Lakewood voters to decide two questions

Lakewood voters will be receiving ballots in the mail to vote in the city's Nov. 5 election, and the city has two questions for voters to decide in addition to electing a mayor and council members.

The two questions are listed below as they will appear on the ballot. For more information on the city's election, please turn to the Voter's Guide starting on page 3 or visit Lakewood.org/Elections.

**Ballot Question 2F**
Shall the City of Lakewood, Colorado, in order to increase access to recycling and composting services, reduce neighborhood trash truck traffic, and establish transparent pricing and customer service standards, be authorized to contract with one or more private waste haulers via a competitive bidding process to provide waste, recycling and seasonal yard waste composting services to all Lakewood residences of seven or fewer units and to impose fees on such residential property owners, at a base amount for waste and recycling, with optional services for additional cost, with all services not to exceed amounts and annual increases authorized by City Council, exempting all such revenues from the limits of Article X, Section 20, of the Colorado Constitution, while providing home owner associations the capability to opt out of such requirements?

**Ballot Question 2G**
Shall the City of Lakewood, Colorado, reestablish the city's right to provide all services restricted since 2005 by the Colorado General Assembly with their passage of Senate Bill 05-152, including the authority to offer telecommunications services, high-speed internet services (advanced services), and/or cable television services to residents, businesses, schools, libraries, nonprofit entities and other users of such services, either directly or indirectly, with public or private sector partners, as expressly permitted by Colorado Revised Statutes Sections 29-27-101 through 304, “competition in utility and entertainment services,” without limiting its home rule authority?

**Fitness Court now open at Addenbrooke Park**
Lakewood's latest addition to free outdoor fitness options provides a whole-body workout for all fitness levels and abilities. The Fitness Court at Addenbrooke Park, 600 S. Kipling Parkway, has been created in partnership with the National Fitness Campaign. Download the app at NationalFitnessCampaign.com/app for free workouts and equipment orientation or to register for classes at the court. Visit Lakewood.org/OutdoorFitness to learn about the city’s other free fitness options or call 303-987-5423.

**Annual Cleanup Day**
It's time to clean up and clear out during the city's annual Cleanup Day, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 12 at Jeffco Stadium, 500 Kipling St.
Lakewood residents can drop off unwanted items ranging from furniture and appliances to sinks and car parts at no cost with proof they live in Lakewood. Electronics can also be dropped off, but there is a $20 fee for televisions or computer monitors containing cathode ray tubes. Items not accepted include landscaping material, yard waste, tires and several other items. For a detailed list of what is accepted, visit Lakewood.org/Cleanup.
This year, the Lakewood Police Department's Shred Day is also on Oct. 12, allowing residents to bring up to three boxes of their bank statements, pay stubs and similar documents for shredding on-site. Shredding will be available 9 a.m. to noon at Trailblazer Stadium, 100 Kipling St. For more information, visit Lakewood.org/ShredDay.
The Kiwanis Club of Belmar is a partner in hosting Shred Day this year, and it will be accepting volunteer donations to serve underprivileged children in the city.

**RECYCLING**
Household chemicals and more: RooneyRoadRecycling.org
Recycling centers:
Lakewood.org/Recycle
Hard to recycle items:
Lakewood.org/Hard2Recycle

**CELEBRATE WITH US!**
Lakewood continues to celebrate turning 50 this year. Visit Lakewood.org/50.
Letter from the Mayor

Anniversary prompts powerful stories from the past

Another summer in the books! Fall is here, and we celebrate the cool weather and harvest season each year with Cider Days, one of Lakewood's oldest and most loved festivals because it is great fun for the entire family and honors the early days of our city.

Council continues to work hard on issues important to the community. You can tune in and engage in several ways because your input, participation and feedback are important. To find out more about council topics and ways to participate, please visit LakewoodSpeaks.org for commenting on council agenda items, and check LakewoodTogether.org for specific projects needing your thoughts and ideas.

It's budget time, and staff and City Council are working together on priorities and projects for 2020. Historically, the city's finances have been sound with strong reserves and low debt. We are, however, starting to see the economy slow. The city receives a majority of its funding from sales tax, so we are watching this closely. There are parts of the retail sector that are performing well and others that are lagging. This is reflective of shifting purchasing habits from driving to the store to purchase goods to more buying online, thus not utilizing the brick-and-mortar stores in Lakewood.

The city spends a majority of its budget on and for public safety. Lakewood has significantly increased the public safety budget in recent years, expanded the size of the department by 21 agents and ensured agents have the proper equipment to perform their jobs. In 2019 and 2020 we will keep our police ranks fully staffed by training new agents in our police academies. This is very important and reflects the community values as well as council's commitment to public safety.

Additional Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) refund dollars will continue to be allocated as promised, totaling almost $20 million going directly to road and sidewalk projects and police and earmarked for new parks and open space. I would say the proposed 2020 budget is a solid "nuts and bolts" budget, which will maintain a high level of service for the residents while providing the core functions of a city. To learn more about the budget and its related projects as well as where your TABOR funds are going, please visit Lakewood.org/Budgets where you can also view the entire budget presentation.

As we continue to celebrate Lakewood's 50th Anniversary, I have enjoyed hearing many great stories from residents, and I've shared a meaningful one below. As we look to the future, it's important that we don't forget the past.

"My family and I came to Colorado in 1969 because we had been hired by Jefferson County School District and we wanted to live in Lakewood.

After many attempts seeking housing, we realized that we would not be able to rent in Lakewood because of the color of our skin. The prejudice was so evident that we decided to go to Equal Housing (a division of the federal government). But before that happened, the Jefferson County Education Association (JCEA) put out the word that a couple, with two children, was looking for an apartment. A lady by the name of Jacobsen, who was a member of the JCEA, went to Paramount Heights Apartments and put down a deposit for a couple with two children. She informed the owner, who resided in California, so/flushed and nervous that she was visibly shaking. She immediately called the owner, who resided in California, and told him the situation. She did mention to him that we seemed like a very nice 'colored family.' We were able to move into Paramount Heights Apartments and resided there for 3 years until we decided to purchase a home in Lakewood.

I continue to live in Lakewood and I have seen the changes in our city. I am very proud of the fact that I have lived in Lakewood for 50 years and I can't believe it has been 50 years!"

What a powerful story that celebrates the progress in our community. For years our entry signs read, “Welcome to Lakewood, we are building an inclusive community,” and this remains one of our most important values. Let’s continue to seek and celebrate the uniqueness of what makes a city great: its people!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to show the love back to east Lakewood. You have given me the assignments that needed to be accomplished for everyone in our ward and TOGETHER, WE DID IT! Thank you.

Pete Roybal
720-432-7554
proybal@Lakewood.org

Work on veteran issues, parks highlight of Roybal’s tenure

Our new parks with their new playground equipment; replacing curbs and gutters, streetlights, 18 fire hydrants that are finally operational, tennis courts, basketball courts, rights of way cleaned up and maintained; much of Wadsworth and Sheridan corridors are now compliant with the American with Disabilities Act with sidewalks, street improvements and weed free.

He worked to strengthen a graffiti program with the assistance of our court system to remove graffiti by involving the youth through community service. He aided in establishing the ward’s monthly food bank. He helped initiate the West Metro Veterans Fair, which is in its seventh year. He put together a group of volunteers and moved the WWII Veterans Memorial to its proper home at Lakewood High School.

And, there's much more. Thank you, Pete.

Mike Bieda
303-987-7740
mbieda@Lakewood.org

Being a candidate for City Council can be quite educational and challenging. Eight years ago, the only reason I wanted to run was to have our city "show the love to east Lakewood." We had been ignored for so many years and changes had to happen. All we needed was RESPECT and getting back from the city what we’re paying for.

Uniting all the folks in Ward 3 is very important to me. We have the most diverse population in our city. We started the ward’s Picnic-in-our-Parks eight years ago. Initially, turnout was around 20 residents or fewer. This year the Lasley Picnic alone had over 300 attendees and included a performance by our Alameda International Jr./Sr. High School band.

Mike Bieda
303-987-7740
mbieda@Lakewood.org

Thank you.

Pete Roybal
720-432-7554
proybal@Lakewood.org

Council Corner

Ward 3

October 2019 •Looking@Lakewood • 2
The Nov. 5 election for mayor and council seats 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 also has two questions it’s asking voters to decide: whether or not to give the city the option to consider municipal broadband service and whether or not to allow the city to contract for waste hauling services (see story on page 1).

This election is by mail ballot only, and active, registered Lakewood voters will receive a mail ballot in the coming weeks. Absentee ballots are available, and Lakewood voters can visit a Voter Service and Polling Center to register to vote any time including on Nov. 5 as well as pick up a mail ballot, drop off a mail ballot or get a replacement ballot.

See the list below for places to drop off your ballot in Lakewood once you have filled it out. 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. 5.

Important dates to remember

Oct. 14-18 – Mail ballots sent to all active, registered Lakewood voters. You can check the status of the mailing of your ballot under “Track Your Ballot” at Jeffco.us/Elections.

Oct. 28 – Last day to register to vote through the mail, a voter registration agency, a driver’s license examination facility or online to receive a ballot in the mail.


Nov. 5 – Election Day. Mail 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 Street, Suite 1100
303-271-8111
Jeffco.us/Elections

The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County sponsored a candidate forum for those running for mayor and 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 and the mayoral race. The videos are also available to watch on-demand at YouTube.com/LakewoodColoradoGov.

For those with cable service, the forums will air 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, followed by the mayoral race.

- Mondays: 6 a.m.
- Tuesdays: 3 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 5:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
- Thursdays: 9 a.m.
- Fridays: 2 p.m.
- Saturdays: 7 a.m., 7 p.m.

Watch candidate forum on-demand
Lakewood.org/Elections
What are your top three qualifications to run for public office?
A) I grew up in Lakewood. This community raised me, and it taught me what matters in life. It’s not good enough just to be “from here,” of course – you must also be “for here.” I have a unique perspective on our challenges and opportunities and, more importantly, I know how to bring diverse people together to solve big problems. B) I have been honored to represent and stand up for my neighbors in many different roles for nearly eighteen years. I served six years on the Green Mountain Water Board, eight years on City Council, and have had the privilege of serving as your Mayor since 2015. I am also proud to serve as chair of the 40-municipality strong Metro Mayors Caucus, where I fight for Lakewood’s interests across the region. C) I am a proud product of Jeffco Schools, a University of Colorado Denver graduate and have operated a successful small business here in Lakewood since 2001.

What are three issues you would like to address as mayor?
A) Quality of Life. A high quality of life is what makes a city great, but no single factor can improve quality of life all on its own. Over the past four years, we have worked tirelessly to address a range of complex issues, and I’m proud of the progress we made. Looking ahead, public safety must remain a key priority. We must continue to give our police the tools, training, and personnel they need to keep us safe. We must find and implement unique ways to address traffic and infrastructure challenges, as we know we can’t rely on state funding – which has not increased in decades. And we must continue to facilitate dialogue: Lakewood is the 5th biggest city in Colorado, and we must work together to create and implement policies that balance growth, respect the will of our voters, and honor, cherish, and showcase our unique and historic neighborhoods. B) Parks, Open Space, & Sustainability. If there’s one thing that’s true for Lakewood, it’s that we love our parks and open space. Over the past four years, I have led the greatest expansion of land preservation in recent history. We must continue to increase park land and open space. I was previously in support of the city’s ever-first sustainability plan. Now it’s time to implement that plan, and continue our national leadership on these issues – including our sustainable neighborhoods program that has already brought together thousands of neighbors. C) Housing and Homelessness. If I am re-elected, I will spend the next four years fighting for affordable housing. To build an inclusive, vibrant community, we must have housing options for all walks of life – especially for our seniors, and for working families led by teachers, firefighters, and others. I will also tackle homelessness head-on with the compassion and perseverance it deserves. Homelessness is a regional problem. We must continue to work with our faith partners, non-profits, and other local organizations to create partnerships that lead to meaningful changes. This is also a top priority of my work as chair of the Metro Mayors Caucus, which positions Lakewood uniquely to be a regional leader on both the homelessness and affordable housing challenges.

What is your vision for Lakewood?
All year, we have been celebrating Lakewood’s 50th anniversary. We live in a special place – one that combines a rich history and strong foundation with a bright future. We must be inspired by both the past, and the future: When I think of what Lakewood can become, I think of an innovative, compassionate, and inclusive city where everyone has an opportunity to realize their dreams and live the life they choose. The good news is that every day, I see aspects of this vision coming to life in our city. If we keep coming together and celebrating our differences, rather than letting our differences divide us, I have no doubt we can achieve our shared dreams – aided by a responsive, nimble government that provides the amenities, services, and economic opportunities that we deserve and pay for.

How would you handle issues that create opposing views among your constituents?
First, city hall needs to listen, because legitimate differences of opinion have merit. It is time all voices are heard and valued. Find areas of mutual commonality and agreement as a benchmark. Establish ground rules of honesty and mutual respect for differing opinions. Be forthright and transparent in all communications. Actively seek some level of a win-win where everyone feels some agreement. All legislation should include input of the people who would potentially be affected. Honest negotiation takes time, but is worth it.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?
A long voting history that reflects I have always stood for the people and what is best for our city rather than outside interests and financial influence. My educational level, life experience and expertise define who I am. Having raised a family, I understand the demands of balancing a marriage, raising children, care taking for an aging parent and balancing a career, because I have been there. Life lessons have taught me maturity in judgement and what serving others really is about – compassion and humanity. Putting ego’s aside is what works in the end. I have a strong moral compass and foundation that guides me. For me, public service is a calling.
Constitution and the state statutes that regulate our governance. Of and experience with our City Charter as well as city processes, regulations, and the Colorado Community interests must supersede the demands of special interests. Among your constituents? How would you handle issues that create opposing views celebrated and where every neighbor has a helping hand when needed. Goal. We must remain an inclusive and welcoming community, a place where all cultures are ensure that our residents' view of Lakewood's inclusive and sustainable future is our common /els need to be supplemented. Need repair, some of our recreation centers need to be updated and our inventory of sports needed community garden space. We must maintain Lakewood's reputation as a healthy, active place to make a home by enhancing year-round recreational opportunities. Our pools needed community garden space. We must maintain Lakewood's reputation as a healthy, active place to make a home by enhancing year-round recreational opportunities. Our pools need repair, some of our recreation centers need to be updated and our inventory of sports fields needs to be supplemented. What is your vision for Lakewood? My vision of Lakewood's future is the community's vision, and I have been working hard to ensure that our residents' view of Lakewood's inclusive and sustainable future is our common goal. We must remain an inclusive and welcoming community, a place where all cultures are celebrated and where every neighbor has a helping hand when needed. How would you handle issues that create opposing views among your constituents? As in the past, I would strive to find common ground, then find a solution that is beneficial and palatable to the community as a whole by building consensus and compromise. Community interests must supersede the demands of special interests. What distinguishes you from your opponent? I really like Charley, and although our votes wouldn't be the same, I think our love for Lakewood is. That said, what sets me apart from our current Ward 1 leadership is that I'm dedicated to cultivating partnerships in Lakewood. Rather than blaming the city employees for issues in our community, I'm committed to working with them to solve problems. I know how to bring stakeholders together to make sure we've thought through implications and unintended consequences of policies before supporting them. I will work to make sure that all of our community members have a voice and a vote, even the quiet or busy ones. I've worked hard to make sure our community gets funding for education, parks, police and alternative transportation infrastructure and I'll continue to work for the residents of Lakewood. What are your top three qualifications to run for public office? I am accessible and responsive to community concerns and individual needs I have a wealth of experience with Lakewood's municipal government and am aware of its many successes as well as the few missteps taken by overzealous officials. My long-standing involvement and activism in community affairs and observation of city governance has resulted in knowledge of and experience with our City Charter as well as city processes, regulations, and the Colorado Constitution and the state statutes that regulate our governance.
What is your vision for Lakewood?

Advancing equity in Ward 2. We are the oldest area in Lakewood and as such we have been left behind in many capacities. Including not only the mentioned slightest number of open space/parks while experiencing the most growth, but also lack of lighting, infrastructure and sidewalks. To address areas of need will provide equity throughout all capacities. Including not only the mentioned slightest sidewalks and last mile infrastructure.

What are three issues you would like to address as a City Council member?

a. Working to increase the number and acreage of open space/parks.
   b. Continuing support for Colfax businesses and 40 West Arts as well as preservation of our stable neighborhoods.
   c. Continuing to advocate and address the issues of infrastructure that includes North Dry Gulch, lighting, sidewalks and last mile infrastructure.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

My vision for Lakewood is one that maintains our parks and as such we have been left behind in many capacities. Including not only the mentioned slightest number of open space/parks while experiencing the most growth, but also lack of lighting, infrastructure and sidewalks. To address areas of need will provide equity throughout all capacities. Including not only the mentioned slightest sidewalks and last mile infrastructure.

What are three issues you would like to address as a City Council member?

a. I believe that existing residents and businesses in Lakewood have the right to strong Council representation, as called for by our Charters. I want to see our beautiful city more accountable to its citizens - not only listening to their voices but acting in good faith upon recommendations that come forth from the community.

b. I intend to be a voice for residents of Ward 3 regarding sustainable and responsible growth, considering the delicate balance of property rights and looking towards encouraging ownership in the community, and helping to prevent surprises like White Fence Farm.

c. I care about concerns about increasing crime, traffic, and quality of life issues for Lakewood residents that I will actively look to address.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

Lakewood must continue to support thriving businesses and commerce, while holding onto the uniquely distinctive and diverse way of life that drew us all here. Planning for the future of an ever-growing suburban City does not mean we have to sacrifice everything we value (i.e. tranquility, clean air, safety, open space, good schools, etc.). We are a family-oriented Colorado oasis. We enjoy the great outdoors. We are a tight community that cares. We can be welcoming of others without giving away everything precious to us. We can grow in a careful, intentional, and responsible way, ensuring that our resources keep pace with the speed of growth. I envision a Lakewood that will always feel like home.

How would you handle issues that create opposing views among your constituents?

As a councilor my job is to take the time to research issues and find the middle ground. I bring civility back when discussing the issues. Listening and understanding the issue. Leonardo da Vinci said, “Nothing can demonstrate prejudices, or take a position without ever really understanding the issue. There are always opposing viewpoints, but we need to bring civility back when discussing the issues. Listening and understanding the issue. There are always opposing viewpoints, but we need to bring civility back when discussing the issues. Listening and understanding the issue. Leonardo da Vinci said, “Nothing can demonstrate prejudices, or take a position without ever really understanding the issue.” I would strive to open lines of communication and understanding.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

As an experienced and effective attorney, I have been successfully advocating for issues that specifically affect residents of Ward 3 for many years (I drove the renovation of Lasley Park, convinced Jeffco Libraries to discontinue fines on children’s materials, defended citizen’s rights in encouraging smart vs. irresponsible development, discouraged warehousing of the elderly, protected children from health violations, etc.). I am an independent thinker and a voice for the will of the people. My top priority is to not only listen to the residents of Lakewood, but to use the governing power they bestow on me to humbly act for them at the legislative level to keep Lakewood our home.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

Lakewood Sustainability plan, one of the best in Colorado

What are three issues you would like to address as a City Council member?

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What are your top three qualifications to run for public office?

Barb Franks

I believe that I am uniquely qualified to run for public office for a variety of reasons. Chief among these is that I have a heart for service. For the vast majority of my professional life I have worked within the nonprofit sector to improve outcomes for a variety of communities. I'm a minister, standing with people as they celebrate the moments and milestones of their life and as they experience the grief and sorrow that life can bring. I am a mediator because I know the importance of objectivity in resolving issues. I facilitate processes to promote learning and understanding among people. My heart is currently expressed through candidacy for City Council I have extensive experience developing and implementing aggressive strategies to overcome challenges and limitations that impede progress toward goals and objectives. My experience is varied and my skills set strong. I served in executive roles, in community leadership roles and continue to serve as a subject matter expert at the federal level. This experience will serve me well for Ward 4. I am at once pragmatic and optimistic. I believe in people and what we can accomplish when we work together. I am undaunted by the complex issues facing Lakewood. I believe that we can come together in good faith and with integrity and find ways to work together and support our culture of independence and inclusion while promoting stronger community bonds through civic engagement. I believe that we can insist upon a culture of openness, transparency and accountability at the political level — promoting trust in our civic processes. I believe that others care as much about these things as I do. This is why I'm running to serve Ward 4.

Christopher Arlen

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What is your vision for Lakewood?

Barb Franks

Lakewood's overburdened infrastructure was a top priority during Council's annual planning meeting. We need to get laser focused on ways to effect change, so we are well positioned to secure the types of development we need to sustain desirable communities, while respecting the will of the voters. I envision:

- Leading-edge education and employment centers that have adjacent alternative transportation options built into the plan to reduce impact to our roadways.
- High-quality, for-sale housing, built by developers that are invested in our community, which can be offered at price points more closely aligned with Lakewood's housing needs. Specifically, the housing stock must reflect the differing life-style and life-stage needs of our young professionals, families with children, empty nesters and retirees.
- Honoring Lakewood's rural past while building for the future, by way of a more forward-looking city planning process where proposed development is viewed through the quality of life lens, and the question of how the project benefits the health, safety and welfare of the surrounding community can be assessed in detail.

Christopher Arlen

I envision a Lakewood that values and celebrates its rich history while honoring diversity and inclusion. I believe in a Lakewood that becomes known for smart and ethical development where community-led processes identify development projects that are consistent with our vision for our city. I hope for a Lakewood that is bold — that we can face hard choices with integrity and courage while creating collaborative solutions that represent the will of citizens.

How would you handle issues that create opposing views among your constituents?

Barb Franks

I believe a candidate should have an intimate knowledge of the issues facing the city and a track record of being involved in addressing these issues. Attending Council and ward meetings, speaking on important city concerns, and demonstrating a genuine interest in working to solve those issues. My path to public office was through community activism where I teamed up with members of my community and took a lead role in saving local open space from development. This required an immense amount of time, tenacity, research and analysis to prepare the legal augments and to learn how to effectively navigate the municipal and legal processes. These experiences flattened out the steep learning curve all new Councilors face and positioned me well to hit the ground running and be an effective member of City Council.

Christopher Arlen

I believe that opposing views are healthy. In fact, dissent is essential to building a community in which each person feels that their voice matters and that they are heard. I will handle these issues with a deep respect for the diversity it represents. As a certified mediator and facilitator, I will approach these moments with objectivity and openness. I will conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates open-mindedness and civility. I will find ways to promote constructive engagement and collaborative problem-solving.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

Barb Franks

I have a proven record of developing innovative approaches to complex issues. I am able to take in complex information from diverse viewpoints and synthesize them into collaborative solutions. I know by experience that people can achieve great things when we work together. I'm running for Lakewood City Council because I 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.
What are your top three qualifications to run for public office?

I was born, raised, and educated in the city of Lakewood. My family has been a part of the fabric of our great community for sixty years. I made the decision to run for office because I heard from you that you need strong leaders, responsible leaders, and a person with an understanding attitude. Over the past four years issues such as the "rat house" have plagued our community—and continues to do so because of the lack of responsiveness and understanding attitudes. Let’s revert back to our success and be compassionate neighbors and leaders.

What are three issues you would like to address as a City Council member?

The top three issues that I will address as a city council member, are all issues that I have heard from you and other community members. I will address and routinely analyze manageable solutions to the cities growth that will not only strategically guide our city but also develop future pathways to sustainable models. The next opportunity is to protect, preserve and guarantee the preservation of open space in our city. Community Safety is another top priority because of your input. Community members have repeatedly expressed concerns regarding vandalism, theft, and crime in their neighborhoods. I believe a potential solution is to re-invigorate neighborhood watch programs in order to prevent crime before it strikes.

What is your vision for Lakewood?

My vision for the future of Lakewood is for the city to feel like a hometown once again. One that is caring, responsive, and respectful to everyone. Over the past decade, Lakewood has transformed, the population has exploded, and neighborhoods have been dramatically altered. Coming from a business background, I believe the city can strategically use our growth to renew our infrastructure, our playgronds, and our open space so that we will all be able to enjoy the suburban Lakewood we love.

How would you handle issues that create opposing views among your constituents?

There is no question that we all live in a tumultuous time period in American politics. Frankly, it has become almost inevitable to avoid disagreements amongst community members who hold opposing views. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be raised in Lakewood and attend Jefferson schools where I learned early on to talk with both sides, and then reach an agreement. When problems arise in Ward 5 and pit neighbor against neighbor, I will listen and speak with all sides, because through dialogue problems are solved. There is no greater solution than one that has been developed by the community.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

Even though my opponent and I are from the same generation, we cherish starkly different values. I support the protection of open space, law and order, the renewal of our infrastructure, and the safeguarding of our native environment. I hold these values because I was born and raised in the city of Lakewood, where I was taught to always respect your neighbors, cherish your blessings. My opponent continuously claims that Lakewood is a great place to live because of its geographic location on a map. Lakewood to me is more than just a place on a map, it is our home. It is where we raise our families, where we work, and where we retire. I firmly believe in the greatness of Lakewood. I believe in protecting what past generations worked so hard to accomplish. I believe in working together with the community to accomplish great tasks that will propel Lakewood into the future on an economically sustainable course that depends less on your wallets and bank accounts. I will be the champion of your values, and the defender of our way of life because I have the energy of a millennial, but the determination of our past generations.