

2026 Boulder City Council/Mayor Questionnaire

Thank you for your willingness to run for office in our city. It's a significant commitment, and we at Open Boulder are grateful. Thank you also for responding to the Open Boulder questionnaire, which will be used for endorsement decisions. This is due on **5 PM on Sunday, August 30**. This gives our board time to review your answers before the forum on September 2. The questions are built around Open Boulder's core priorities:

1. Good governance
2. Financial responsibility, accountability, and transparency
3. Community safety and emergency preparedness
4. Community vibrancy and affordability

Note: we have also provided a Word version that you can use to prepare your responses in advance. Thank you!

What is your full name *

Lynn Segal

Why are you running for City Council or Mayor? *

I am running because I am passionate about civic life and contribution. No one else with my aligned values would run, so I have to do it myself. The way I stand on all of my issues is consistent. There's intersectionality with all the issues the city faces and I don't want my sentiments on one issue to negate another.

I want to decrease wealth inequality. The water resource is important when considering accelerated development, especially considering the cost of a botched flood mitigation plan at CU South, which will drive up water bills in Boulder, adding to the existent inflationary pressures. I want to decrease dependency on the corporate utilities business model through municipalization, micro-grids, and trans-active energy with distributive generation and batteries for redundancy, to balance the load vs. balancing at the coal plant. I want to consider the impact CU has on the city economically. I am opposed to CU South and its dominance overcoming STR-generating hotels on 28th and the Millennium, Naropa Arapahoe, just west next door, and Rincon, the maintenance center they purchased downtown and the Hill especially at 777 Broadway and the Dark Horse/ Williams Village project. I want to balance the budget and consider CU's impact on that. I want long-term solutions that consider the well-being of seven generations ahead.

Council-Manager Form of Government



City Council candidates often campaign on changes they would like to make, but accomplishing those goals requires working within Boulder's Council-Manager form of government. How do you understand the respective roles of Council, the Mayor, the City Manager, and City staff? Using one of your priorities as an example, walk us through how you would work within that structure to move it forward, build support, and ultimately get it implemented. For Mayoral candidates, please answer accordingly.

The council-manager form of government is incredibly detrimental to the interests of the community and holds no direct accountability to the voters. The current city manager is narrow-mindedly focused on growth and running our city like a corporation or pyramid scheme. A community is not a business and we should not run it as such. I don't support top down, and don't think a mayor is even necessary. Anyway, the Manager is above the city council. Nuria spent half a million to \$750k on a lawsuit to the FAA regarding the airport. Because of the aspirations of a rogue Planning Board member to deal with the matter of the FAA, a much larger entity than Xcel, we have lost money on the lawsuit and have to pay maintenance in lieu of FAA grants. We could be divesting from Xcel energy and investing in small, local utility services including a failed contract with ALLO for internet, when we could provide faster service like Longmont. I'd work with existing council to replace the city manager and continue to train and support new members of engaged citizens to run for City Council.

Council's Role in the Budget *

How do you see Council's responsibility in setting and reviewing the budget? Are there changes in the budget process or in budget allocations that you would actively pursue if elected? Why?

Audit and make clear the manager must deal with it, lowering the demand of a fat \$552.6 M budget. Lower the 5.8% increase, the public has had it with inflation imposed nationally from war. If the council defers to staff, and the manager hasn't done their job, the staff and ultimately council will be blamed, when all along it was the city manager that failed. Implement frugality and the precautionary principle.

I wouldn't supply work lunches/dinners provided by the city, this is not a restaurant, it's a job and until we are out of debt, no food for the council either. They can pay for food with their \$41K salary.

Cash in lieu, inclusionary zoning should be raised from 25%, much more than the rise of 11%, and should be much more towards 50%. This would serve to stabilize rising real estate value that makes housing less affordable and causes foreclosures, evictions and consequent homelessness and the cost from that, with increasing proportions of high utilizers. Stop offering, for instance, Element subsidies with attached requirements like Bluebird, which has whole efficiency apartments for high utilizers without treatment programs, drawing a lot of police calls, and Presbyterian Manor to leverage LIHTC funds for senior affordable housing brought on by the Federal Government pushing housing as a growth agenda for international dominance. It's now divided the senior community into very underfunded low income projects that require disproportionately greater in number high income units to balance the high-end proportions bottom line, which is too high, leading to growth that fails to pay for its impact.

Include the resident's input in State CARE and EOC program administration to avoid \$55K waste in Energy Efficiency programs, as in the case of an energy retrofit for my place.

The city promotes Wildfire resilience while building on the Wildland Urban Interface, building more fuel at the Mapleton Academy. It's counterintuitive.

Save the central service of the West Senior Center, where it most efficiently serves the public, and reverse the demolition of the 4 bungalows example for the high profile visual face of Boulder affronting the library, with its strikingly critical public demonstration of the history of modest housing. Designate funds to different departments and stick with it, not drawing on the general fund to cover bad planning decisions.

Get out of the library district. We have more than enough to cover our library if running a leaner government. The library had to suck funds from the General Fund instead of tightening their belt. This resulted in a \$300/year increase to the public in property taxes, which they are now pushing again for a bail-out of \$650M, but this bail-out has negative consequences in the public's budget for disposable spending in STR that the city depends on. The staff reductions apparently are not enough for the city's approval of the ballot measure bail-outs that will raise our property taxes by \$1250 annually. It's interesting that the city is anticipating a 2.4% drop in STR and 2.85% increase in Property tax but still puts forth the TMF and a poorly polling \$650M Tax measure, adding to a County tax measure for child care on to property tax totaling

\$1250/ per year along with another utility rate case on the Xcel bill of \$50 a year. It's a cycle of despair that is not necessary.

Ordinance 8758 / Bond Measure *

Do you support Ordinance 8758 and the associated bond issuance on the November ballot?

☐ Yes

☒ No

For Ordinance 8758, please explain your position. For incumbents who voted to place Ordinance 8758 on the ballot: Has your position changed since that vote? Why or why not? *

The economy of the public cannot handle theses multiple expenses added to their property taxes with the national deficit and inflation. It will deplete their ability to contribute to STR. See budget discussion answer. My position has not changed now or in decades!

Ordinance 8762 / Debt Limit *

Do you support Ordinance 8762 and the associated increase to the City of Boulder general obligation (GO) debt limit on the November ballot?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Ordinance 8762 / Debt Limit *

Approximately what do you believe is the dollar value of the 3% of *assessed valuation* limit on City of Boulder indebtedness currently in effect (e.g., what is the current Charter limit on the amount of GO debt the city can issue)?

Approximately what do you believe is the dollar value of the 3% of *actual valuation* limit on City of Boulder indebtedness that is proposed in Ord 8762 (e.g., what is the proposed Charter limit on the amount of GO debt the city can issue)?

Please explain your position, including your understanding of how changing the debt limit from 3% of assessed valuation to 3% of actual valuation would affect the City's borrowing capacity.

\$150-\$160 M for assessed. Much higher if based on valuation. It would increase the debt obligation. The valuation is above the assessment and it's just a means of getting us into even greater debt, like our national debt which was \$20T when Trump promised to lower it, and instead doubled it to \$40T. Mandate frugality and the precautionary principle. I do, protesting my property taxes at 3 levels, so I know the difference between assessed value and true value..

Alpine-Balsam / Project Oversight *

Have you followed the costs associated with Alpine-Balsam? When the cost of a major city project significantly exceeds its budget, what role should Council play in understanding the causes, overseeing the response, and determining whether changes in management or process are warranted? Are there changes you would make to the way Council oversees major capital projects, or to its oversight of Alpine-Balsam in particular?

Frugality again. We had a functioning hospital for a gentrifying population that didn't have to commute. The Medical Pavilion was a high end finish that could have easily accommodated to city offices. Instead it was gutted. Keep services like the WSC's central location. 15 min. neighborhoods like the BVCP advises.

The BVCP definition of a 15 min. neighborhood is not a strip mall of 29th St. We need distributed services at micro-neighborhoods. It costs too much in Jobs/Housing imbalance, which should be an enforceable requirement in the BVCP. Now the gentrified population who needs it closest go out to Foothills for medical care while high end housing takes over the planned affordable housing the project projected to make up for the cost of the 10 years of it being empty and accruing debt. So, the whole purpose has been defeated by mismanagement of real estate. The city has to now make it up it's investment due to the debt obligation.

Administrative Costs Charged to Dedicated Taxes *

Boulder voters have approved dedicated taxes for purposes such as Open Space, Transportation, and the Arts. A portion of these revenues may be used to cover shared administrative costs such as HR, legal, and accounting. Do you believe these funds are being used effectively and consistently with the purposes voters approved them for? Why or why not? Please provide an example. What, if anything, would you change to strengthen accountability and public confidence in how these funds are used?

The arts commission spent six figures on an art piece for the firehouse. Redistribute the art funds by allocating less money to more people. Create a universal basic income for artists, similar to the one established in the Republic of Ireland. With the current general art fund, we could give one hundred artists \$1500/each per month. This type of policy will stimulate the grassroots artist economy that is at the heart of Boulder and greatly contributes to the community rather than large scale projects from out-of-state "professional" firms and consultants. Cut the consultants like Mamdani did with McKinsey in NYC.

Wildfire *

Given Boulder's wildfire risk and limited resources, what two or three wildfire mitigation or preparedness measures should Council prioritize? What role should the City play, and how should those priorities be funded?

Stop building in the WUI. Choose mitigation over adaptation. Focus on WUI Wildlands Urban Interface first, and housings surrounds second.

Downtown *

Council recently rejected the formation of a Downtown Development Authority. What do you see as the most important opportunities or challenges facing downtown Boulder, and what actions, efforts or initiatives would you suggest to address them?

Get public services supplied , not tourist ones, where the public will buy goods for their local services rather than on Amazon, and the city will rely less on tourism to operate. Charge Stephen Tebo, WW Reynolds a high vacancy tax that reflects their responsibility to the city rather than the city to them. Refill commercial space with lowering the rent from subsidies paid by the owners using up the dead space, instead of tax write-offs at the citizen's expense. Keep and incentivize essential vitality generators like the Arts and Crafts Co-op that virtually identify Boulder.

Performance Auditor *

An Open Boulder-affiliated committee has proposed that the City establish a Performance Auditor (different from a financial auditor), supported by a small office reporting to City Council and a resident-based Audit Committee, beginning in the 2027 budget. Do you support or oppose this proposal? Please explain why or why not?

Support, b/c a PA can project outcomes with different scenarios to monitor before, during and after a project and modify them dynamically. Resident representatives need to be on it, that's great!

Question for Mayoral candidates only: Council Agendas and Prioritization *

How should the Mayor approach setting and prioritizing Council agendas? Do you believe the current process effectively advances community priorities? If elected, what, if anything, would you change?

The mayor shouldn't be determining what the mayoral responsibilities are so I am going to answer the question! The mayor is already on CAC. I'd recruit a group of identified ongoing-interest individual representatives to address issues that arise in real-time, and direct the agenda to reflect these. Mayor should rotate with all councilors, acknowledging the position as equal to the other council members, as this is the case, and should not have silencing authority in public commentary or self determination of topic relevancy that may actually represent differences of opinion before an argument is even heard!

This form was created inside of Open Boulder Foundation.

Google Forms