

Scott Rendleman

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 *

Scott Rendleman

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 support reconsideration of the DDA. Despite serious concerns about making a 30-year commitment to a tax-increment financing district, Downtown Boulder, University Hill and the Civic Area need a reliable source of funding for both cosmetic and structural improvements. I see these areas of Boulder as icons of our community, and the revenue generated by this tax would do more than enhance downtown beautification. I see the DDA as an opportunity to level the playing field for people who want to start and grow businesses in Boulder. By providing a funding mechanism for small businesses to get their start or funding a short-term loan to an established Boulder business looking to grow its business in Boulder, the DDA could help drive the revitalization that other efforts haven't been able to deliver. At the same time, there are legitimate concerns related to oversight, and I would insist on City Council's authority to appoint and remove members of the DDA board.

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

Boulder businesses rightfully expect commercial districts to remain safe and clean. More than beautification, our businesses should expect the Boulder police department to be visible and present to enforce the laws and provide protection. On the other hand, not every crisis requires police. At times, Boulder's social services should intervene when a person is experiencing the effects of addiction or a mental health illness. Having a person yell at or harass passersby infringes on the rights of people to be downtown. These types of episodes require intervention. For example, it would be appropriate for a social services worker to approach an individual experiencing auditory hallucinations to redirect that individual away from downtown to an appropriate mental health treatment facility. Another specific approach would involve having additional police patrol on foot and having social workers present throughout the downtown area during its busiest times. Having a visible presence, being able to prevent predictable attacks before they happen and responding to emergencies does not turn Boulder into a police state. Another specific approach is to have trash and debris promptly cleaned daily; no one should encounter leftover syringes and trash.

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

So much of the Boulder community feels that City Council is not listening to its concerns, and it's one of the reasons I'm running this year. In this campaign, I have been impressed with how many good ideas come from people and business owners who are trying to build a life in Boulder. I consider Boulder's business community to be an integral partner in the city's success. One of my campaign pledges is to talk with, email, text and town hall with our voters and constituents about the city policies affecting them. My close listening won't stop when I'm in office. I will put in the time and energy to show up for Boulder's business community in its regular meetings or on an invitation, to listen genuinely to its concerns, ask questions on points I may not understand, and tell you the factors that are driving my thinking on policy. I will try to build consensus where it exists, and when we disagree, I'll remain open-minded and talk about our points of disagreement respectfully, like I did as a civil trial lawyer for over 30 years.

AI Disclosure

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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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