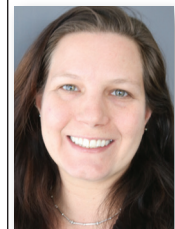


# Getting to know your City Council candidates

You might notice that we have taken a short hiatus from our City Council members' columns. That's because elections are around the corner and we didn't want to give any candidates an unfair edge.

## FROM THE EDITOR



Christy Steadman

Instead, what you'll notice this month are candidate responses to our questions on our Life on Capitol Hill ([lifeoncaphill.com](http://lifeoncaphill.com)) and Washington Park Profile ([washparkprofile.com](http://washparkprofile.com)) websites.

Our papers span several council districts with races. These districts are:

- District 4 (Tony Pigford and Diana Romero Campbell)
- District 5 (Amanda Sawyer and Michael Hughes)
- District 6 (Paul Kashmann, incumbent, unopposed)

- District 7 (Nick Campion, Flor Alvidrez, Adam Estroff, Arthur May and Guy Padgett)
- District 9 (Candi CdeBaca, Kwon Atlas and Darrell Watson)
- District 10 (Margie Morris, Shannon Hoffman, Chris Hinds and Noah Kaplan).

We also are including the nine candidates running for the two At-Large seats: Travis Leiker, Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, Penfield Tate, Sarah Parady, Jeff Walker, Marty Zimmerman, Will Chan, Dominic A. Diaz and Tim Hoffman.

After the election, our monthly councilmember column will return. Our hope is that the op-eds from the candidates help you make an informed decision when you cast your ballot on Election Day in Denver.

Now for a voting need-to-know list.

The first thing to do — particularly for new Denver residents — is to register to vote or check your voter registration and update it if need be. This can be done at: [GoVoteColorado.gov](http://GoVoteColorado.gov).

For this municipal election, the most important date and time to remember is 7 p.m. April 4. This is Election Day, and thus, the last day to vote in this election. All ballots must be returned by or on this day. For those voting in person on Election Day, you must be in line at a polling center to cast a ballot in person no later than 7 p.m.

Ballots will be mailed out the week of March 13, which is also when the 24-hour ballot drop-off boxes open. It is important to note that if you plan on mailing your ballot, the last day you should do so is March 27 so that it arrives on time. This is also the last day you are able to register to vote to receive a ballot in the mail.

There are 43 ballot drop off locations listed on the city's website. It is important to note the days and times the polling centers are open for in-person voting, as it varies through the month of March. The Saturday they are open is April 1.

This link will provide you with all the information you need to find

ballot drop off locations and in-person voting centers: [tinyurl.com/WhereToVoteDenver](http://tinyurl.com/WhereToVoteDenver).

I have two more helpful links to make voting go as smoothly as possible.

The first is a link to an interactive map with the City Council districts. Denver recently went through a re-districting process and the new districts will go into effect on Election Day. I found this map most helpful: [tinyurl.com/CouncilDistrictsDenver](http://tinyurl.com/CouncilDistrictsDenver). You can plug in your address and it will tell you what district your address is in.

One more link: the sample ballot, which is available as a downloadable PDF on the city's elections division's website: [tinyurl.com/SampleBallotDenver2023](http://tinyurl.com/SampleBallotDenver2023). In addition to council candidates, there are 17 mayoral candidates, races for city auditor and clerk and recorder, and three ballot questions. The sample ballot is available now, so you can be well-prepared by the time your ballot arrives in the mail.

Happy voting, Denver.

## The Denver mayor's race is a big deal

BY KYLE HARRIS  
DENVERITE

Denverite has covered the 2023 mayor's race breathlessly for months. And it's been fun.

Here's why: We've been blown away by the number of people wanting to run the city. We've been entertained (and occasionally flummoxed) by candidates' antics and obstacles. We've been in awe of all the ideas — well, many of them — about how to fix this place and help it thrive.

We've been fascinated by how this race fits into Denver's history and future and this weird present we're in, where the economy is uncertain, the demographics of the city are uncertain and what people want is — well, uncertain.

All of that means there's a lot to explore.

### Here's what we've done so far

We've talked to every single candidate running. Here they are listed in the order they'll appear on your ballot:

- Lisa Calderón
- Trinidad Rodriguez
- Aurelio Martinez
- Thomas Wolf
- Al Gardner
- Terrance Roberts

- Kwame Spearman
- Renate Behrens
- Chris Hansen
- Mike Johnston
- James Walsh
- Ean Thomas Tafoya
- Andy Rougeot
- Leslie Herod
- Robert Treta
- Debbie Ortega
- Kelly Brough

We've reported on many of the candidates' platforms as they've been released: the good, the bad and the ugly — all in the eye of the beholder, of course.

We've produced issue-specific coverage of candidates who have released plans.

We've covered campaign fundraising: Who's bringing in the most money, who isn't and why?

We've dug into the rollout of the Fair Elections Fund and the issues it's faced, including a mid-election tweak to the rules. We also looked at what happens to the money if candidates drop out of the race.

We've reported on the first TV ad, a website fiasco, an AI mayor and more.

We've covered debates and forums, including one of the first that took place at the Park Hill Golf Course and the first Fair Elections Fund debate at Regis University,

and the second Fair Elections Fund debate at Metro State University.

We've explored, in-depth, what the mayor actually does and how much power the position has. And we've spoken to four Denver mayors about their takes on the role and what's needed in it.

Our work is just beginning heading into the April 4 election and an almost inevitable run-off between the top two vote getters.

### Is there anything singularly important about this specific race?

Not one thing but many! We've spoken to dozens of Denverites in neighborhoods around the city and community organizations, and they've told us what's on their mind and what issues they want the next mayor to fix.

Denverites are worried about the city's affordability, with housing costs being top of mind for many. Some Denverites are happy about the growth, others are frustrated — and most we've spoken to want it better managed.

They're concerned about public safety and rising crime, though many also remain focused on accountability for police and finding

SEE ELECTION, P7

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### We must focus on the programs that garner bipartisan support

I've been around a long time, but the last couple of years of politics has drained me. I've grown tired of the constant fighting, bickering and general feeling of resentment. While politics has never been happy-go-lucky, when I was young it seemed like politicians got things done. I am hoping that over the next few years something will change, and we can get back to working together to make our lives and our country better.

Until then, I think it's important we focus on the programs and services that garner bipartisan support. One of those programs that has wide bipartisan support, both at the federal and state level, is Medicare Advantage. Providing high-quality, affordable health care to seniors and people with disabilities should not be a controversial topic, and I'm glad our legislators seem to agree.

The reason for this bipartisan support is that Medicare Advantage has proven itself to be an effective program, accomplishing its purpose of providing top-quality health care to some of our most vulnerable Americans, while also being a fiscally responsible program.

I encourage our federal and state representatives to support bipartisan policy, starting with Medicare Advantage.

Sincerely,

Pauline Pfundstein,  
Denver



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