collective brain power and prioritize inviting all citizens to participate in the City's progress. A couple good examples of programs in this vein are the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative and the Littleton Immigrant Integration Initiative. Another might be setting a goal to be the greenest City in Colorado by 2015. Audacious goals tend to yield unexpected results. So the challenge isn't who's right or wrong, included or excluded. Rather, it's how do we compete vs. communities locally and nationally to our collective advantage using all, not just some, of our resources. There's no reason Littleton can't be the standard for other cities, both in terms of our amenities and how our citizens pull on the oars together. It just might be a lot of fun.

Bruce Stahlman's answers were truncated due to the 1000 word limit. To see his full response, please go to :

<http://is.gd/3Ue2f>

City Council Candidates



District III

Phil Cernanec

1.

Two major responsibilities of the Council are setting policy and making informed decisions with regard land use and resolution of issues. An effective and responsible Councilperson must be deliberative and collaborative in his/her approach to policy-making and issue resolution, and should be familiar with (1) the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning guidelines, (2) the City's "businesses" (e.g., Police, Fire and Emergency Services; Library and Museum), and (3) existing and potential partnerships (e.g., South Platte Working Group; shared protection and other services [e.g., sewers, streets, parks and recreation] with other cities, jurisdictions, organizations and districts). I also believe it is the responsibility of each Council member to engage in community outreach, to listen with understanding, to not be clouded by any personal agenda, and to carry forward the interests of the City of Littleton.

2.

As Littleton faces a tightening of revenue, the Budget and spending are important issues facing City Council. The City speaks most loudly in two ways: our spending, as guided through the Annual City Budget, and through land use, as guided by Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan. I believe that vigorous discussion of priorities and desired outcomes is important to the budget process and should provide direction for spending. This should be accomplished through an open, inclusive, and transparent process. In facing tough Budget decisions, Council should look to the community-wide goals, as

contained in the City's 2005 reprint of our Comprehensive plan: "Preserve Littleton's unique identity," and "Develop Littleton's economic independence." These goals are not new, but the challenge is how best to achieve these given our current economic environment. I believe that through thoughtful participation and consideration, careful planning and spending, with a practical focus on outcomes, we can achieve these goals in an efficient and effective manner.

3.

I bring to the table experience and attributes that will make a positive difference for Littleton. I have a strong financial background, experience with inclusive, open and strategic planning, active business networking, and a track record of community outreach. I have lived in Littleton almost 20 years, and bring forward a solid understanding of our City.

I serve as Treasurer on the Board of South Suburban Parks and Recreation District (SSPRD), which extends from Sheridan to Lone Tree, and includes Littleton. SSPRD includes six cities, three counties, and includes or overlaps multiple school districts, community foundation organizations, youth and adult sports organizations, and other entities (e.g., Corps of Engineers, CDOT, SEMSWA). The Board for SSPRD operates in a similar budgeting, issues resolution, and policy making role as City Council. Council members and SSPRD Board members have assigned liaison and networking responsibilities. I have experience and have been engaged in identifying common interests and nurturing economic partnerships, on occasion starting from "damaged" or divisive positions.

I have experience in both corporate and public sectors, dealing with complex budget and spending issues. In the public forum, the budget for SSPRD is similar in size to that of the City of Littleton's. As Treasurer of SSPRD, I have been instrumental in maintaining services while achieving growth in programs and

open space without increasing taxes, and I have initiated efforts that have reduced the mill levy applied to properties.

In addition to resolving issues and providing services, I believe the City must be a responsible employer. I have experience serving on the Benefits Trustee Committee of SSPRD and have been actively involved in developing ways to enhance benefits while reducing costs for SSPRD and our employees. I have also served on the Audit Committee of SSPRD, and have been involved in establishing and monitoring spending and control processes, and nurturing a culture of responsibility and accountability.

Not only do I believe in open government, but I have taken proactive action. I introduced a resolution, which was passed, to modify the Executive Session process for SSPRD's Board, to ensure adherence not only to the letter, but also the spirit of Colorado's open government requirements.

As a Board member with SSPRD, I committed to community outreach, and will do the same as a member of City Council. For SSPRD I have made presentations or had "town hall" meetings twice a month on average, over the past three years. These were not "special meetings" where SSPRD asked the people to come to us, but rather getting out to where the people are. In venues such as Service organizations, HOAs, and parent groups meetings, I have had conversations with others as to what is important to them, striving to understand, as well as suggesting ways they can be more involved. To me open communication is not just about posting information or making data available, but having meaningful dialogue to develop understanding. I applaud Councilperson Brinkman's town hall meetings, as well as Tom Mulvey's extensive email network. In addition to conducting regular public appreciation gatherings, I commit to going to where the people are to share the issues before the City and to listen for understanding.

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City Council Candidates

Phil Cernanec, continued

4. What does the City of Littleton as “open for business” look like to you?

A: There are some divergent opinions and perspectives as to whether Littleton is “open for business” or “closed for business.” It is one of the current stated community-wide goals for Littleton to be “economically independent.” To accomplish this, it is necessary for Littleton to be a good home to individuals and families, AND to businesses.

Businesses tend to avoid uncertainty. In order for Littleton to be perceived as being “open for business” we must have consistent, identifiable processes for businesses to engage in development, investment, and re-investment for their businesses. By taking a consistent approach, avoiding surprises late in the process, and promoting all that is unique about living, working, and locating a business in Littleton, businesses should find our city a good home to develop and thrive. The perception and reality of being “open-for-business” means no surprises and advantage Littleton!

What is the Littleton of your imagination? Visit my website at www.philforlittleton.com, and call me at 720.254.6097, or email me at PJTCernanec@aol.com.

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District III

Travis Nicks

1.

I see three major responsibilities for a Council member. First, to represent the needs of their constituency to the City Council.

Second, to communicate with the citizens in their District what the City Council (and other agencies of interest, like LPS) are doing.

And third, to effectively monitor the city’s revenue and expenditures so that taxpayer dollars are not wasted.

2.

The number one concern right now has to be the budget shortfall. While not large in comparison to surrounding cities, it is still a lot of money. The city needs to continue essential services while living within its means. Prioritization is something everyone must do in these economically challenging times and the city government is no exception. Unlike previous councils of a decade ago, I will try NOT to close or reduce the services we currently enjoy (one council even closed the Library on Sundays...the busiest day of the week) but instead I will look for greater efficiency and reduce waste. When push comes to shove, there are things we need more than others, like the police and fire department. I firmly believe we can still offer the same level of services without raising revenue by taking a closer look at how we spend our money.

3.

I don’t pretend to think I know everything about them or what their needs are.

I don’t pretend to be an expert on every issue facing each person. I don’t believe that the city government is the first stop

when looking to make changes or settle disputes. What I do believe is that the people of Littleton are what make this a great city. I do see the residents knowing and caring how the city operates and I believe they understand how best to achieve their own goals. What I will do is ensure that every resident in District III has an opportunity to express their views to me. And I will communicate those views to the rest of City Council regardless of my view. And I will make sure that my focus is constantly on serving the needs and protecting the property and money of District III constituents.

I do not believe in dictating what information the residents should be allowed to see on the city website or where they should be urged to shop. I do not think we need a mother hen to watch over us. What we need is a representative who has the intellectual honesty to communicate all sides of an issue and to support the one he sees as right. While I may not always agree with each resident I will be honest, up-front, and very clear on where I stand on each issue and why. I will be open to persuasion and I will be accountable for my decisions and actions.

4.

What do you think is the most important trait of a City Council member?

The single most important trait for a Council member to possess is to be principled. A principled person will honestly approach each issue and make a judgment based on clear values. If a council member does not base their decisions on a set of principles, then they are open to influence from forces which may be in conflict with their constituents’ best interest. With a person bound by principles, the voters can decide with confidence which candidate will more clearly represent them. A person who exhibits this trait will answer every question they are asked in a straightforward manner. During the campaign it is my goal to clearly communicate my principles and if elected then I will be held accountable to those.