

Taishya Adams

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 *

taishya.adams@gmail.com

Candidate Name *

Taishya Adams

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

The City of Boulder is in the midst of an polycrisis where climate chaos, geopolitical strife, and economic downturn will require new strategy and investment tools. Though DDA's have been successful in other cities, a DDA will do little to address unprecedented landscape we are in now.

Why? Because the DDA is based on property and sales tax. Property taxes continue to raise leaving people 'house rich and cash poor.' Sales tax is also declining. Not to mention the impact to restricted funds that voters would not be allowed to vote upon for the DDA formation. The City must innovate by co-developing new tools, investments and strategies to meet this moment not only to weather the short term catastrophe but support long-term economic vitality.

Commercial vacancy tax for egregious empty storefronts of over 10 years is a start. Revisiting permitting and removing bureaucratic barriers is another. City of Boulder must consider ways to own energy infrastructure and better leverage agricultural portfolio. We must increase housing options downtown as well. Perhaps the city can explore municipally owned subsidized housing so working families and people can live downtown on 2nd floors.

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

As Mayor, I continue to be committed to public safety for all including businesses. This means staffing officers on the streets not supervisors in offices. I also will continue to advocate for regular reporting at city meetings not just dashboards online. We must invest in boots on the ground as well as more downtown evening activation. We also must invest in the evidenced based prevention measures that work in collaboration with our Boulder cities and the county.

The City of Boulder cannot continue the lions share of homelessness response and support. Another pathway is to collaborate with the county and surrounding cities for more shelters and day centers outside of the City of Boulder.

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

As Mayor, I would host monthly business town hall and meetings in collaboration with the Boulder Chamber, Latino Chamber of Boulder, Downtown Partnerships, and Visit Boulder. Though these groups have city councilmembers serving on their boards, there is zero whole council reporting or feedback. This lack of transparency and collaboration allows for silos that makes us lean too heavily on public engagement versus collective activation.

We need regular communications and data on impacts from current city policy and co-creation of future policies. Together we must mitigate the local-global economic headwinds and create pathways for long term sustainability. I would also look for more business participation on the city's boards and commissions.

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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