

Sam Fuqua

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 *

fuquaforcouncil@gmail.com

Candidate Name *

Sam Fuqua

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 am open to reconsidering the DDA because there is some evidence of its effectiveness in strengthening downtowns elsewhere. But there is significant opposition to using this tool, in part, due to the capture of some voter-approved tax revenue designated for other purposes. We need to find a way to genuinely engage opponents in any reconsideration.

I support building more affordable housing in the downtown area. More people living downtown—including the workers who keep downtown going—means more potential customers for downtown businesses and probably improves worker retention.

City promotion and facilitation of events, festivals and pop-up shops should be a priority. As should making it easier to re-configure retail and office spaces for other uses.

Commercial land trusts may also offer a partial solution. For example, the Denver nonprofit Urban Land Conservancy uses land banking and land trusts to develop and maintain permanently affordable residential and commercial real estate. Could we identify one or two downtown buildings and work with the right partners to create a commercial land trust offering below market office and retail? City-owned buildings would be the first place I'd look.

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 should expect the City to enforce ordinances and preserve public safety in all commercial and residential districts but we should target our resources where we have the biggest challenges, including Downtown and on The Hill . I support the recommendations in the city's Reimagine Policing plan, including officers spending more time out in the community (and out of their vehicles) and more focus on crime prevention. I support the staffing goals in the plan, including hiring additional officers.

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 am committed not only to making myself available to meet with business owners on a regular basis, but also to proactively seeking them out to listen to their input, ask questions (that probably lead to more questions), explain my positions and also sometimes change my mind based on new information.

Small businesses play such a critical role in Boulder that they should expect council members to be partners in making it easy and sustainable to operate. But there are almost always competing community perspectives and needs. My eight years on the school board taught me that although clear and on-going communication with the community does not always lead to everyone's preferred outcome, it is essential to building trust.

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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