CITY COUNCIL

City and County of Denver

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Dear friends:

My annual survey helps guide my votes on council, and I thank you deeply for sharing your views.

For years, those surveys have stressed how important sound fiscal principles are to you. That's why you so often hear me insisting on less spending, even by city council members; keeping general fund tax dollars applied to basic services and demanding that the people get a vote when the city incurs debt.

My fight for fiscal discipline even extends to important city projects such as the new Justice Center, an enterprise in which voters got a say and improvements were funded without increasing tax rates.

No longer will fairness be compromised by a parade of inmates in the same public areas where witnesses gather. The new center expands jail space, saves money on transportation and ends the need to rent space in nearby hotels for civil hearings.

Your surveys also say that protecting neighborhood quality is important. By now you should be seeing the fruits of legislation I pushed for to make negligent neighbors bring their properties up to standards faster. I've also pushed for quicker graffiti clean up and tougher penalties on offenders.

For those who wanted to keep the Sombrero part of the playground at Bear Creek Park, I combined funding sources to better renovate the park and helped engineer a way to keep the Sombrero maintained for years to come.

Look around Southwest Denver and you'll see upcoming or completed results of what you've asked for and I've worked for: renovated fire stations, the Quincy Avenue widening west of Sheridan Boulevard and improvements to the Bear Valley Library.

I've arranged for new equipment to help police curb speeding and bikes so they can patrol problem park paths. Firefighters have a new traffic signal control to improve response time. All funded because Dana and I run a lean office, freeing funds to help southwest Denver and the city's general fund.

But the work is not over. Your surveys show it's important to crack down on city contractors who hire undocumented workers, so Councilman Chris Nevitt and I have drafted an ordinance to stop this practice. And I've heard you clearly on issues such as the unlicensed driver towing ordinance, the new zoning code, urban chickens, overflow trash, street repair, medical marijuana, policing and taxes.

You've spoken and I've listened. That will make for a united voice in the days to come. Thanks for being part of the team.

Warm regards,

Jeanne

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- **2010 Citizen Survey results**
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2010 Citizen Survey Results

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts by answering the 2010 Citizen Survey.

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2,099 constituents in our district responded to the survey.

Here's what you and your neighbors said:

Denver City Councilwoman
Jeanne Faatz

1. A citizen initiative in 2008 gave Denver police the option of towing cars driven by unlicensed drivers, including illegal aliens. It also required owners to post a bond as assurance that the car wouldn't be driven by an unlicensed driver in the next 365 days. Some council members say that the defeat of an even tougher ballot proposal in 2009 showed that voters' attitudes have changed. Should City Council **repeal** the 2008 voter initiative, or not?

   Yes 21% No 79%

2. Denver has a dangerous-dog law. It also has an ordinance prohibiting pit bulls, which has been upheld in court. Proponents of the pit bull ban say the law makes conditions safer for city residents. Opponents say it is wrong to outlaw a specific breed and argue that a dangerous-dog law should afford adequate protection. Should Denver continue to ban pit bulls?

   Yes 80% No 20%

3. A citizen task force and Denver's planning department are asking City Council to adopt a new zoning code in 2010. Which of the following statements reflect your point of view? Check all that apply.

   A. As long as the new code doesn't degrade my neighborhood or lower my home's value, I'm open to it.

   38%

   B. I fear the new code will negatively affect other Denver neighborhoods. It may add to parking problems and take rights from residents and businesses they presently have.

   25%

   C. I've heard about the new code but don't know how it would affect my home.

   29%

   D. What new code? I don't know anything about it.

   48%

4. On a single-family zone lot, do you support or oppose allowing secondary dwelling areas within a home or built above a garage that could be occupied by family members or rented out to other people? Proponents of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) or Granny Flats, say ADUs benefit elderly homeowners and provide affordable housing choices. Opponents say they add density and increase parking problems in areas designated for single families.

   Support 35% Oppose 65%

5. Some say Denver residents should have the right to keep up to six hens (chickens) per zone lot. They argue fresh eggs and urban farming are good things for our community and part of a growing trend. Opponents say hens are noisy, smelly and attract predators such as coyotes and foxes. Currently homeowners can have hens only if they first get a permit, a process that gives neighbors a chance to express their views. Should having up to six hens per zone lot be allowed without having to go through the permit process?

   Yes 21% No 79%

6. Responding to a constituent tip in 2009, I asked the Auditor to check payroll documents submitted by a contractor performing curb and gutter work in our district. The check showed 12 out of 25 workers had Social Security numbers that didn't match their names. What strategies should Denver use to be sure contractors only hire documented workers for city jobs? Check all that you support.

   A. Require all city contractors to use E-Verify to screen employees.

   82%

   B. Require the city to do random checks of contract workers' Social Security numbers before certifying a contractor's payroll.

   71%

   C. Cancel city contracts if contractors or their subs use workers with mismatched Social Security numbers.

   77%

   D. Bar contractors and subs from bidding on other city jobs for repeat instances of using undocumented workers.

   82%

   E. Report companies and workers with mismatched Social Security numbers to the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

   79%

   F. None of the above.

   3%

7. City Council occasionally takes positions on state legislation or city and state ballot proposals. Do you support or oppose the following issues that may appear on ballots in 2010?

   A. Reduce some taxes (state income tax rates, motor vehicle registration fees, motor vehicle sales and specific ownership taxes) and eliminate others (sales tax on rental cars and telecommunication taxes and fees except for the 911 surcharge).

   Support 67% Oppose 33%

   B. Reverse legislative action that froze school district mill levies and caused an increase in property taxes without subjecting that specific increase to voter approval.

   Support 72% Oppose 28%

   C. Prevent government officials from incurring financial obligations such as multi-year leases and Certificates of Participation, which do not require voter "debt" approval.

   Support 79% Oppose 21%

   D. Allow undocumented students who have graduated from Colorado high schools to attend state colleges at in-state tuition rates.

   Support 34% Oppose 66%

   E. Establish a Denver commission for extra-terrestrial affairs.

   Support 8% Oppose 92%

8. Should use of medical marijuana for pain or a debilitating condition disqualify a person for being hired for or remaining a member of a city safety agency such as police, firefighters or deputy sheriffs?

   Yes 70% No 30%

9. Do you support or oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana?

   Support 28% Oppose 72%

10. In its past, Denver had an extensive system of streetcars. A Denver state senator is now proposing the return of streetcars for Colfax Avenue. Under his plan, streetcars would replace buses along the 10-mile corridor and financing would come from federal, state and local sources. Do you believe Denver should reinstate streetcars along Colfax Avenue?

    Yes 33% No 67%

11. Do you support or oppose expanding the number of city intersections that use "photo red light" to ticket drivers who run red lights or stop with the car's wheels in the crosswalk?

    Support 50% Oppose 50%

12. Is it a good idea for the city to occasionally allow portions of city parks to be fenced off for activities such as movies and concerts that require paid admission to attend?

    Yes 49% No 51%

13. Did the reduction of any city services this year due to budget cuts cause you significant problems? Please explain.

    No Significant Problem 73%
    Of Remaining 27%, these problems ranked the highest:

    - **Reduction of overflow trash pick up**
    - **Street repair**
    - **Suspension of the senior "homestead" property tax reduction. * Note: the State of Colorado–the legislature and the governor–made this budget cut, not the City of Denver, but it substantially impacted Denver seniors.**

14. Jeanne, as my city councilwoman, you can help me most by:

    Most frequent requests were:

    1. **Stopping illegal immigration**
    2. **Repairing streets (often with specific locations)**
    3. **Increasing police presence (patrol and traffic enforcement)**
    4. **Cutting taxes**
    5. **Sending a zoning inspector to a problem property in my neighborhood**

Should you have questions or need help concerning city government, please contact me. I am anxious to help you in any way I can.

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