



City Council elections Nov. 7

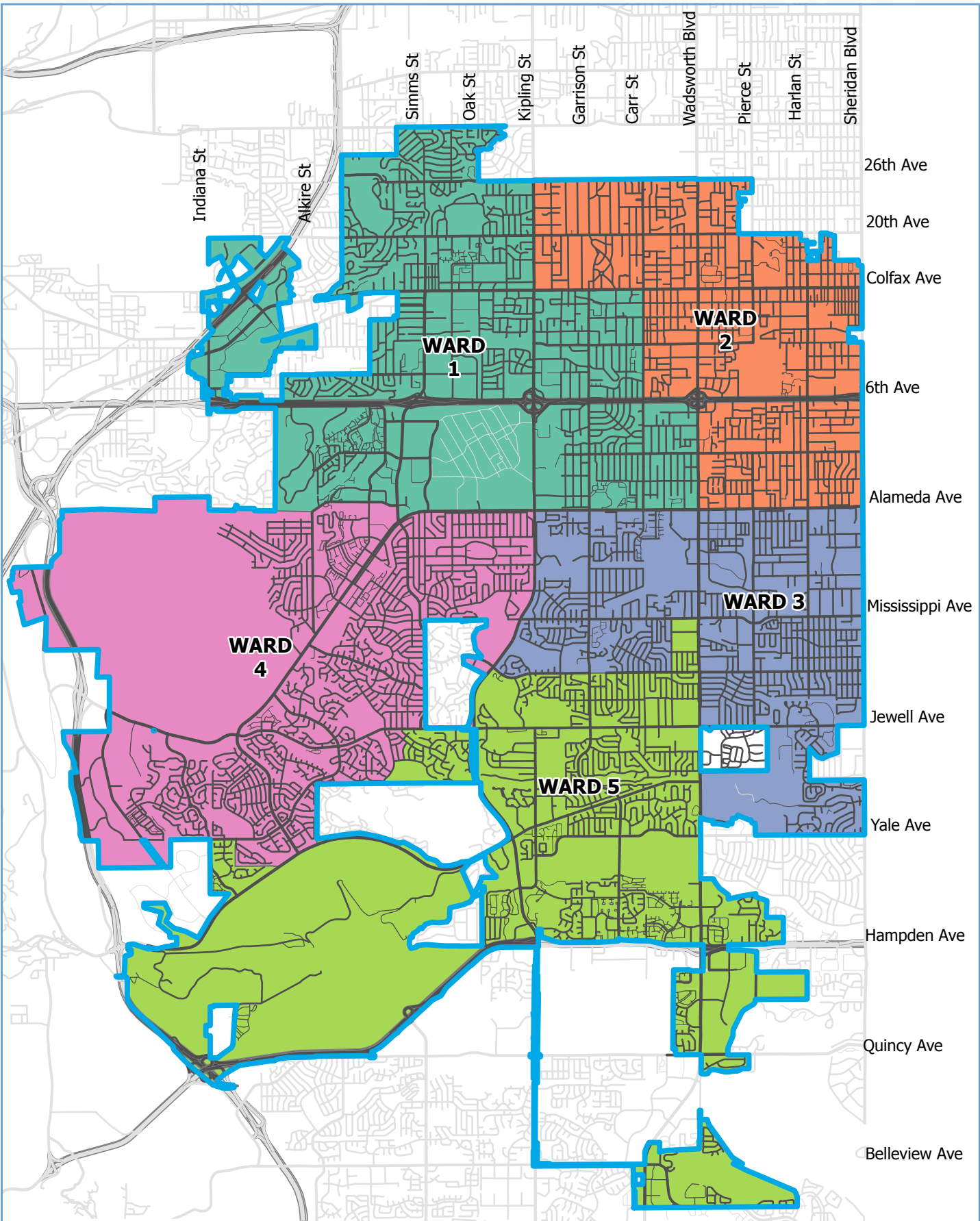
The Nov. 7 election for Lakewood City Council is coming to your mailbox, making it easy to participate in choosing your Lakewood elected representatives. You will elect a new mayor in this year's election and one council member from each of the city's wards. Voters throughout the whole city elect the mayor, but you will only vote for a council candidate in your ward. Learn which ward you live in by checking the map or visiting Lakewood.org/MyNeighborhood and entering your address. You will also decide whether to retain two municipal judges.

Elections for City Council are nonpartisan, which means no party affiliations are shown with candidates. This is a mail ballot election, and active, registered Lakewood voters will receive a mail ballot in the coming weeks. Absentee ballots are also available. You can register to vote or update your 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, you can also register to vote in those locations including on Nov. 7. The centers also allow you 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 for places to drop off your ballot in Lakewood once you have filled out your ballot. If you mail your ballot, it must be mailed by Oct. 30 to be received by the 7 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Important dates to remember

- Oct. 16-20** — Mail ballots sent to all active, registered Lakewood voters. Check the status of the mailing of your ballot under "Track Your Ballot" at VoteJeffco.com.
- Oct. 16** — 24-hour ballot drop boxes open. Find locations under "Find Voting Locations" at VoteJeffco.com.
- Oct. 30** — Last day to submit a voter registration application and still receive a ballot in the mail. If you miss this deadline, you can register in-person through Nov. 7 at a Voter Service and Polling Center.
- Oct. 30** — 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. 30** — Last day to return your ballot by mail. Beyond this date, you have to drop your ballot in a 24-hour ballot drop box or visit a Voter Service and Polling Center.
- Nov. 7** — 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 Street, Suite 1100
303-271-8111
VoteJeffco.com

Voter Service and Polling Center in Lakewood

Belmar Library
555 S. Allison Parkway

24-HOUR BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS IN LAKEWOOD

24 hours from Oct. 16-Nov. 6 | Until 7 p.m. on Nov. 7

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| Belmar Library
555 S. Allison Parkway | Lakewood Library
10200 W. 20th Ave. |
| Carmody Recreation Center
2200 S. Kipling St. | Lakewood Link Recreation Center
1295 S. Reed St. |
| Green Mountain Recreation Center
13198 W. Green Mountain Drive | Motor Vehicle Office in Lakewood
2099 Wadsworth Blvd. |
| Jeffco Public Health
645 Parfet St. | Ray Ross Park
680 S. Harlan St. |
| Lakewood Civic Center
480 S. Allison Parkway
West side of building | Red Rocks Community College
Environmental Technology Building, 13302 Fox Run Road |

Watch the League of Women Voters candidate forum on-demand at Lakewood.org/VoterInformation.



Wendi Strom

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Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/Wendi4Mayor>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wendiforlakewood/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/wendi-strom-cfp%C2%AE-39657a7/>

What about your background and experience would make you an effective mayor?

I’m a mom, a small business owner, and — even before my time serving on City Council — I have been working hard as a leader in our Lakewood community.

I am now serving as Lakewood City Councilor in Ward 5 and was recently appointed Mayor Pro-Tem. I have over 30 years of leadership experience and was elected to Lakewood City Council for my proven track record as a consensus builder with a focus on bringing people together to work strategically in addressing the complex challenges of our community.

In my “day job,” I’ve been working as a financial planner and fiduciary helping families be stewards of their money for the past 15 years. The experiences and knowledge that I’ve gained through this work are foundational to the skills needed for to be Lakewood’s next Mayor. Skills like consensus building, having an eye for managing resources, having candid and sometimes difficult conversations, in addition to having a lens for planning in both the short- and long-term.

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

As mayor the three goals I have are:

My first goal is for us to work through the division that resides in our community around growth and housing. I have a vision of a Lakewood that does better meeting the housing needs of our community and does so in a way that also works hard to preserve both the character of our unique neighborhoods and our Lakewood quality of life. Right now, we have a divide, and it doesn’t need to be this way. In our community today, we have young people graduating from school and finding it unaffordable to start their own households here. We have older adults who are unable to downsize out of their larger homes due to economic constraints. And we have businesses that are having challenges filling positions because their workforce can’t afford to live here. While this challenge is complex, it IS solvable.

My second and third goals both tie into the first goal. My second goal is to work with our neighboring communities to create a solution for homelessness, and my third goal is to make Lakewood a safer place to live, work, and play.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

I would like to see Lakewood become a groundbreaking example of how best to tackle homelessness, affordability, and public safety, all rolled into one solution. West Colfax is a perfect example of how all three of these topics are so intertwined. For many, West Colfax represents unsolvable challenges. But I see that West Colfax represents infinite possibilities that can provide housing that is attainable for our Lakewood workforce, improve public safety across our entire Lakewood community, and create more opportunities for our unhoused neighbors to have a place to lay their heads at night.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

I will approach controversial policy issues thoughtfully and in a way that includes seeking out the voices of those most affected by the decision at hand: our residents and, where applicable, our businesses. To make the best policy decisions, it is important that we also have expertise at the table for discussion. That expertise could include city staff, community leaders, career professionals, community partners, etc. I’ve found that it can be easy in this role to be swayed by the voices of the very vocal few, and that it’s crucial to include **active** outreach to additional residents in our community as part of my own preparation and work. Working together, and looking for outside-of-the-box solutions can help us achieve greater success in making Lakewood better for the 158,000 people who call it home.

What distinguishes you from your opponents?

I have a vision of a Lakewood that is better and does better.
We can be safer, we can be greener, and we can be more affordable.
In the last couple of years, we’ve started some exciting conversations on city council around all of these issues, and I’m running for mayor because I’m the one candidate that will make sure that these conversations not only continue, but that they also move past the conversation stage and into **actual action**. We need action in developing solutions and prioritizing resources in ways that will improve public safety to ensure that our streets, our stores, and our neighborhoods are safer and thriving. We need action in addressing homelessness and the attainability of housing. And we need action to protect our open spaces and natural resources.
When it comes to creating a more vibrant future for our residents and businesses, I don’t take “no” for an answer — and my record of getting things done proves that. As your next mayor, I am excited about Lakewood’s future.
It’s a future we all have a stake in making a better one.



Don Burkhart

Occupation: Pastor and Real Estate Broker
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What about your background and experience would make you an effective mayor?

I have small business and very large business experience. At one point I had a multimillion dollar budget and 1350 employees. In comparison Lakewood has 730 employees. I am a proven leader! Successfully leading people as a Senior Pastor, as a business owner, and as an administrator for 78 churches.

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

- a) Cut crime effectively to where the citizens of Lakewood feel safe again
- b) Support small and large business growth, give them the tools to succeed and be profitable here in Lakewood
- c) Reduce the homeless population by 50%, I have a plan that will accomplish this!

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

5 yrs goal is to establish international trade and business connections starting with Israel. They have amazing medical, hi tech, and advanced methods of water use and conservation
10 yrs fill out the Lakewood Tec Center providing more quality jobs for Lakewood
20 yrs continue the values of keeping Lakewood visually attractive, more parks and lakes

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

Controversial issues should be decided by the voters and NOT the politicians. I want the people of Lakewood to have a strong voice in their government!

What distinguishes you from your opponents?

I am a strong effective leader. I have led people in all walks of life and gained their support. It takes a strong leader in times of emergencies. The people suffer from a lack of vision. I have a vision for a safe and prosperous community. Lakewood should be a leader in business and technology.



Cathy Kentner

Occupation: Jeffco Teacher
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What about your background and experience would make you an effective mayor?

I am a longtime Lakewood community activist, Planning Commissioner, neighborhood leader and water and sanitation district board member. I have listened to and found solutions for neighborhoods concerned with character, safety, diversity and environmental sustainability. But too often these voices are ignored, silenced and patronized. This has driven my desire to represent and act on behalf of all residents.

I united a politically and economically diverse group of residents to compile and promote the Lakewood Strategic Growth Initiative, a grass-roots effort approved in a city-wide election.

I am committed to representing working families and those on fixed incomes. As a single mom and longtime Jeffco teacher, I understand their struggles and can bring this insight to decision making.

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

1. Immediately address legislation related to zoning and housing, including: inclusionary zoning (a requirement that a certain percentage of units in new multifamily developments be set aside as “affordable”); public hearings and city council approval of large development projects; meaningful changes to address parking and noise; requiring park land dedication instead of accepting a fee; affordable ownership opportunities with down-payment assistance. This ensures growth enhances existing neighborhoods and preserves our quality of life so that current residents want to stay in Lakewood and future residents can look forward to a safe and welcoming community. Through an active role in the agenda process, we can also begin to make meaningful progress on our sustainability goals.
2. Ensure the city budget reflects the priorities and values of the people. Crime Prevention, addressing homelessness, affordable housing and increasing sustainability efforts are the top priorities on the community survey. I also will present a budget that allows our hard-working residents to keep their tax refunds.
3. Establish a comprehensive community-based program to benefit all. This would include: Curb-side slash/leaf pickup and curb-side cleanup day; restoring community festivals such as Lakewood on Parade; meaningful programs for seniors; expanding our middle school sports program to include an arts component; and economic development that goes beyond gas stations and convenience stores.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

I would like to see a city council focused on the people and small businesses who call Lakewood “home”. Through transparency and accountability we can set a tone of trust and respect with a city government focused on common legislative priorities where all voices are heard and respected. This will lead to an inclusive, prosperous community for decades.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

I will facilitate meetings where everyone is heard and respected. I will respect the votes of the people while finding common ground with those who opposed the majority. Compromise and mutual respect can lead to great solutions.

What distinguishes you from your opponents?

I am the only unaffiliated candidate for Mayor. I do not solicit or accept funds from any political party, developer or special interest group. I bring solutions-based, compassionate leadership with a “can do” attitude focused on helping and representing the people who call Lakewood “home”.

Watch the League of Women Voters candidate forum on-demand at Lakewood.org/VoterInformation.

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

Ward 1



Fred Clifford

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

My professional background is blue-collar. I have been a machinist or a tool maker for most of my career. I retired in 2021, and then I accepted a position as an adjunct instructor at a community college. The main thing that qualifies me is my desire to be an advocate for the residents of Lakewood. I also served on the board of directors of my homeowners' association for nine years. I was the president of that board for several years. On a much smaller scale, the board works in a similar manner to a legislative body. We would set the policies and approve the budget, while the management company carried out the details of policies and submitted a budget every year.

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

- a. The number one goal is to support law enforcement. In talking to voters, most residents have a large concern over crime and safety. Some people have even said that they have given up on calling the police when they were victims of crimes. The Council needs to communicate with the police department to find out what they need and what obstacles hinder them from serving effectively.
- b. Another goal is to keep taxes to their lowest practical level. Another major concern expressed by voters is the cost of living. We can't add to that problem by increasing taxes. Four years ago, Lakewood passed a six-year time-out from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. When the time-out expires in two years, I want to do everything I can to make sure we do not renew this burden on the residents of Lakewood.
- c. I want to encourage a priority for services that benefit all residents. Not all services benefit all residents. Some of those services are essential, but I want to see that services that benefit everyone have the highest priority.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

I would like to see a City Council that has and demonstrates empathy toward its constituents. Lakewood doesn't have 158,000 customers, but Lakewood has 158,000 employers. I want to see a city that puts serving the general public as its absolute, highest priority. We can't have agendas that are more important than our constituents. I would like to help other Council members who may normally disagree with me. I would like to see them have a greater understanding of what it means to serve the constituents.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

Controversial issues many times derive from conflicting concerns from different constituents. You can't please everybody. When dealing with conflicting concerns, we have to take a balanced approach to come up with solution that benefit the general public as best as possible.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

I can't speak for my opponent, but one of my biggest concerns is freedom. Free people have historically always been better off. Free people are more prosperous and more healthy, Free people are better at helping other and better at solving problems. A government that over-taxes, over-regulates, and diminishes civil liberties does serve its constituents very well.



Glenda Sinks

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

As a career educator and administrator, I worked effectively with students, parents, staff, and teachers; this collegial, results-driven attitude will characterize my work on city council. Colleagues and acquaintances recognize my leadership skills & know that I think through an issue in a logical way.

Also, serving on the Lakewood Planning Commission gave me first-hand experience with the structure of our municipal charter; I know that city council sets the policies for the city manager and staff to implement. I will work within the parameters of the charter as a city councilor.

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

- First, our Comprehensive Plan is due for an update. I will work to make sure this plan is citizen-driven, has measurable goals, and is an effective tool for implementing policies for another ten years.
- Next, I want to develop a housing plan that matches the citizens' input and the results of the study by the Housing Commission.
- Third, an aggressive sustainability plan which benefits all citizens in Lakewood is also a goal.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

- For the future of Lakewood citizens, I would like to see the following:
- Numerous parks and open space which are a backdrop for individual recreation and vibrant community events.
 - A police department that has kept up with innovative practices.
 - Sustainability which focuses on waste reduction, climate adaptation, and energy and water consumption.
 - Affordable housing that is a reality so that citizens can live, work, & play in Lakewood.
 - Inclusivity that is practiced daily in city policies and in citizens' lives.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

- First, I know that citizens with opposing opinions are not enemies. Everyone needs to be heard, and I can bring people together in non-partisan ways to get the best ideas on the issue.
- Next, I would work to clarify the facts of the policy issue; these facts will be the basis of my decisions. Productive discussions can not happen when innuendos & attacks are directed toward others; "just the facts, ma'am."
- Lastly, we know that personal opinions play a roll in one's decision-making. However, as I vote on issues I will work to objectively consider the opinions of citizens, the logical outcomes of the issue, and the legal advice of staff.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

- Last fall I became aware of the Ward 1 seat opening up due to term-limits. I carefully weighed the pros & cons of running, consulted others, and decided that serving on city council was the right path for me. I jumped in wholeheartedly in February & have been working all year to prepare myself for this position:
- I've met with past and present community leaders.
 - I've networked with community resource groups (Recovery Works, the Lakewood Police Department, and Metro West Housing Authority, to name a few).
 - I've attended neighborhood meetings and events (Applewood neighborhood group, Mid-Lakewood Civic Association, West Colfax Community Association & more).
 - Most importantly, I've met with citizens as I've personally knocked on hundreds of doors asking citizens about issues that concern them.

Whew, I've done a lot these eight months! My work this year distinguishes me from my opponent who joined the race late in August.

Ward 2



Pete Del Duca

Occupation: Engineer and Mining Safety and Health Manager
Best way for voters to contact you: delduca4lakewood@gmail.com
Your website/social media: www.DelDucaForLakewood.org

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

I am a Colorado native, graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, and lived in Lakewood for 18 years. I am a Mechanical Engineer and a licensed Professional Engineer. I have worked in federal service in safety and health for 18 years, authoring policy documents, interpreting law, regulations, and leading a team covering six states. I have worked for four Presidential administrations, which has taught the importance of consistency over politics, and fostering relationships on both sides to get the work done with integrity over anything else.

I know the issues that face the community, and I care about representing the citizens. Although I am not a politician, I am skilled at maneuvering through government bureaucracy to get things done. I hope to use this skillset to represent the citizens of Lakewood and make Lakewood a safer, less expensive place to live for generations to come.

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

- Improve Public Safety.** Violent crime, traffic accidents, drug-related crime, and property theft, are rising. Violent crime in Lakewood is above the state and national average. City Council should provide funding and policies that are crucial to support the police department and ensure they have the tools to combat these issues. City Council should direct improved traffic planning and analysis, along with infrastructure to reduce human-vehicle collisions. This is crucial to improve neighborhood safety.
- Lower property taxes.** Property tax assessments for individuals rose an average of 50%, and commercial property taxes assessments rose an average of 150% making it harder for local businesses to compete with online retailers, such as Amazon. Reducing the Mill Levy for consumers makes housing more affordable, while reducing the Mill Levy for businesses reduces consumer costs and gives Lakewood businesses a competitive advantage over the other surrounding municipalities.
- Support Intelligent Growth.** In the past few years, Lakewood is exploding with new apartment complexes and losing green space. Losing green space and parks is a net loss to city and its identity. City Council should support intelligent growth, partnering with the Neighborhoods and their Associations as stakeholders, to preserve the character of Lakewood. City Council should ensure that infrastructure, including roads, parking, and available water and sewer capacity are considered in planning and zoning for a safe, sustainable future.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

My hope for Lakewood: safer neighborhoods, intelligent growth, lower cost of living than the surrounding municipalities, and preservation of parks. To achieve this, in five years, I would like to see Ordinances ratified to protect parks and increase funding for the police with oversight to keep the police as a partner in the neighborhoods. In 10 years, I would like to see increases in single-family home development and increases in business growth. In 20 years, I would like to see Lakewood as the most coveted place to live in the Denver metro area. Lakewood as a safe city for families to grow and thrive in, with responsible development, and our character and neighborhoods preserved. I want a Lakewood where individuals are proud to call Lakewood their home.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

There are unintended consequences with every policy change, and it is important to consider all possibilities before discerning the appropriate response. I would listen to constituents and read carefully through public comments and meet with citizens and groups to weigh out all sides of the issues. I would research the outcomes of other cities that have implemented similar policies to consider the full extent of the issue to represent the best interests of the citizens of Ward 2.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

Growing up in Colorado and living in Lakewood for nearly two decades, I understand the unique challenges that face this city. Additionally, my education and experience working in government service make me uniquely qualified for the position. My life experience of raising children keeps me grounded in focusing on the best outcomes for our families and future. The government should be working for the people, representing the people, above all else. I truly want to represent the people of Ward 2, and not outside interests that want to move an agenda forward.

Ward 2



Isabel Cruz

Occupation: Health Policy Advocate

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

With over 10 years of experience in nonprofits and advocacy, I have dedicated my career and grassroots activism to bringing people together across diverse communities to advance social change. I have successfully taken on challenging issues, from rising health care costs to reproductive justice to workers’ rights and more, working collaboratively and daring to dream big about what we can accomplish together. My community involvement, policy knowledge, leadership experience, and deep empathy prepare me to be an effective councilor for Ward 2.

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

To build a brighter future for Lakewood, I will focus on expanding affordable housing, promoting sustainable infrastructure, and building a more inclusive government. First, I will champion a full continuum of housing supports so more residents have a fair shot at getting housing, staying housed, and building wealth, including: emergency sheltering, renters’ protections, and affordable homeownership. Second, I want to prioritize initiatives to expand multi-modal transit systems to make Lakewood a safer place to walk, ride, and roll. Third, we must address barriers to civic engagement and build stronger pipelines to leadership for underrepresented communities, including expanding multilingual engagement and outreach for city programs.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

Our work in the short and long term should build towards making Lakewood a city where everyone can thrive and feel a sense of safety, belonging, and community. If we get our comprehensive planning process right, it will be a shared vision representing the needs of diverse residents. In five years, Lakewood can stem the tides of displacement so more people can live where they work, meaningfully improve safety on West Colfax and beyond, and give more residents a voice in shaping our city. In 10 years, we can have a more representative government to secure our future in the face of climate change, boost economic opportunity, open affordable paths to homeownership, and beautify our city and foster connectedness through infrastructure improvements. In 20 years, we can ensure a more sustainable future for Lakewood with equitable access to food, housing, parks, thriving arts and small businesses, transportation options, and public safety. I look forward to collaboratively building a shared vision!

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

Addressing the housing, safety, and economic challenges our city is facing will require the bravery to engage in open and honest dialogue about tough issues. I will approach these conversations with integrity, humility, and a fierce commitment to ensuring equitable outcomes for our most vulnerable neighbors. Even if we may not agree, having transparent conversations grounded in shared values and data can drive finding common ground and making meaningful progress.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

My opponent and I fundamentally disagree on the potential our municipal government has to facilitate a high quality of life for Lakewood residents. I believe our city needs to lead proactively on sustainability initiatives, regional issues like transportation and housing, and support for small businesses and the arts. We cannot borrow from our future by failing to make strategic investments in our communal well-being now. My extensive policy experience and community involvement in Lakewood also distinguishes my candidacy. From serving as board president of a local nonprofit to supporting my neighborhood Safe Parking Lot, I am connected deeply across our community and attuned to the hopes and concerns of many neighbors. As a young, queer Latina, I hope to expand diverse representation in our city by bringing not only my leadership but also a wider range of community voices to council chambers.

Ward 3



Roger Low

Occupation: Nonprofit Founder & CEO

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

I find joy bringing people together to solve problems. It’s often difficult, but also deeply satisfying. Government can be maddeningly imperfect, but it’s our best tool for banding together to take on thorny collective challenges.

I run a small nonprofit I founded two years ago, the Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative (CEEMI). We help job-training programs that work (backed by data that they connect Coloradans with good-paying jobs) expand to serve more learners. Before that, I launched Colorado state-funded programs that provide services for youth proven to reduce violent crime, and a program for foster youth enrolled in Jeffco Public Schools that measurably improved their educational outcomes. I also helped support the Community Economic Defense Project, which has provided rental assistance and eviction legal defense to over 30,000 Coloradans.

My partner Michael and I live in the Belmar area, and love this neighborhood! I was born and raised in Denver; much of my family lives around here. I have a nephew and two nieces in Lakewood and Denver, and I worry about the world we are leaving them. Local government isn’t glamorous, but I’m excited to represent our community and help make Lakewood a little safer, cleaner, fairer, and more sustainable for their generation.

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

- 1) **Make Lakewood more affordable.** I will prioritize more affordable housing to address spiking rent and housing costs. We’re pricing our teachers, nurses, and kids out of Lakewood. I will hold developers accountable for building sustainable housing that’s available across income levels. I’ll also prioritize housing and effective support services for our unhoused neighbors.
- 2) **Make Lakewood more sustainable:** I love Belmar Park deeply — I jog around Kountze Lake every morning. I will preserve and protect the gorgeous parks, open spaces, and neighborhoods that make Lakewood special. I’ll fight to streamline solar panel installation, conserve water, protect our wildlife, and promote more biking, walking, electric vehicles, heat pumps, and other measures to cut planet-warming greenhouse gases.
- 3) **Make Lakewood safer.** Lakewood families worry about increased crime. I’ll work to expand after-school and home visiting programs proven to reduce crime and save taxpayers money long-term. I’ll support and fund a fully-staffed police department that prioritizes diversity, and protects all Lakewood residents no matter their race, ethnicity, or neighborhood. And I’ll work to make our streets safer, reducing risk for pedestrians and bikers.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

I imagine a city teeming with parks and open spaces, where our quiet neighborhoods flourish. There will be more walkable mixed-use corridors that combine thriving small businesses, condos, and apartment buildings mixed with leafy green spaces, so a diverse mix of families at different income levels live here. Effective services have all but eradicated homelessness and driven crime to historic lows, and supportive housing is available for neighbors in crisis. Lakewood is on track to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and our interconnected bike paths and sidewalks reduce congestion and connect residents with nature. Optimizing city space, nurturing small businesses, and prioritizing a local workforce will also generate stable revenue streams to support affordable housing, effective services, and robust park upkeep, infrastructure, and cultural opportunities for all.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

I will make decisions based on evidence and data. I’m passionate about looking at outcomes and what works. My approach is to listen and build consensus. I’m not afraid stand up for what’s right. I’m also inherently collaborative. I’m a “happy warrior” who seeks common ground to make progress.

Ward 4



Dave Rein

Occupation: Attorney

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

I am a husband and a father. Our family has been fortunate to call Lakewood our home, which is why I have been committed to service in our community.

This service includes devoting time on the board of 40 West Arts which is helping to revitalize a challenging part of town; volunteering with Mi Casa Resource Center where we help entrepreneurs and small businesses; and on the Jefferson County Cultural Commission where we make recommendations on how to distribute more than two million dollars of SCFD money. I also recently completed six years with the Lakewood Advisory Commission.

Whether I am negotiating a contract or litigating in court, my day job requires me to think objectively, research the issues, and listen to all parties. I intend to use these same skills to represent everyone in Ward 4.

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

A Better Place to Live: Everyone deserves a chance to own a home in a safe community. I want to see the city encourage the building of more homes that our teachers, nurses, firefighters, and policemen can aspire to own and that our seniors can move into and remain a vibrant part of our community. I will also prioritize programs that allow the police to focus on preventing and solving crime.

A Better Place to Work: Making Lakewood more inviting to small and local businesses is a priority. I want the city to engage in meaningful discussions on how we can make it easier for entrepreneurs and small businesses to thrive in our city.

A Better Place to Play: Our parks and open spaces are one of the city’s treasures and many of us moved here, in part, because of them. I’ll work to preserve, connect, and improve our wonderful parks and open spaces to pass them along to our kids and future generations.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10 and 20 years?

The city has already started a new long-range planning process. I attended an early-stage planning meeting and I want to be a part of the process. Actually, I want all of us to be part of the process. It is not what I want to see the city become, it is what our community wants so we need to bring everyone’s voice to the table in charting a course forward.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

I have fought for my clients in court and negotiated complex deals. The attorney banging a fist on the table and yelling is not effective. I fight hard for my clients by understanding the issues, knowing precisely what they need, and pressing the issues forward — not by grandstanding.

I will engage in vigorous debate and fight for all of us in Ward 4. There will be times when I will disagree with someone on the City Council, but I will do so respectfully so that he or she knows that just because we disagree, that does not mean I won’t stop working to find common ground on other issues that make our city a better place.

Despite running unopposed, I still want to hear from everyone on how we move Lakewood forward. That is why you will still see me knocking on doors and asking: “What is important to you?”

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

Watch the League of Women Voters candidate forum on-demand at [Lakewood.org/VoterInformation](https://www.Lakewood.org/VoterInformation).

Ward 5



Jacob LaBure

Occupation: Program Management
Best way for voters to contact you:
Jacob.LaBure@gmail.com
Your website/social media:
www.JacobforLakewood.com
Facebook.com/JacobforLakewood

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

I served on the City Council from 2017-2021, and I know how to get things done. For me, there is no need for on-the-job training. I know how the City of Lakewood’s planning

and budgeting processes work. I understand most of the issues at hand. Serving on the council will be an opportunity for me to work on issues that have been stalled in the city. I also worked for the City of Denver for 10 years, initially at Public Works before transitioning to the Police Department. Currently, I work for a state-adjacent non-profit. I have a deep understanding of how local governments function and, in some cases, don’t work. I plan to leverage all this experience to achieve meaningful change within my own community here in Lakewood.

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

There are many more than three things I will be working on and fully intend to accomplish. That being said, the most significant goal I believe we can achieve is taking an aggressive approach to building infrastructure in Lakewood. The city needs to make a substantial leap forward in infrastructure. The council must prioritize funding for mobility paths, bike infrastructure, street lighting, road repaving, and stormwater drainage, among other essential areas. It’s also time to get

serious about sustainability and housing. Homelessness needs to be addressed, and we must help people find housing. Living in tents and doorways shouldn’t be acceptable to anyone. Everyone should have a place to call home. I will work to address issues in our zoning, reduce pollution from our city and neighborhoods, and prioritize beautification. We invest a significant amount of money to live in Lakewood and in Colorado, and we should have a beautiful community to thrive in. I will work on expanding incentives and advocating for more state and federal funds to reinvest those dollars in Lakewood to strengthen our community.

What would you like to see for Lakewood in five, 10, and 20 years?

This is a complex question to answer because there are numerous issues that would be difficult to list in this limited space. However, I’d like to see a significant increase in funds for our capital improvement budget to complete crucial capital improvement projects. I want homelessness to be addressed through collaboration with surrounding cities, the county, and other stakeholders. I’d also like to witness beautification projects being completed throughout the

city, including areas like Wadsworth, Kiplin, Colfax, Sheridan, and more. These projects should resemble the positive changes we’ve seen on Alameda between Wadsworth and Sheridan, with the addition of trees and multi-modal paths. Furthermore, I aim to see the implementation of a citizen-driven strategic plan that fulfills many of the dreams and aspirations we have as a city. This includes ensuring that zoning and development laws align with the new strategic plan that the city is in the process of developing with its citizens.

How would you approach controversial policy issues?

I approach controversial policy issues by listening to our neighbors and adhering to my values. I believe in fairness, optimism, listening to everyone, and finding solutions to problems. I actively listen, search for solutions, and take action. During my previous time on the council, I was a swing vote on some tough issues because neighbors were able to demonstrate how my vote could adversely impact them. I am always open to having these conversations.

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Lakewood voters asked to retain municipal judges



Presiding Judge Nicole Bozarth

Nicole Bozarth was appointed as Presiding Municipal Judge for the City of Lakewood in June 2022. 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, she 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 to 2018 she prosecuted felony cases. In March 2018 she became a Chief Deputy District Attorney and was in charge of supervising the County Court attorneys. She remained in that position until she was sworn in as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Lakewood in March 2020. Judge Bozarth is active in the community in addition to being a member of the Colorado Bar Association and the First Judicial Bar Association.



Judge Kellie Eastin

Kellie Eastin was appointed as a Lakewood Municipal Judge in September 2022 after working in Jefferson County (almost exclusively) since 2011. Before accepting her current position with Lakewood, Judge Eastin worked as a Deputy District Attorney in both the First and Seventeenth Judicial Districts. During her time as a Deputy District Attorney, she was assigned to the County Court, Juvenile and District Court units; she also was a member of the leadership team in both the First and the Seventeenth Judicial Districts. During her time in prosecution, she was recognized as MADD’s Prosecutor of the Year in 2020; she served on the Auto Theft Task Force, the Wheat Ridge Race & Equity Task Force and was accepted into Stanford University’s Prosecution Leaders of Now. Before accepting a position as a Deputy District Attorney, she graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 2009 with an undergraduate degree in Law & Society and received her Juris Doctorate from the Sturm College of Law in 2012. While in law school, she worked with the Civil Rights Clinic as a student attorney handling procedural due process claims; she also clerked for the Honorable Judge Christine Chauche. Judge Eastin is active in the community with organizations close to her heart: Jefferson County Mental Health; Seniors’ Resource Center; Severe Weather Shelter Network; and Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. She is a member of the Colorado Municipal Judges Association, the Colorado Bar Association and the First Judicial Bar Association.

END OF VOTER’S GUIDE

INSPIRING CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAKEWOOD

Congratulations to the 2023 Mayor’s Inspiration Award winners.

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

- Kate McBride**, for her selfless leadership on the Lakewood Advisory Commission.
- Doug Wells**, for his tireless advocacy for the Belmar neighborhood.
- Kathi Hasfjord**, for her community action with the Two Creeks neighborhood.
- Jean Jackson** (in memoriam), for her long service as a Lakewood volunteer.

ORGANIZATIONAL WINNERS

- GiGi’s Playhouse**, for serving those with Down syndrome and their families.
 - Lakewood United Methodist Church**, for providing a safe place to park for those living in their cars and more.
- “To inspire is to ignite passion for community.”
— Mayor Adam Paul



Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

City Manager
Kathy Hodgson

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Lakewood.org



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For more information on this year’s winners, visit Lakewood.org/MayorsAwards.