

Economic vitality:

Our small businesses are dealing with rising costs, traffic, workforce challenges, and the increasing cost of living. If the people who work here can't afford to live here, that eventually becomes a problem for local employers, too.

I would support making it easier and more predictable for small businesses to open and expand, improving infrastructure and transportation, and reducing unnecessary barriers in the Town's permitting and approval processes. I'd also support policies that help attract good-paying jobs and encourage businesses to hire locally.

Most importantly, I want Castle Rock to be a place where a locally owned business can succeed, not just a place where large developers can build. A healthy economy should create opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

Growth:

I define responsible growth as growth that keeps pace with the infrastructure and services needed to support it. Growth isn't inherently good or bad, it depends on whether we're planning for the people and businesses who will actually live and operate here.

When considering new development, I believe we should look at the full picture: traffic and roads, water availability, public safety, schools, parks, infrastructure capacity, housing affordability, and the impact on existing neighborhoods. We also need to protect the character that made people want to live in Castle Rock in the first place.

I'm not opposed to development, but I don't believe "it's already been approved" should end the conversation about whether future growth is working for Castle Rock. We should be asking: Can our infrastructure support it? Does it make sense for the surrounding community? And are residents getting any meaningful benefit from it?

My goal is a Castle Rock that grows intentionally, not simply grows bigger.

Business attraction:

I would focus on making Castle Rock an easier place for employers to do business by creating a predictable, efficient permitting and approval process, investing in the roads, transportation and infrastructure businesses need, and making sure we have the water and services necessary to support responsible commercial growth.

I also believe we should be intentional about the types of employers we attract. We should pursue quality jobs in areas like professional services, technology, healthcare, skilled trades and other industries that provide career opportunities, not just jobs.

Finally, we should support the businesses already here. Local businesses that create jobs and contribute to our tax base should feel like partners in Castle Rock's future, not an afterthought.

My goal is simple: more people should be able to live, work, shop and build a career right here in Castle Rock.

Infrastructure:

Infrastructure should come before growth, not after it. Before approving significant new development, the Town should have a clear understanding of what that growth will require and whether our roads, water systems, public safety, parks and other infrastructure can handle it.

I would support long-term infrastructure planning that looks beyond the next development project and considers the cumulative impact of growth across Castle Rock. Developers should contribute appropriately to the infrastructure their projects require, while the Town continues to make responsible investments in maintaining and improving existing systems.

Affordability also needs to be part of the conversation. Infrastructure decisions should provide value to taxpayers and avoid unnecessary costs that ultimately get passed on to residents and businesses.

Sustainability should mean planning for the Castle Rock we'll have 20 or 30 years from now not simply checking a box today. That means investing in infrastructure that is efficient, resilient and financially responsible.

Ultimately, residents and businesses shouldn't have to choose between growth and a high quality of life.

Fiscal responsibility

When community needs compete with available revenue, I believe the Town should prioritize the basics first: public safety, roads, water, infrastructure and the essential services residents and businesses depend on every day.

Every dollar the Town spends ultimately comes from taxpayers, so I would expect spending decisions to be transparent, justified and focused on measurable results. Before raising taxes or fees, I want the Town to demonstrate that existing resources are being used efficiently and that other options have been seriously considered.

For capital projects, I would look at both the immediate need and the long-term cost to maintain what we build. A project that looks affordable today isn't a good investment if it creates a large financial burden down the road.

I also believe growth should help pay for the infrastructure and services it requires, rather than placing that burden primarily on existing residents.

My approach would be simple: protect essential services, invest where the community truly needs it, control unnecessary spending, and treat taxpayer money with the same care I would expect from anyone managing my own household budget.

Collaboration and business partnerships

I believe the Town should be a partner in the community, not operate in a silo. The people running our businesses, nonprofits and community organizations are often the ones seeing problems and opportunities firsthand, and Town Council should be willing to listen to them.

I would make it a priority to regularly meet with the Chamber, Economic Development Council, Downtown Alliance, local employers, nonprofits and other community partners to understand what they need from the Town and where we can work together.

That could mean identifying barriers to starting or expanding a business, improving communication around development and infrastructure projects, connecting employers with local workforce resources, supporting community events and finding ways to keep more economic activity within Castle Rock.

I also believe collaboration should be transparent and focused on the broader community, not on giving special treatment to individual businesses or organizations.

My goal would be to bring people to the table, listen first, and then work together on practical solutions that make Castle Rock a better place to live, work and do business.

Thanks,

Patrick Reilly