



Taishya Adams for Boulder City Council Boulder Area Rental Housing Association's (BARHA)BOLO REALTORS Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

My name is Taishya Adams (she/her/ella) and I am a candidate for Boulder City Council focused on building a climate and culturally resilient city - balancing the needs of people and planet.

SERVANT LEADER

I am an educator, environmentalist, social justice advocate, outdoor recreationalist, musician, entrepreneur, and lover of this beautiful city she's called home for 11 years. I am also a servant leader focused on community building, personal transformation, and systems change.



ENVIRONMENTALIST

I most recently served as a commissioner to CO Parks and Wildlife and as a member of the CO Natural Areas Council. I also served as the Outdoor Afro Colorado lead & National Policy & Education Director which allowed her opportunities to deepen the connection between equitable nature based experiences (e.g. outdoor recreation), conservation, and stewardship. Taishya continues to serve on the CO Office of Tourism Destination Stewardship Council, the board of Black in Marine Science, the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, and the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Business Advisory Council. I am eager to bring these experiences and expertise to Boulder City Council as we mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE

I have dedicated my life to issues of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all. Most recently, I served on the inaugural Boulder Police Oversight Panel (BPOP) which is the most racially and ethnically diverse 'advisory' entity in the City of Boulder. The continued over policing of marginalized peoples must end. We must continue to hold our public servants accountable by strengthening accountability, transparency, community oversight, and interagency collaboration. It is time to break the legacy of uneven discipline and safety. It is time to co-develop a thriving community where people can live, play, and work through transparency, accountability, and integrity.

A JUST & JOYOUS COMMUNITY BUILDING

I believe in just, community led and driven local government. A local government that reflects every corner of our community. Accountable and transparent to the people they serve and the natural resources they steward. Centering the voices and prioritizing intergenerationally disinvested and marginalized communities, building on the strengthens, and co-creating pathways for deeper collaboration in planning, implementation, evaluation. With the 10 year Boulder Valley Comprehensive



Taishya Adams for Boulder City Council
Boulder Area Rental Housing Association's (BARHA)BOLO REALTORS
Candidate Questionnaire

Plan update in the hands of the next council, it is our turn to set the vision, the strategies, and priorities to meet increased climate demand and cultural unrest.

HABITAT FOR ALL

I believe that balancing people and the planet is achievable through intersectional policy, funding streams, and cooperation. Urgent affordable housing needs must not pit people against natural resources. From green building materials/techniques to reducing energy consumption and water use, everyone has a role to play. Expanding occupancy, density, and investments in housing for low-, middle-wealthy people must be coupled with investments in habitat to offset the increased footprint of the built environment. For people experiencing homelessness, I advocate for an expanded focus on evidence based strategies for the entire unhoused population and not just those seen on Boulder Creek. I advocate for solutions like those of Jennifer Livovich's 4-Point Plan: (1) 24-hour, 7-day-a-week mental health first responder teams, (2) maximize the use of our local detox and increase its capacity, (3) the sober, transitional living, and (4) transitional sober-supported community expanding on the coordinated entry and support model to offer on-site mental health and addiction support.



**Taishya Adams for Boulder City Council
Boulder Area Rental Housing Association's (BARHA)BOLO REALTORS
Candidate Questionnaire**

1) With housing affordability an ever-increasing challenge across Colorado, rent control has come up in discussions. This is evidenced by this year's proposal at the state legislature. Have you researched the topic of rent control? If so, do you think that it is something that makes sense for Boulder?

"The first affordability problem is that the nation's poorest 20 percent have too little income to afford minimum quality housing without receiving subsidies. That's not a failure of housing markets, but a function of the low wages and unstable incomes generated by labor markets." Source.

I have researched the topic of rent control. The evidence is clear on the long term negative impacts of rent control. What the evidence does not sufficiently capture is the short term needs of families. Families like the 800 per week who seek food subsidies. If you need subsidies for food, imagine the needs for rent. Our cities health and human services budget has finally reached parity with policies. You get what you pay for. I advocate for values aligned investments that are transparently monitored and measured. I agree with Colorado Rep. Javier Mabrey's comments on rent stabilization measure which are needed *"to prevent unnecessary displacement, keep communities together, and make sure kids can stay in the neighborhoods where they've been going to school for years."* This is what is at stake. Boulder's population is declining. We need families who can afford to live, work, steward, and play here. With the update to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan during the next Council and historic federal investments aligned with our local Climate Tax, we will have opportunities to reimagine land-use, amplify the strategies that are working and eliminate those that are not. We also can also address the community affordability problem which includes utilities, transportation, healthcare, and transportation. This requires an ecosystem approach that aligns across governmental systems from city, to county, to state, to national. Boulder has a global footprint. Finding the tie that binds us together, healing across communities, reimagining systems, together, we thrive. "

2) Who is responsible for tenant behavior whether good or bad? The tenant, the police, the university (if student), the landlord? How is responsibility determined? How can you ensure that any remedies are fair to all involved?

Each member in the housing 'ecosystem' has a role and responsibility towards each other. Tenants are responsible to live by the rules outlined in the lease agreement, the police to the contract their union signs with the city, the university to the city where it is located, and the land owner who also has contractual obligations to both the city and the tenant. Responsibility is determined by what is outlined in the contractual agreements between and across stakeholders. The legal system is responsible for clarifying the roles and responsibilities when there are disagreements. Knowing the ongoing tensions between these stakeholders since the beginning of humanity, it is not surprising that these tensions exist in the City of Boulder. Unlike times before, we are the ones making decisions. I wonder how we can have better representation by these stakeholders across our decision making spectrum from the city



**Taishya Adams for Boulder City Council
Boulder Area Rental Housing Association's (BARHA)BOLO REALTORS
Candidate Questionnaire**

council, city staff, boards/commissions/panels, and throughout our legal system. In addition, I would also recommend more transparency and accountability between tenants and rental property owners.

3) With the passage of HB23-1255 that prohibits growth caps, thus repealing the growth cap in Boulder, how do you intend to support both staff and citizens in streamlining the building process?

The city council voted 6-3 to allow five unrelated people to live together. This will have implications for our growth limits. I will work with the fellow city council members, affected community members, land owners, businesses, and community organizations. We will also build on the successes of current building permit improvements that are underway.

4) Just recently there was a bill introduced in the legislature entitled HB23-1171 Just Cause Eviction. If passed it would have prohibited the landlords ability to "Non – renew" a tenant. A non-renewal is simply the landlord not offering the tenant the ability to renew at the end of a lease term. Notice is given. This bill did not pass. We would like to hear your thoughts on the ability of a landlord to "non-renew"?

I am empathetic to rental property owners' ability to offer a non-renewal clause. However, if the property is the same cost and/or the renter has not broken the lease, I would consider a just cause clause considering the current housing insecurities facing our communities. Renters pay the mortgage and often the taxes for property owners. It is their hard working dollars that fund our commons like transportation, housing, utilities, and health and human services. Housing affordability coupled with decades of discriminatory housing, banking, business, transportation policy at every level of government has resulted in the demographic inequities that we see in our cities and around the world. I have responsibilities on the investment my African American ancestors made to these Ute, Arapaho lands. Ancestors whose enslaved labor paid the the price for the Louisiana Purchase. I have responsibilities to the marginalized people past and present who did not benefit from discriminatory policies. Policies and custom (unwritten rules) that left poor, Indigenous, Black, and other racial minorities to live in a three block radius by the always overflowing Boulder Creek prior to the dam. I have responsibilities to customs and practices that displaced, disenfranchised, and disappointed communities who consistently contribute to the fabric of what makes Boulder, Boulder. I advocate for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all living beings. With the poly-crisis of climate, affordability, and culture, we must act intersectionality to resolve complex problems. When we have socio-economic extremes, we cannot be resilient when we need to be. Together, we thrive.