

Jill Adler Grano

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 *

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Candidate Name *

Jill Adler Grano

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

Boulder definitely needs a strategy to revitalize downtown and the Hill. I want to fill vacant spaces, support locally owned businesses, and keep more of the money generated here in our community. In my view, the first step should be regulatory reform. Small-business owners have told the city for decades that it is too difficult to open and operate a business in Boulder. The DDA discussion jumped directly to "give us more money" without first addressing those structural barriers. That is one reason I did not support the proposal as presented. Another is that outreach came far too late, and too few stakeholders were at the table. I remain open to a revised proposal if there is: 1. More robust stakeholder engagement, 2. More realistic financial assumptions, 3. A clearer plan for what we want to accomplish. With or without a DDA, we should: 1. Rewrite Title 9 (streamline review, enable adaptive reuse, and stop treating temporary uses as permanent), 2. Keep downtown and the Hill clean, safe, and welcoming, 3. Address vacancy. My research found that more than 35% of units in five major luxury condo & townhome developments were second homes. We should use every tool possible to bring [REDACTED].

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 need to feel confident that customers (and employees) can enjoy downtown and the Hill safely, and that the city will respond (reliably) to open drug use and other dangerous or illegal behavior. To that end, I support: 1. Fully implementing the Reimagine Policing Plan, including staffing the department to the levels identified in that plan, 2. More competitive pay to recruit and retain officers, 3. Consistent foot and bike patrols (on which officers build relationships with businesses and residents on their route), 4. A clear reporting process, including tracking response times and outcomes so Council knows whether what we are doing is actually working. // I also believe that our responses should match the situation. For example, a mental health crises calls for a co-response team; addiction calls for treatment; and repeat offenses calls for enforcement and follow-through. I would be more inclined to support a DDA if it helped fund safety efforts. I have been (and remain) concerned that if TIF captures new revenue - while growth increases demand for police, fire, and maintenance - we will effectively cripple our own efforts by crippling the very services that will help revitalize downtown and the Hill.

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

People and businesses not feeling heard is the number one thing I hear on the campaign trail. I do not blame this council, but I do believe that there has been a breakdown in stakeholder engagement and response to community concerns. I do not know exactly where or why the breakdown has occurred, but I have some theories, and am determined to work on it. If elected, I plan to hold regular office hours and seek out input from business owners, property owners, and labor before major decisions are made (or take shape). For proposals with significant business impacts, I will strive to understand the will of the business owners, financial impacts, unintended consequences, and possible alternatives. I also think that we need to do a better job of checking back after we adopt a policy or plan to understand what is working and what needs adjustment. If we disagree, I will say so directly, explain my reasoning, and work to identify where there is room to find common ground. I cannot promise every business and property owner their preferred outcome. I can promise that I will take their input seriously and explain how they helped shape my decision-making.

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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