

Aaron Brockett

2026 Mayoral and City Council Candidate Questions

Thank you for participating in the Downtown Boulder & University Hill Candidate Roundtable on **Wednesday, September 23**.

In addition to the questions you will be asked during the Roundtable, the Downtown Boulder Partnership is asking each candidate to provide written responses to three questions important to the Downtown Boulder and University Hill business communities.

DEADLINE: Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Responses are limited to **200 words per question**.

Your responses will be reproduced as submitted and distributed to attendees at the Candidate Roundtable. They may also be shared electronically with the broader Downtown Boulder and University Hill business communities.

Please review your responses carefully before submitting. Downtown Boulder Partnership will not edit candidate responses for content, grammar or length. Responses exceeding the 200-word limit may be truncated at 200 words.

Please provide original responses. If AI tools were used in developing or editing your responses, we ask that you acknowledge that use at the end of this form.

Email *

aaronboulder@gmail.com

Candidate Name *

Aaron Brockett

Office Sought *



Mayor



Council Member

1. Economic Vitality: Tools to Spur Economic Vitality

The recent proposal to create a Downtown Development Authority was intended to provide a long-term tool for investment and economic development in Downtown Boulder, University Hill and the Civic Area. While the proposal did not advance to voters this year, the economic challenges that prompted the discussion remain.

Do you believe Boulder needs a significant new strategy or investment tool to strengthen these commercial districts? If you support reconsideration of a DDA, explain why. If you do not, what specific alternative tools, investments or strategies would you support to spur economic development and ensure the long-term economic vitality of these areas?

Maximum: 200 words

I do think that Boulder needs a significant new strategy to strengthen Downtown and University Hill. I voted in favor of the DDA for that reason, and I support bringing it back in 2027. When we bring it back, we will need to do additional outreach with the other taxing entities including BVSD, Boulder County and the Library District, as well as with the community as a whole. With additional engagement, I think we can successfully move the DDA forward to the ballot in 2027 with good community buy-in and start leveraging the powerful new capabilities of the DDA to energize and improve downtown and the Hill.

2. Public Safety & the Business Environment

Boulder businesses continue to raise concerns about public safety, illegal drug activity and disruptive behaviors in public spaces. These issues can affect employees, customers, visitors and the day-to-day ability of businesses to operate successfully.

What do you believe businesses should reasonably expect from the City when it comes to maintaining safe and welcoming commercial districts? What specific actions or approaches would you support to address these concerns while balancing the needs and rights of everyone in our community?

Maximum: 200 words

Businesses deserve commercial districts that are safe and pleasant to visit. Unfortunately that is not always the case in Downtown and on University Hill. I'm glad that the city in partnership with Downtown Boulder Partnership has taken a number of steps to work on these issues, including adding the Downtown Ambassadors several years ago, adding Park Rangers, and staffing regular patrols on the Mall as well as on the Hill and bike patrols along the Creek Path. But there is still an unacceptable amount of disruptive behavior in those areas. I have been working with the city manager on improving the situation by making sure our enforcement protocols include the confiscation of illegal drugs, and discouraging people congregating in problematic places such as by the nature play area in Central Park. We need to continue to work hard to make improvements in these critical areas.

3. Communication & Engagement with the Business Community

Decisions made by City Council can have significant financial and operational impacts on local businesses. Business owners and employees often participate in public meetings, surveys, working groups and other engagement opportunities, yet there can be frustration when they feel their input has not meaningfully influenced the final decision.

If elected, how will you personally engage with Boulder's business community? What can business owners expect from you in terms of accessibility, communication and listening, particularly if you disagree with them? Please describe the specific practices or commitments you would make to ensure the business community has an ongoing and meaningful voice in City decision-making.

Maximum: 200 words

I have made community engagement a cornerstone of my time on city council and as mayor, and I will continue that approach if reelected. I regularly attend events and meetings put on by DBP, the Boulder Chamber and other business groups, and I accept every invitation I'm given if I don't have a conflict. I have had many one-on-one conversations with downtown business owners about many different topics and I always honestly represent my opinion or approach while striving to learn the perspectives of others and updating my thinking on issues based on what I've learned. Disagreements are inevitable, and it's important we talk through them and then continue to work together on shared problems. I'm a former small business owner myself, so I know firsthand the challenges of making payroll and managing the many issues that arise daily for a business owner.

AI Disclosure *

Did you use an artificial intelligence tool in developing or editing any portion of your responses?

☐ Yes

☒ No

AI Use Disclosure

Please briefly describe how AI was used in developing or editing your responses.

Final Acknowledgement

I have reviewed my responses and understand that they may be reproduced and distributed as submitted. I understand that responses are limited to 200 words per question and that Downtown Boulder Partnership may truncate responses that exceed the stated word limit. I understand that my responses need to be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2026 to be included in the packet that will be handed out to attendees and posted on the Downtown Boulder Partnership website.

By checking the box below, I confirm that I have read and agree to the Final Acknowledgment above. *

☒ Confirm

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