



City Council elections Nov. 2

The Nov. 2 election for Lakewood City Council is coming to your mailbox, making it as easy as voting at your kitchen table to participate in choosing your Lakewood elected representatives.

Lakewood voters will elect one council member from the city's Wards 1 through 4 and two council members for Ward 5, as well as deciding whether to retain two municipal judges. All municipal elections for elected officials are nonpartisan, which means no party affiliations are shown with candidates. Lakewood also has one ballot question about Lakewood taxes for retail marijuana, also known as recreational marijuana (see page 12).

This election is by mail ballot only, and active, registered Lakewood voters will receive a mail ballot in the coming weeks. Absentee ballots are also available. Residents can register to vote or update their registration online at VoteJeffco.com and in-person at the county's motor vehicle offices and city and county clerk offices. When Voter Service and Polling Centers open, residents can also register to vote in those locations including on Nov. 2. The centers also allow residents to vote in person, get a replacement mail ballot, drop off a mail ballot or use voting equipment accessible for those with disabilities.

See the list below for places to drop off your ballot in Lakewood once you have voted. If you mail your ballot, mail it early enough before the election to ensure that it is received by the 7 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

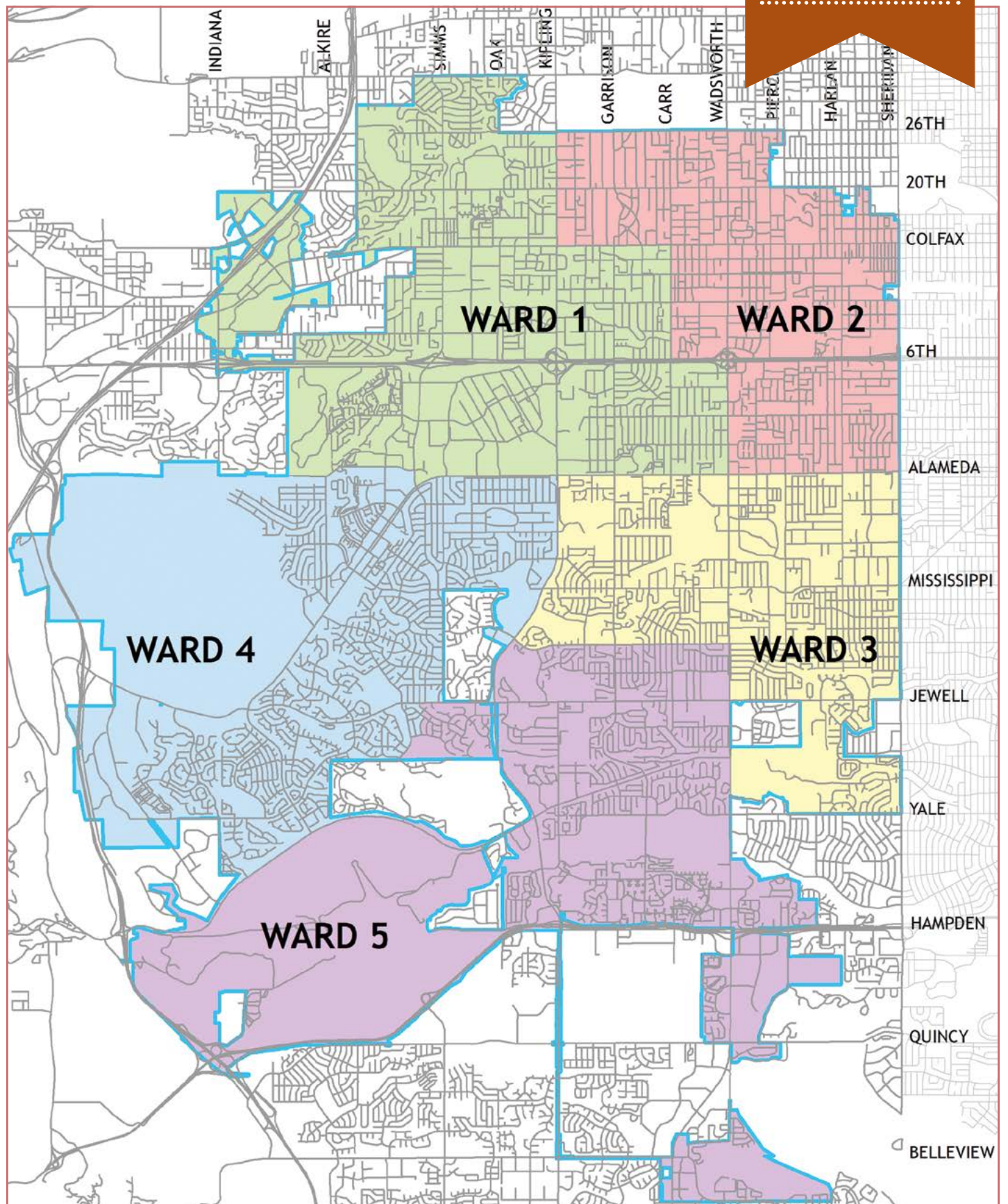
Important dates to remember

Oct. 8-15 – Mail ballots sent to all active, registered Lakewood voters. You can check the status of the mailing of your ballot under "Track Your Ballot" on VoteJeffco.com.

Oct. 25 – First day for Voter Service and Polling Centers to open, offering voter registration, drop off for mail ballots and other voting services. Find locations under the "Find Voting Locations" at VoteJeffco.com.

Oct. 25 – Last day to submit a voter registration application and still receive a ballot in the mail.

Nov. 2 – Election Day. Ballots must be received by 7 p.m.



Where to go or call for voting information

Lakewood City Clerk's Office
480 S. Allison Parkway, first floor
303-987-7080
Lakewood.org/Elections

Jefferson County Election Office
3500 Illinois St., Suite 1100
303-271-8111
VoteJeffco.com

24-HOUR BALLOT DROP BOXES

Available 24 hours daily through Nov. 1
Until 7 p.m. on Nov. 2

Belmar Library
555 S. Allison Parkway

Carmody Recreation Center
2200 S. Kipling St.

Foothills Fieldhouse
3606 S. Independence St.

Green Mountain Recreation Center
13198 W. Green Mountain Drive

Jeffco Public Health
645 Parfet St.

Lakewood City Hall
480 S. Allison Parkway

Lakewood Library
10200 W. 20th Ave.

Lakewood Link Recreation Center
1295 S. Reed St.

Ray Ross Park
680 S. Harlan St.

Red Rocks Community College
Environmental Tech Building
13302 Fox Run Road

Watch candidate forum on-demand
Lakewood.org/Elections



Jeslin Shahrezaei

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

Over the last 15 years, through my career in the nonprofit sector, I have worked to build partnerships and community to lift up and empower those whose voices aren't always heard. I sit on the Mid Lakewood Civic Association board and I am a charter organizer with the City of Lakewood's Sustainable Neighborhood program. I have experience in reflecting my neighbors' needs to our elected officials. My ability to listen respectfully and weigh varying opinions are necessary to advocate for our residents and advance our community's needs.

There has not been an elected official in the recent history of Ward 1 that reflects my lived experience of a young family putting roots in the community. My children attend our local schools, we support our local businesses, we use our parks and recreate in our open spaces. I am invested in making sure this community thrives for our residents now and into the future for generations to come.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

Over the last three months we have knocked on over 4,800 doors in Ward 1 and listened to countless neighbors. I am energized by the number of residents who share in my goals to:

Exit the pandemic safely and with consideration of our future needs. There is significant investment coming into our city. The time is now to address some of our most pressing infrastructure needs. We often hear that our aging infrastructure is the barrier for new additions to the community and keeps us from meaningfully considering our increased housing needs. Let's address it. I propose we push for bold new improvements to our community that increase the quality of life for all of our residents. *We can ensure everyone is safe on our streets, sidewalks and bike lanes and add more options for enjoying open spaces.*

West Colfax revitalization. I want to support the momentum that is happening on West Colfax and encourage it west through Ward 1. The West Colfax BID and 40 West Arts District have done great work to begin the revitalization of West Colfax. The Westland Shopping Center provides one of the biggest opportunities for us to keep the revitalization going through Ward 1. The leadership in Ward 1 has to recognize and honor the rich history of this transit corridor while imagining how that translates to meet our current and future needs.

Sustainability as a top priority. *If I am elected, sustainability will be used as a lens for decision making in the city.* We need elected officials who understand sustainability means more than recycling. It means we consider the whole view, like multi-modal solutions and best practices for storm water runoff. We cannot wish these problems away. We have a responsibility to protect our open spaces, clean air and water for our kids and grandkids.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

This election gives us the chance to move forward together. For too long we have been represented by folks concerned with maintaining what is behind us rather than what is in front of us. I want to help West Colfax realize its place in our history again. My vision for Lakewood is to ensure that we provide fair opportunity to all of our community members and are focused on safely getting out of COVID. I want to make sure our small businesses have access to resources to ensure survival. I love Lakewood. I am raising my family here and I am committed to working hard to keep Lakewood safer and nicer for all of its residents. With limited housing options, middle class families and aging residents are not getting the chance they deserve to *live* in Lakewood. I want to ensure Lakewood is a place where everyone has a fair shot at success and a chance to get ahead.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

It is important that the community feels heard by their elected officials and that systems are in place that build trust and increase dialogue. Sadly, this is not happening in Ward 1. There will be times in our future where constituents have opposing views, however, I know we can move forward through discussion and consideration of varied opinions. We are at an inflection point in our nation, state and city where divisiveness and polarization have driven wedges in community. I propose we bring the conversation back to our shared values and commitment to keeping our city great. When we find common ground there, we can move forward with a shared commitment to recognizing and imaging Lakewood for what it is now and what it can be in the future.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

I believe there are numerous opportunities for Lakewood as we look to the future. In the 12 months before the pandemic, Ward 1 had a 45% increase in homes sold. We know the community has new members moving in as well as older members looking for a right-sized housing option to allow them to age in place. I understand that we have to preserve the character of our neighborhoods and balance meeting the needs of a growing population in a responsible and measured way. My willingness to work together is exemplified with the confidence and endorsement of so many individuals and agencies listed on our website, including our first responders. We can disagree and still find common ground through our shared commitment to community.

I am committed to celebrating what is great about Lakewood now and recognizing the potential we have for our future. Most importantly, I am running to represent the constituents of Ward 1 and advance the interests of the many and not the few. I am not beholden to anyone in this work. *I am a fresh, new voice who will step into this office with no conflicts of interest, ready to get to work on day one.* We have a lot at stake in this election and I hope I can count on your vote to keep Lakewood on a path forward.



Cathy Kentner

Occupation: Jeffco Public Schools Teacher

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

My experience as a Planning Commissioner, Water and Sanitation District Board member, Bonvue Neighborhood Association leader and more than twenty years as an active and involved Lakewood community member has given me the knowledge and expertise to be an effective City Council member. I have helped neighborhoods advocate for protection of parks and open space, for responsible development and against warehousing of the elderly. I heard neighbors and neighborhood leaders speak of the unwise consequences of our 2012 zoning changes and I brought together people of diverse backgrounds and party affiliations to bring positive change by initiating the grassroots Lakewood Strategic Growth Initiative.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

1. Provide the necessary resources to ensure that neighborhood safety and security are our top priority. For the past seven years, Lakewood has experienced unprecedented growth, but we have not kept pace in updating community safety or infrastructure. We need lower speed limits on neighborhood streets to protect families, those with limited mobility, cyclists and other motorists. People, property and the public safety officers who protect them should be safe in our community. Instead of waiting until the last minute to enact state-imposed mandates, Lakewood should lead the way.

2. Require city council approval for large development projects. Too often highly impactful projects are built without collaboration between the developer and neighborhoods. The result is growth that causes families with few resources to fall victim to gentrification and puts increasing strain on home prices, city infrastructure and natural resources.

3. Increase parks and open spaces, which create a thriving community. As our community continues to attract more people, residential developers must be required to provide land for parks and open spaces. We now allow developers to simply pay a nominal fee, which is neither sustainable nor effective in the battle against climate change resulting from unlimited development.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

The community's vision of Lakewood is my vision. I will work hard to implement the goals of our Sustainability Plan, the West Colfax 2040 Plan and all other parts of our Comprehensive Vision Plan. I will protect Lakewood's identity as a wholesome, inclusive suburban community where all families can thrive and where our children can raise their children.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

The first step is genuine, unbiased outreach, giving all constituents time and opportunity to be heard. Too many voices have not been heard, have not been respected, and have not been valued. And decisions which directly impact people's lives are made without their knowledge or input. The earlier in the process that constituents are informed, the better. Providing the opportunity to listen is where we begin. But city efforts need to go beyond listening. The next step is to look for solutions beyond the status quo, and take actions that focus on our common goals instead of one side of an opposing view.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

I have the necessary experience and background to work with the City's legislative process, including my service on the Planning Commission, and my longtime advocacy for neighborhood issues as an independent thinker, a person who is unafraid to represent the interests and needs of our community instead of special interest demands. I have and will make informed, equitable decisions based on well-researched facts. My background as a teacher in Lakewood schools and as a single parent makes me uniquely qualified to make decisions that protect our community from the overreach of special interests that comes at the expense of working families and those on fixed incomes.



Watch candidate forum on-demand

Lakewood.org/Elections





Charles Davis

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

Put simply and succinctly, experience. I have been an involved, active, and engaged leader of Northeast Lakewood for the better part of a decade. I've picked up trash on Colfax, helped set up Muralfest, worked the Colfax marathon, been an active member of the West Colfax Community Organization for years as well as being a previous candidate for City Council. I was one of the initial citizen representatives working on the ArtLine. I've spoken numerous times at City Council meetings and have been involved in thousands of hours of city, community, and neighborhood meetings. Being this active and engaged gives me a unique insight from the ground level of Northeast Lakewood. Over my three-decade professional career I've been a problem solver, implementor, negotiator and listener. I've managed multi-million-dollar budgets and helped first-time homebuyers achieve their dream of owning a home. I've hired and fired people as a business leader and helped retirees retire a bit more comfortably in the home they want in the area they want to live. I've had wired networks and created policies and procedures affecting hundreds of employees. I've dug ditches and worked at on 30,000 feet company views. I've designed short term systems to get out of immediate problems all while keeping the long-term view and effects in my sights. I have spoken in acronyms and hyperbole, translated up, down, left, and right and worked to bring consensus and understanding to all parties involved. I will leverage vast life, community, and career experience to repair the wounds of unprofessionalism on council and move Lakewood confidently, again, into the future.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

- I'd like to see a continued focus on our homeless outreach with the expansion of our CAT program and a more holistic approach to the underserved, homeless, and less fortunate in our community
- I'd like to continue to expand our parks and recreation system and work to provide better hours, more services, and keep expanding the footprint of our system. Additionally, being an avid cyclist, I can honestly say that Lakewood needs to invest more in secure bike lanes and driver education. I've been hit by cars twice on my bike, both in Northeast Lakewood. We need to improve cyclists feeling of safety while riding to increase this amazing recreational and commuting option.
- I'd like to see a better partnership between CDOT and Lakewood with timing and schedules for repairs and upgrades for the five major arteries and state highways that surround and pass-through Ward 2 as well as a more transparent partnership with Xcel regarding repair and replacement of streetlights.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

I believe Lakewood should be the crown jewel of metropolitan Denver. We are not a bedroom community, and we must not vision the future as such. We have some of the largest employment centers, some of the largest parks, easy access to the Denver entertainment venues of note as well as the best recreation areas in the country. Sadly, there has been a lot of actions by representatives and citizens of Lakewood who have worked tirelessly to tarnish this image and halt all progress. We need to work together to move Lakewood into the future and build a better and more inclusive community.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

This frankly comes down to one thing and one thing only: communication with honest and open dialog. We must remove the partisan anger and hostility that has taken root in our city and our Council. To do this we must begin to trust each other again, to listen instead of just talking louder, and to create partnerships across all parts of our city. We must return to listening to our experts, we must understand the voices in our community, and we must work to create solutions that meet all parties in the middle. We must return to the lost art of compromise if we are to create an environment of progress and productivity.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

Experience, in both life, and community. I'm running to work hard for our community and not look past it for higher political office. I'm not a politician looking to establish a political career. I'm a resident of Lakewood who has seen first-hand the pros, and cons, of how our city has been lead over the last few years. I've seen the great things that have been accomplished and the massive failures of vision and leadership. I'm an established leader with years of experience in our community, primarily in Northeast Lakewood, partnering with established business leaders, organizations, non-profits, representatives, and city employees. Over two stints I've lived in Lakewood for almost 10 years and over 7 at my current address in Ward 2.



Sophia Mayott-Guerrero

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective city council member?

a. I have lived in this area since 2014, and though I was recently able to buy my forever home here, I have perspectives as a renter and a Latina that are largely missing from city council. I know what it feels like to be hesitant to put roots down in a community because you might be priced out. I also have professional expertise in climate and transportation policy and working successfully across multiple stakeholders. My personal experience combined with my technical expertise allow me to understand what many in the community are going through and to bring innovative problem solving to address our everyday, shared issues.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

- Increase transit, sidewalks, and bike lanes to support traffic reduction and community health. The average car trip is a single person going less than three miles, which means these strategies will have an impact on our air and traffic.
- Update our sustainability plan and fund it. Climate change is a global problem, but adaptation has local solutions. We should be reducing city water consumption and air pollution, improving drainage to prevent flooding, and maximizing trash recycling and composting.
- Continue the innovation of our police force and public services. This includes increasing our homeless navigator program, ensuring we have on-call mental health professionals to support those in crisis, and increasing our diversion programs.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

e. I want to help create an inclusive, affordable, and sustainable Lakewood with vibrant business, arts, and recreation opportunities. If the right people are elected, Lakewood can become a leader in the area. We are the largest city in the county and can lead the way on sustainability initiatives, collaboration on regional issues such as housing and transportation, and support for local business and the arts. There is so much potential in new ownership of Belmar, the White Swan, Casa Bonita and other businesses, and an expanding art scene- we have a moment to capitalize on this momentum. I want to see old and new local businesses thrive, including on the whole Colfax corridor.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

f. While I believe the priorities of the city should be set by the everyday needs of Lakewood residents, the details and actual policy should be based on data. I will try to understand the viewpoints and core concerns expressed by my constituents and find compromises, but ultimately I would support the outcome that is the most beneficial according to economic and equity analysis, viability, and impact.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

g. My opponent and I fundamentally disagree on where the best ideas come from. I value and respond to diversity of thought, culture, and input from Lakewood's varied community. I have more policy experience. My last 6 years of experience have included community organizing in Lakewood, and crafting and analyzing state and local policies in the environmental field. This foundation will allow me to quickly grasp the layers of city code and provide true leadership in murky waters.

I believe people know what the most important problems are in their neighborhoods. I know that more people don't attend regular city and community meetings because they are busy, even though they care. I will remain easily accessible to listen to and help all Lakewood residents.

NOTE: The candidates' responses to this Looking@Lakewood questionnaire are not edited for content, spelling, grammar, punctuation or typos.



Rebekah Stewart

Occupation: Chief Operations Officer, Board-Certified Music Therapist

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

As COO of a healthcare non-profit, I work with people and provide compassionate leadership, which is exactly what being in public service is about. I have spent my career working with and advocating for individuals with disabilities, so I care deeply about giving all people a fair shot at a great life. In my work, I listen carefully, think critically, and work to address the challenging issues individuals face. These skills are incredibly important for elected officials to have when approaching decisions that affect our city and residents.

I am invested and engaged in our community as an active member of our Weir Gulch Gardens Sustainable Neighborhood team and two of our local small business associations. My husband and I struggled for months in this housing market to purchase our first home and set down roots in Lakewood, and I see the difficulties that neighbors are experiencing when it comes to affordability and cost of living. I am proud to have earned the trust and support of our amazing first responders in Lakewood, and I commit to engaging these stakeholders in finding solutions for the public safety issues currently facing our city.

As we look towards the future and navigate through these challenging times, know that I will work as hard for you as I do everyday in my job for my clients. Helping lead an organization through this pandemic has been challenging, and I'm excited to use these same skills and hard work for Lakewood as we look towards a brighter future for our residents and future Lakewood generations.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

Invest in sustainability and protect our parks and open spaces.

Our parks and open spaces define our Lakewood way of life. We have a responsibility to ourselves and future generations to protect our treasured green spaces and continue to invest in cleaner air and water. I want to build on our award winning Sustainability Plan and look for more opportunities to purchase park land in Ward 3.

Create more opportunities to earn a good life in Lakewood.

Working families deserve a fair shot in Lakewood. We are becoming a city where people like teachers, firefighters, police, and other working families cannot afford to live in the city in which they work. While there are no easy solutions, I will work to address the rising cost of living and increase fair access to housing that's affordable, while also protecting the character of our neighborhoods and holding developers accountable to the community.

Work together towards a safer Lakewood.

Let's use the unprecedented federal funds we are seeing coming to our city to invest in once-in-a-generation infrastructure improvements that will move us towards a safer and more sustainable city. We can improve public safety through increasing our homeless and mental health co-responder programs and ensuring safer routes for alternative forms of transportation, which reduce traffic congestion, emissions, and wear and tear on our roads, and promote safe and walkable communities and neighborhoods around the city.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

I want to see Lakewood continue to be an inclusive, safe, and welcoming community. People from all walks of life ought to have the opportunity to earn a good life here. Lakewood should be at the forefront of innovation when it comes to sustainability, protecting green space, improving affordability, creating safe communities, and supporting small and local businesses. One of the cornerstones of our ward is Belmar, and over the past few years I have heard concerns about the property and loss of retail tenants. I'm excited to work with residents and the new ownership team to bring this incredible asset back to life and reimagine what it can be in the future. This is a fantastic opportunity and I will help lead the effort!

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

The most important thing I can do as a City Councilor is listen and have an open mind. We can all agree that we want to feel safe and be able to earn a good life here in Lakewood. Though we may disagree on how to get there sometimes, I think people just want to know that they are being heard and that their perspectives are considered. I can't promise that every decision I make will make everyone happy, but I can promise that I will listen, consider all sides, and make decisions as wisely as possible for the future of our community.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

I am running because Ward 3 needs a fresh, positive voice as we look towards the future. We cannot prescribe 1970's solutions to 2021 issues, and we should not fear monger about the future of our community simply because it's changing. Former Mayor Steve Burkholder once said, "A city either moves forward or backwards; it doesn't stay the same." The choice in this election is clear: let's not move backwards; let's push forward for the city we all love.

Accessibility to constituents is also incredibly important to me. I represent you, so you should be able to get in touch with me easily. You deserve to be part of the conversation and I will work to do outreach, host neighborhood meetings, and continue to engage in our incredible business/neighborhood associations. I believe in a bright future for Lakewood, I am ready to truly bring forth your voice as we move forward, and I'd be honored to have your vote in November.



Mike Bieda

Occupation: Lawyer; Retired

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

I grew up as a boy in Lakewood and have seen many changes over the past 60 years. I did not live here all that time, but had the opportunity to live and work in other parts of the country and see how other cities operate. That experience gives me a unique understanding of my constituents who have also been my neighbors for those past 60 years.

My past 45 years' experience as a District Court Judge, Assistant Colorado Attorney General, and practicing attorney gives me the background to analyze the problems Lakewood faces and to seek reasonable and practical solutions in the best interest of my neighbors and the entire community.

My last four years as a member of Lakewood City Council have taught me the importance of listening to my constituents. I have also learned to investigate beyond what is presented at council meetings in order to get a true picture of the facts on any particular issue. I have learned to work with the other members of council to reach a consensus in order to make a decision that is best for our city and its residents.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

- To maintain the current quality of life we enjoy in Lakewood by making thoughtful decisions concerning future development and by following the 1% Limited Growth Initiative passed by the voters.

- To assist our Lakewood Police Agents in doing their difficult job of guarding our safety by limiting unreasonable restrictions placed upon them by State Government as in SB 20-217; by appropriating sufficient resources to the Police Department; and by encouraging the use of the Neighborhood Watch program. I also intend to establish a Police substation on the Plaza in Bel Mar to enhance the safety of our Bel Mar residents.

- To have the former Taylor Property, now known as "Peakview Park" renamed to "Veterans Memorial Open Space" in honor of all of the veterans from Lakewood and the surrounding area who sacrificed so much for our Freedom. And most importantly to honor and remember those seven names inscribed on the Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. who grew up in Lakewood and gave their life for their country.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

My vision is to maintain the friendly, safe, small-town feel of Lakewood, which includes our homes, our neighborhoods, parks, shopping, restaurants and business centers, while encouraging thoughtful and strong economic growth. This may include a study and review of our current zoning laws.

This vision includes more affordable housing, not just high-priced apartments, but affordable housing that allows for the pride of ownership which then leads to community pride and community involvement.

I look to continue to diversify Lakewood by welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs as I have done while serving on the screening committee by appointing a broad spectrum of people to our boards and commissions; and by voting for and supporting the recent creation of the new Diversity Committee as part of the Lakewood Advisory Commission (LAC).

My vision includes encouraging the fulfillment of our existing Sustainability Plan by completing the Slash facility, improving by whatever means available Lakewood's recycling and compost rates, and taking reasonable and practical steps to conserve our most precious resource, water.

By whatever means necessary, Lakewood must protect our largest park, Bear Creek Lake Park, from the proposed plan by the Army Corp. of Engineers, to increase the size of Bear Creek Lake from 10,000-acre feet to 50,000-acre feet; thereby destroying large portions of the existing park and increasing the risk of flood for those living immediately down river.

Finally, my vision is to keep the tax rates in Lakewood at their current low levels, and avoid imposing unfair taxes like the recently defeated tobacco products surtax.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

Opposing views are inevitable. The most important skills are to keep an open mind and do not prejudge an issue until I have heard and considered all points of view. Often times common ground will appear and a solution will develop from listening that will satisfy or partially satisfy everyone. Sometimes, when there is no consensus, I may be required to use my best judgment and common sense, remembering to do no harm if possible, and keeping the best interests of the community in mind.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

- Judgment.
- Experience.
- Education.
- Concern for my constituents.
- Motive.
- Accountability.



Watch candidate forum on-demand

Lakewood.org/Elections





Christopher Arlen

Occupation: Small Business Owner

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

I am running to serve on Lakewood City Council because I believe that I have something to offer the political space. I have invested much of my adult life serving others. It is consistent with my upbringing. I have been a nonprofit executive, a minister, a facilitator, a mediator, and a training consultant. In each of these roles, I have worked to bridge divides by exploring divergent perspectives, synthesizing common themes, and finding new paths forward. This is what I hope to bring to City Council.

In ministry, I have sat with people in their deepest moments of grief and stood with them as they've celebrated the moments and milestones of life. In sorrow and in joy, we see that we are all the same. As a mediator, I serve as a neutral party who helps people in conflict find common ground. My work in the nonprofit sector has given me unique perspectives on problem solving.

As a small business owner, I develop and facilitate processes that promote learning and understanding through skills-based training programs. I have seen what can be accomplished when people work together. This, I believe, is sorely needed on our Council.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

I will work to nurture Lakewood's civic character. I define civic character as the way that we relate to one another in community; as friends, as neighbors, and even as strangers. The issues that we face in Lakewood impact us all. I believe that we can reimagine our shared future and create new paths forward. This is what I mean when I refer to building a stronger Lakewood, together.

I look forward to taking on the dynamic intersection of the many issues that have too often divided us. Economic development, for example, requires Lakewood to be attractive to business and industry. This means that the workforce that we imagine should be able to build their lives in Lakewood. In this fashion, growth and economic development are inextricably intertwined. When we look to the future, it is in our shared interest to make Lakewood a community where families can thrive — where our workforce can build their lives and contribute to the common good.

Similarly, I want to work to ensure that Lakewood is and remains a safe place for us all to live, work, and play. While we have much to be proud of, there is much that remains to be done. I will continue to work to identify best practice responses to mental health and other non-emergency crises. I will advocate for traffic safety; calming traffic and disincentivizing shortcuts and speeding through our neighborhoods. I will seek to make Lakewood safer for people with disabilities, cyclists, and pedestrians. I will work with my fellow councilors to address root cause issues that can make Lakewood seem unsafe.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

My vision for Lakewood is bold. I believe that Lakewood can only be full of possibilities to the same degree that we can imagine those possibilities. I envision a Lakewood that continues to do the work of building an inclusive community and look to the future with hope and anticipation; a future we've envisioned together. I aspire for Lakewood to once again be recognized as an All America City as we were in 2011 and again in 2016.

I hope for a Lakewood where we have faith in one another such that we come together across our perspectives and find common solutions. I hope for a Lakewood that is equitable and just; where we share together the promise of Lakewood.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

Honest opposition is healthy when it comes to formulating public policy. I've been fortunate to make friends across the ideological spectrum and political divide. I value dissent as it is essential to building a community where each person feels that their voice matters and is heard. Even when I disagree, through listening I often find perspectives or insights that better inform my own positions.

People can have honest disagreements. I will handle these moments with deep respect for the diversity they represent. Moreover, I will listen with humility as I come to better understand other perspectives. I am committed to working with people of good will to find common ground. I will approach these moments with objectivity and openness. I will conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates open-mindedness. I will find ways to promote constructive engagement and collaborative problem-solving. At the same time, I am not afraid to stand up for what is right when necessary.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

I believe in government for the people, and I believe in people. I am not running for Lakewood City Council to pursue any particular agenda or because I'm for or against any particular issue. I'm running because, as I've said, I believe that my background and experience provides me an interesting and unique approach to local government.

I continue to have deep compassion and a profound affection for people. This is what I hope to bring to our Council, to our city staff, and to Lakewood as a whole. I have a proven record of developing novel approaches to complex issues. I am outcome focused and will help others see beyond our challenges and glimpse our potential. Experience has taught me that people can achieve great things together when the correct context is created. As a minister, mediator, and facilitator, I believe that we can create this new context, together.

I am running for Lakewood City Council because I still believe that we can do better; as friends, as neighbors, and as a city. These are the values on which I've based my candidacy. I know that we can build a stronger Lakewood if we work at it together.



Rich Olver

Occupation: Retired Geophysicist

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rich@enrichlakewood.com

Your website/social media:
enrichlakewood.com

What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

I moved into the apartments behind our King Soopers in 1980. I had a fresh Master Degree (Geophysics) in my pocket, and I found a job in the Oil & Gas Exploration Industry within a week. 41 years later I live 1 mile away, and still occasionally work in O&G. I've been married (6 happy months, 5 years total) & divorced, I've ridden my bike on literally every street in Ward 4, walked Green Mountain untold number of times, founded and ran my own Seismic Processing Company, ran for City Council (2005), been politically active and avoided politics, volunteered here and there, visited a lot of restaurants and bars, visited all of the pro sports venues, been to concerts and plays galore, had a condo in the mountains, enjoyed many vehicles and dogs.

And I'm hungry for more. (respect to Anthony Bourdain)

As for being effective, truthfully time will tell, but experienced (senior), laid-back, intelligent, friendly, inquisitive, open-minded, motivated people tend to be more effective.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council Member?

a) Create more off-leash dog parks. Lakewood has already identified some sites, but no one on council is actually pushing for them, so nothing is happening. We have one dog park, and it's overused, overcrowded. More parks will spread out the wear and tear on all parks.

b) Make it safer and faster for 2 wheelers (of all ages) to get around Lakewood whether for commuting or recreation. There is a lot of work to be done to connect together the scattered bike routes and paths to make a complete grid.

c) To get and keep the various City Council members working together, respecting each other, all pulling together for the common good. That might sound improbable, or even impossible if you look at the current situation in Aurora City Council. Impossible usually takes me a little longer.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

Let's face reality. Lakewood is a bedroom community. People live and love it here, but a lot of us work outside Lakewood's borders. I do not want to see more and more soviet style apartment blocks being built willy nilly all around Lakewood. That will just increase traffic in and out of the City, increase pollution, increase our water bills, increase Global Warming, and increase the workers stress level. We need more employment opportunities within Lakewood. We need draws for the people from other metro towns to visit and spend money in Lakewood, as opposed to driving through to get to the mountains or Red Rocks. (Should we annex Red Rocks?)

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

I'm a scientist, a creature of logic. (Yes, Spock was my hero when I was young) When someone has an opposing view I generally try to dig to the core of where that belief came from (while I try to dig to the core of where my belief comes from) then resolve who is really correct, that is if either is correct. On the other hand, I'm as human as the next guy and, I know that we often make decisions based on emotions and feelings. Often it's just impossible to convince anyone with logic, in which case we present our case, and if neither moves, we'll just have to agree to disagree.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

I have learned that You Catch More Flies With Honey Than You Do With Vinegar. My opponent is a principal in the Green Mountain Water Board Recall. While I believe there is no reason for a recall, others believe there is. That's fine. What's not OK is to call the former Colorado Secretary of State "Some Blowhard (expletive deleted)" in a public meeting. Or insult other elected officials. I'd hate to see that in City Council meeting.

NOTE: The candidates' responses to this Looking@Lakewood questionnaire are not edited for content, spelling, grammar, punctuation or typos.



Michael Gunstanson

Occupation: Digital Marketer

Best way for voters to contact you:
303-900-3415 or
gunstansonforlakewood@gmail.com

Your website/social media:
Michaelgunstanson.com

What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

I am an Eagle Scout. I have lived my life by the tenets I learned in Scouting. I believe trust is a commodity in short supply and I strive to be trustworthy in all that I do. I have owned a small business and know the struggles small businesses face. I know what it is like to make payroll, hire employees and build a business.

I have a strong work ethic and will bring that same work ethic to City Council as I work for YOU! I have been involved in many issues throughout my tenure in Lakewood. I helped spread the word years ago about the "switch for the ditch," where the city wanted to trade open space in Rooney Valley for, well, a ditch. Most recently, I helped lead the opposition to the city's plan to take away our right to choose our own trash haulers. Instead, they would have chosen a trash and recycling hauler for us. Which could have eventually led to an increase in all our trash bills. I also helped the residents of Silver Valley stop the over-development of the Schnell farm. The development would have ruined a cherished historical asset.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

A) **Police** I would like to see our police department get the tools it needs to succeed, including a higher rate of pay and greater funding for the latest and best equipment. I'd also like to see a more targeted recruitment strategy such as at military installations.

B) **Open space** We have owned a portion of the Taylor farm (Wadsworth & Morrison) for five years. All we have done is name it. I want Lakewood to be more pro-active in getting this property ready for our citizens to use. We need more dog parks and pickleball courts. I also want Lakewood to expand its neighborhood parks and I'd like to see us have at least one more recreation center.

C) **Strategic Growth** I want to see SGI 200 implemented like it was envisioned. I want to see property owners stopped being coached on how to blight their property to get around 200's intent.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

I envision a city where its citizens don't have to sue the city to get it to do the right thing.

I envision a city that looks to expand its parks, open space and recreation centers.

I envision a city where parents feel comfortable with their children walking home from school.

I envision a city where it's homeless, and less fortunate citizens are given a hand up, not a hand out.

I envision a city where we recruit and encourage more small businesses and restaurants, not national chains.

I envision our city, the state's fifth most populous, as a leader not a follower.

I envision a city that criminals avoid, knowing they will be jailed and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

In today's political climate it seems we can't agree on much. As a member of Council, I will strive to find ways we can come together. Most importantly, I will listen to each side, giving them the respect they deserve. I will weigh each issue carefully and will make decisions based on what is best for Ward 5 and what is best for Lakewood.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

Trust. I'm a candidate citizens can trust to do the right thing. You can trust me to listen to you and to put YOUR concerns first, not those of developers.



Wendi Strom

Occupation: Financial planner

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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council Member?

There are three areas where I am uniquely qualified for the City Council that our community needs right now. I have experience in bringing people together to accomplish significant things in our community. One example of this is an effort I co-lead to revitalize a school & community park playground in 2014. Separately, I am a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional. I've been guiding people with their finances for 20 years. I have budget experience and look forward to using this to make sure the city is in the best place possible to continue to keep our parks clean and safe, offer the programs and services our community enjoys and relies on, and has the flexibility to implement other programs that can advance us in areas like sustainability and public safety. Although this is my first run for office, I've also been involved in the leadership of several organizations for over the last two decades. I understand the challenges that come with leading and have experience bringing people together to find tough solutions.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a city council member?

1. Address housing affordability and growth. Meeting our community's housing needs while preserving the heritage of the city we love, can be accomplished. Growth does not need to be as divisive as it's been in recent years.

2. Increase safety on our roads for our kids, cars and cyclists.

3. Rebuild a stronger Lakewood economy. Helping small businesses and workers get back on track.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

- A vibrant Belmar retail community rich with fun events and experiences again.

- A city that has preserved its heritage while also being able to address the community's housing needs. Everyone should have the opportunity to afford to live where they work if they want to.

- To be a city that addresses congestion by embracing and improving more multi-modal transportation and strategically building in areas close to mass-transit options.

- To have a government that works for the people. We all deserve the opportunity to feel we are represented by our leaders and that our voices matter.

- To be a city that protects our greenspaces, parks, and playgrounds.

- And finally, to be a city where every hard-working neighbor has the chance to experience financial security.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

This requires three things. First, facilitating conversations between different stakeholders with varying viewpoints. Start those conversations with what we have in common and move forward from there. And finally, commit in those conversations that we all show up with a truly open mind and desire to move towards a solution.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

All three items mentioned in question number one are what distinguishes me from my opponents. A long track record of collaborative leadership, background and experience in budget and finance and the years that I've been actively involved in and improving our Lakewood community. The Strom family has benefited from this city and every person that lives here should have the opportunity to benefit from it as well. We need good, open-minded leaders that are ready to collaborate and willing to be objective about addressing the concerns our community has. We all deserve good people in this office that will listen to our concerns, look objectively at the situation, and think outside of the box when needed to find solutions. Together, we can create a Lakewood that works for us all.

NOTE: The candidates' responses to this Looking@Lakewood questionnaire are not edited for content, spelling, grammar, punctuation or typos.



Watch candidate forum on-demand

Lakewood.org/Elections





Tom Keefe

Occupation: Educator

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Your website/social media:
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Twitter@Tom4Lakewood
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What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

I believe that my unique background as an educator, from K-12 schools to post-secondary institutions, has provided me with the ability to listen, learn, and apply. As an Associate Professor of Humanities, I have taught history, politics, and world religions. I have studied politics and policy, human motivation, and how good decision-making happens. In addition to my professional background, I've been a volunteer member of the Jeffco Historical Commission as well as the Jefferson-Gilpin Counties' 1st Judicial District Performance Commission. My family and I are also active in community service projects in our local and regional communities. All these experiences, my education, and my love for Lakewood make me uniquely qualified to be an effective City Councilor from Day One.

What are three goals that you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

I am committed to a safer, stronger, and greener Lakewood.

1. Safety includes a lot of issues: personal safety, property safety, and traffic safety. On council, I will work with city and community stakeholders to address home insecurity in our city and support our police co-responder program. I will also ensure that we continue to work closely with West Metro through our shared JeffCom system to maintain public safety. Safety is my priority.

In the early spring, several candidates and I participated in a traffic safety forum with local community members. We heard concerns about pedestrian and bicycle safety as well as wider issues and concerns of traffic safety. As one of your Ward 5 Councilors, I will work with our law enforcement and other city departments to improve traffic safety in Lakewood.

2. Stronger means fiscal responsibility, preserving our reserve fund, and increasing our municipal employee retention. I will also ensure we invest in our future infrastructure responsibly to support our quality of life and our local economy. Stronger means supporting our small businesses and continuing to attract businesses that support good-paying jobs. I want the people who work in Lakewood to be able to live in Lakewood, and I want the people who live in Lakewood to be able to find good-paying jobs in Lakewood.

I am also committed to increasing community-business-government partnerships that will make Lakewood stronger. For example, as part of my professional work, I coordinated a partnership between my college and the Superintendent of Jeffco Public Schools to guarantee Jeffco graduates can have 4-years of college for the cost of 3-years of tuition. That's the kind of collaboration I will bring to our city's P3 public-private partnerships.

3. And greener... Look at the beautiful Green Belt. From walking and biking along the creek to picnics at the Stone House, the Green Belt is the "Jewel of Ward 5." On council, I will support the continued preservation and expansion of our parks and open spaces. It's a double-win: it both protects the environment and adds to our quality of life. And, on the city council, I will also support public and private sustainability initiatives, particularly water conservation and the adoption of solar energy. These policies will strengthen our city finances as well: A greener Lakewood is a safer and stronger Lakewood.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

I believe Lakewood is the best of the Front Range; a place where hope meets with opportunity. Our Lakewood should be an example for other municipalities on how to build an equitable community, with meaningful employment and affordable living. We are the best of the West. Let us build a safer, stronger, and greener Lakewood together.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

Good policy is predicated on inclusive communication, solid research, and effective decision-making processes. And, to me, the key to communication is active listening. My campaign has been a listening tour in which I've heard from so many members of our community, both individuals and organizations. My decision-making is based upon listening to all voices, particularly those with opposing perspectives. I will both listen to our city staff as well as look at the experiences of peer municipalities and other governmental entities in my decision-making process. I am committed to seeking out all manner of resources and studying the data before making a policy decision.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

I believe my educational background and life experiences make me uniquely qualified to serve on Lakewood City Council. Providing for and raising a family can be hard in the best of circumstances, let alone during a pandemic. I know I have certainly had my accomplishments and struggles. Today, our children are successful young adults and attending college, but it took a village to raise them. We couldn't have done it without our extended family, friends, and our faith community. One of the reasons I'm running for City Council is to give back. I know these struggles that so many of us face —from safety in our community to safety within our homes, from physical health to mental health, and providing for our family while also supporting our neighbors in need. I know what it's like to be a single parent, a blended parent, an entrepreneur, and a public servant. That's why I want to be one of **your** two new voices representing Ward 5 on **our** city council. We are stronger together.



Mary Janssen

Occupation: Wife, Mom and Small business owner since 1986

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maryforlakewood.com

What about your background and experience would make you an effective City Council member?

Rooted and invested in the community: I was raised in Lakewood and have invested 35 years building a small business in Ward 5. Through financial planning, frugal spending and prudent budgeting our business has survived several recessions. I will use that expertise in overseeing public funds. The citizens and businesses of Lakewood have worked too hard to let their money be spent frivolously.

Customer service: I intend to be your primary customer service agent. You have enough on your plate, your elected representative should work on your behalf to cut bureaucracy and get concerns handled as quickly as possible. As a business owner for over three decades I ensure that each customer gets top notch service and the same will be true for how I represent you as your city councilor.

Effective City Oversight: In life and in business, it takes digging to find the truth. Too often, elected officials have hundreds of pages to digest within a short amount of time and decisions can be made without enough research or community feedback. Simply put, I will do the hard work that is required to make sound decisions.

What are three goals you would like to accomplish as a City Council member?

- A. My absolute first goal will be to make sure our neighborhoods are safe and able to count on protection from the best our police force has to offer. Establishing an effective neighborhood watch program would help with crime prevention.
- B. Restore "trust" in your elected Ward 5 representation. Empower residents to feel confident their voice is heard.
- C. Roads and traffic are another concern for our citizens. Better planning for the increase in population and that our road ways are safe and in good repair.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

We must ensure we take care of our city investments so they are in good condition for future generations. New projects can inadvertently reduce funding for much needed capitol repairs and maintenance. Existing funding has to be evaluated and correctly prioritized. Maintain our parks and open space where citizens can gather and children play. Creating more public space areas will require re-allocation of existing funds. Some decisions made years ago by prior councils will need to be evaluated. Being an effective leader requires careful consideration in decision making. The city we build today is the future for our children. In this vision, it is of utmost importance that the residents and businesses be involved in the decision making so that they can grasp all pros and cons. After all it is their money, their investment and our neighborhoods.

How would you approach policy issues that cause your constituents to have opposing views?

Listen with open ears to both sides. Determine the key points that cause conflict. We need robust discussions to find middle ground. Divisions run deep in Lakewood over Strategic Growth Plan and there has to be healing before we can positively move forward. It begins by having trust in elected officials.

What distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?

My clear cut difference from the other candidates is that I am endorsed by the people of my community not the establishment of the governing.

I made a promise from the beginning of my campaign that I would not take any donations from outside of Lakewood.

I will not be in the pocket of any group or special interest.

ADDITIONAL WARD 5 SEAT OPEN FOR 2021 ELECTION

Ward 5 Council member Dana Gutwein informed the city on Aug. 13 that she was resigning, creating an additional open council seat for the November City Council election. This second Ward 5 seat is for a term of two years, which will be considered a full term. Following state election law and the Lakewood City Charter, voters in Ward 5 will elect two council members in the following manner. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes will receive the four-year term that is part of the staggered terms for council members, with one seat from each ward filled each regular municipal election. The candidate receiving the next greatest number of votes will receive the two-year term that became available in August.

Lakewood voters to decide marijuana tax question

Voters in Lakewood will be receiving ballots in the mail for the Nov. 2 election, and the city has one ballot question for voters to decide in addition to electing City Council members. The one question is listed below as it will appear on the ballot. For more information on the city's election, please turn to page 5, which is the start of Voter's Guide, or visit Lakewood.org/Elections.

BALLOT QUESTION 2D

Shall City of Lakewood taxes be increased by \$2,904,000 annually in the first full fiscal year, beginning January 1, 2022, and by such amounts as are raised annually thereafter, by the imposition of a sales tax of 5% on the sale of retail marijuana and retail marijuana infused products (as authorized by state law), and an excise tax of 5% on the wholesale transfer of retail marijuana and retail marijuana infused products from or to a marijuana business in the city, including transfers by the same business between licenses, assessed on the average market rate of unprocessed marijuana not for retail sale (for marijuana) and on the greater of the price paid by the purchaser or the cash value of marijuana products (for marijuana products), with the resulting sales and excise tax rates capable of being increased to a maximum of 10% without further voter approval, with the resulting tax revenues to be used to fund marijuana regulation and enforcement, and education and public health programs associated with marijuana consumption, and for other general expenses of the city, and shall the city be permitted to collect, retain and expend all revenues derived from such sales and excise taxes and any investment earnings thereon as a voter-approved revenue change and an exception to limits which would otherwise apply under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law?

IN-PERSON VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS

Belmar Library
555 S. Allison Parkway

Red Rocks Community College
Environmental Tech Building
13302 Fox Run Road

CANDIDATE FORUM

The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County sponsored a candidate forum for those running for council seats and you can watch on-demand what each candidate had to say at Lakewood.org/Elections.

The website provides the videos listed by each ward. The videos are also available to watch on-demand at YouTube.com/LakewoodColoradoGov.

For those with Comcast cable service, the forums will run on Lakewood's government-access channel available on channels 8 and 880 at the following times throughout the coming weeks. Each time slot starts with Ward 1 candidates and continues through Ward 5.

Mondays: 3 p.m.
Tuesdays: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 9 a.m.
Fridays: 9 a.m., 5 p.m.
Saturdays: 7 p.m.
Sundays: 8 a.m.

Watch candidate forum on-demand
Lakewood.org/Elections

Lakewood residents vote on retention of municipal judges



Judge Anne Stavig

Anne Stavig was appointed Presiding Municipal Judge for the City of Lakewood in July 2008. She is a member of the Colorado Bar Association, the First Judicial Bar Association and sits on the Board of the Jefferson County

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. As a board member for the Youth Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program since 2008, Judge Stavig is actively involved in transforming that program in response to changes in the laws. In addition, she is an active member and past president of the Colorado Municipal Judges Association and she served three years as a board member for the Jefferson Center for Mental Health.

Judge Stavig continues to give intensive supervision to juveniles with behavioral health issues in collaboration with the Lakewood Police Department, the Jefferson Center and Jefferson County Public Schools. In addition to the establishment of this juvenile court in 2011, Judge Stavig supported the formation of a Veterans' Treatment Court as well as numerous other programs to address substance abuse and mental health issues with both adult and juvenile defendants.

Judge Stavig grew up and attended public schools in Colorado Springs. She graduated from Colorado College in Colorado Springs in 1981 with a degree in Political Science. She received her law degree in 1985 from the University of Colorado School of Law and was admitted to the Colorado Bar in October 1985. Judge Stavig started her legal career with the Jefferson County District Attorney's office in 1984. She prosecuted adult felony cases for most of her 24 years at the District Attorney's office. Judge Stavig has two grown daughters and lives in Lakewood with her husband, Hal.



Judge Nicole Bozarth

Judge Nicole Bozarth was appointed as a Judge for the City of Lakewood in March 2020. Judge Bozarth was born and raised in Colorado. She graduated from Colorado State University in 2001 with a degree

in Business Administration and received her Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 2006. She was admitted to the Colorado bar in October 2006.

In 2006, Judge Bozarth began her legal career at the First Judicial District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney. She initially spent two years prosecuting traffic and misdemeanor cases and then from 2008 – 2018, Judge Bozarth prosecuted felony level cases. In March 2018 she became a Chief Deputy District Attorney and was responsible for the training and supervision of the County Court attorneys. Her passion for public service led Judge Bozarth to her current position as City of Lakewood Municipal Court Judge.

Judge Bozarth is active in the community in addition to belonging to the Colorado Bar Association, the First Judicial Bar Association and the Colorado Municipal Judges Association. Additionally, Judge Bozarth is a member of the Jefferson County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee as well as the Jefferson County Restorative Justice Workgroup and the Jefferson County Court Services Advisory Board.