

Max Lord

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1) Do you believe City Council should discuss or take positions on international affairs? Please explain your rationale. If you've previously weighed in on this as a Council member (yes, no, or by calling for a rules change), please comment on any shift in your approach.

Though in general I believe that the city council should be concerned primarily with the affairs within city limits, when we see this much outrage, protest, and even violence, I believe that the city council has an obligation to make public and meaningful statements to address the concerns of the citizens.

2) In the 2023 community survey, only 34% of residents rated the city's street repair as good or excellent, and 47% rated snow removal positively good or excellent. These are currently budgeted at \$5M and \$1.7M, respectively. Would you increase these budgets — and if so, what would you cut to fund the increase? How would you measure success?

I think a large portion of people who are dissatisfied with our street conditions are currently up against the construction problems in town. As for the snow, the reality is that many of the residential streets of boulder have street parking, and spending more money on plows isn't going to clear them any more effectively. As such, I would not increase either budget.

3) Many current city measurements, including budgetary and action items, lack key performance indicators (KPI's) or metrics that are "outcome-based." Would you vote to improve accountability through outcome-based metrics and tie budgets to those metrics? If not - what do you see as a better approach?

I think that outcome based metrics are very important for determining budget flow, and in general I find the research behind many of our most expensive decisions to be wishy washy at best. A good example would be stating that 2/3 of bike accidents happen on arterial roads. Of course we don't want accidents, but it also makes sense that they happen on our busiest roads. What we need to know is if two lane bike paths on the road actually make a difference.

4) The city is claiming a constrained budget, with Federal cuts and flat sales tax revenue. At the same time, huge capital projects like Alpine Balsam and The Civic Center are moving ahead. Do you think it's important for Council to actively re-evaluate capital projects that past Councils have approved? How should the public be involved?

I think the reevaluating large infrastructure projects is one of the most important steps the city needs to take to handle its budget. We have seen wasteful, failed civic projects across the board, that are not making a difference in the key issues that voters are concerned about.

5) What is one thing you would do to encourage the City staff to act faster on in its own implementation of improved fire mitigation on Open Space property?

I think we should fast track permits for outdated redwood decks and cedar fenced in the WUI zone.

6) The August 2025 Boulder Homelessness Strategy Update / "Clutch Report" outlines recommendations on single adult homelessness in Boulder. Do you agree with the direction of the City's Homeless Strategy? Why or why not? Please explain your reasoning and any alternative approaches you would support.

I think that many of the city council people are focusing on "redirection" and while I agree this may mitigate some of the issues the city currently faces, I believe there are more meaningful steps such as boarding houses, hostels, that would have a greater impact on the transient population.

7) How do you weigh the tradeoffs of increasing Boulder's minimum wage, particularly the impacts on small businesses and restaurants? Have you previously taken a position on this issue? Do you support increasing the tipped wage credit—or what information would you need to make that decision?

I do support raising the tipped wage credit, and in general the minimum wage, if only slightly. I understand the effect it would have on small businesses, but the reality is that boulder is an exceedingly expensive place to live, and it will only become harder if we don't have folks capable of working service or retail.

8) Pearl Street is one of Boulder's top tourist attractions and a main economic artery. It currently has a 30% vacancy rate and a 30% corporate chain occupancy. What are your ideas for ensuring that downtown remains vital and inclusive of local, small businesses?

I think we should have fees on vacant retail space. It created a artificial scarcity that keeps rent high, and allows developers to profiteer on the space without giving back to our community, or allowing spaces where small businesses can grow.

9) Give us an example of a situation in which you had to take a tough stand, perhaps against popular opinion, your colleagues, etc. and were you able to swing people to your side?

When working as an iron worker, after a jobsite fatality I made a large push for our company, and the ones we worked with to institute a complete overhaul on safety training. There was serious concern about bureaucracy, wasted cost, and in general the work culture can be toxically masculine, with a fatalist undertone that we see in many of the most dangerous jobs in the world. Still, I persisted that the bravest thing these men could do was to make it home to their families, and I was able to sway the company to creating a new position and shifting policy to a more safe work culture.

10) Is there anything else specific you would like us to know about your service or background to help us evaluate your candidacy? Please share a link to a community or civic achievement you are proud of – this could be a Council meeting moment, public testimony, advocacy effort, op-ed or letter to the editor. This helps us understand where you are on the record and what issues matter most to you.

I have been involved in philanthropic work for much of my life, and as such have nuanced opinions on what it takes to get people into houses. I have worked with several organizations within our community, and more outside of it. A few years ago I was robbed in boulder, and wound up making the news for apprehending the culprit. When asked how it felt to be a "hero" etc, I repeatedly hammered in my point that there "were no winners" in this conflict, that we were both victims of a failed mental health system. <https://www.denver7.com/news/local-news/theres-no-winners-here-thats-for-sure-boulder-residents-say-local-crime-shows-statewide-problem>