

Name

Dave Martus

Which Position Are You Running For?

City Council

Downtown Development Authority

Downtown Development Authorities are a proven tool across the state to reinvigorate and support local downtown businesses. Did you vote, or would you have voted, to put the creation of a Downtown Development Authority on this November's ballot at the August 6 Boulder City Council meeting? **No**

My no answer is not due to the goals of the DDA. The mission and goals of the DDA are thoughtful and needed. The lack of coordination within the community/impacted agencies would have been the reason I would have voted no at the time of the vote. With better clarity and communication, I believe the DDA will succeed in the future.

Public Safety and Security

Crime continues to be a concern for our businesses, residents, and tourists and is negatively impacting the commercial environment. Do you support full implementation of the Reimagine Policing Plan, including fully staffing the Boulder Police Department? **Yes**

Expand On Your Response (Optional). **I support the implementation of Boulder's Reimagine Policing Plan, including fully staffing the Police Department to provide a greater commercial-area presence and deliver effective crime prevention. The Policing Plan should include regularly measured outcomes and, over time, be updated to maximize its effectiveness.**

Tipped Minimum Wage

Our businesses are struggling to absorb higher costs across the board, and that includes the imposition of mandated wage increases for tipped workers (who often earn well over the hourly minimum wage). Hypothetically, if you were the tie-breaking vote in a split City Council decision, would you have voted against increasing the tipped minimum wage for 2027? **Yes**

Expand On Your Response (Optional) **Increasing costs for business owners require them to either raise prices, reduce staff, lower other costs or generate higher sales volume. Restaurant margins are already very low, and higher costs would likely lead to more closures, with a net impact of fewer jobs.**

Boulder Municipal Airport

The Boulder Municipal Airport is an important generator of economic activity, while also supporting many businesses, scientific research, and emergency response. FAA grant dollars are a critical source of funding for the airport's maintenance activities. Did you, or would you have, supported a motion at the July 23rd City Council meeting to both keep the airport operating into the indefinite future and to accept FAA funding? **Yes**

Expand On Your Response **The Boulder airport is an important asset, not only providing infrastructure for public safety and emergency response, but also serving as an important component of our infrastructure that supports jobs, business activity, and innovation. I support the continued operation of the airport and the acceptance of FAA funding.**

Expediting Development Review & Permitting Processes

Our current and prospective businesses continue to cite the time it takes to receive development and permit approvals as undermining their ability to provide affordable housing and serving as a disincentive for locating or investing in Boulder. Would you make expediting development review and permitting processes a top-three City Council priority, including significant revision or wholesale rewriting of Title IX?

Yes

Expand On Your Response (Optional) [Boulder's land-use code should be clearer, more predictable, and easier for residents, small businesses, applicants, and staff to navigate. I support modernizing Title 9 to meet these goals.](#)

Infrastructure Tax

The City of Boulder is pursuing a significant property tax increase to finance up to \$400M in debt that will fund a backlog of deferred maintenance on municipal buildings and facilities. Do you support this proposed property tax increase? No

Expand On Your Response (Optional) [I support maintaining safe, functional public facilities and addressing legitimate deferred maintenance. I am opposed to Ordinance 8758 in its current form because it would authorize up to \\$400 million in new debt, with repayment potentially reaching \\$650 million, without sufficient project-level scope, cost certainty, prioritization, and accountability protections.](#)

[Before asking residents to take on Boulder's largest tax increase ever, Council should provide a transparent, independently reviewed project list that distinguishes urgent life-safety needs from desirable improvements; shows the full cost of each project, including financing and future operating costs; compares renovation, replacement, phased construction, and lower-cost alternatives.](#)

Homelessness

Homelessness continues to be a major impediment to a positive business environment, which is why the Boulder Chamber supported the city's recent analysis and recommendations for addressing our homelessness circumstances, including:

Policy 1 - Strict enforcement of the ban on rough sleeping.

Policy 2 - Eliminate the delivery of services for the homeless population in public parks.

Policy 3 - Prioritization of services for unhoused individuals with ties to the local community.

Which of these policies do you support? All

Expand On Your Response (Optional)

[I support all three policies, which were all part of the 2025 update to our homelessness strategy. The latest metrics, provided by the City, show a multi-year improvement across many metrics. Our current plan is delivering a good balance of supportive services with compassion and enforcement as needed.](#)

Middle Income Housing

Access to middle-income housing continues to be a barrier for workforce recruitment and retention in Boulder. The City of Boulder will need an additional 10,700 housing units over the next ten years to prevent rent and home prices from dramatically increasing. If elected, would you commit to pursuing that housing development goal? **No**

Expand On Your Response (Optional)

Before committing to a specific number, we should consider the impact on the built environment/existing infrastructure and balance new housing units with the capacity for growth across the city.

The DRCOG data

(https://drcog.shinyapps.io/denver_regional_housing_need/#section-local-needs) used in the updated BVCP estimate for inside the city limits was an addition of 9,504 units by 2050. Regardless of the exact number, the greatest need is for people at or below 100% AMI.

As city properties become available following the Alpine-Balsam transition, Boulder should partner with mission-driven affordable-housing providers through long-term ground leases. This community-land-trust approach separates the cost of land from the cost of the home, protects the public's investment, and can preserve affordability for future residents rather than allowing subsidies to disappear after a limited compliance period. This focus on delivering a high percentage (if not 100%) of new units as permanently affordable would help us advance to our target of 25% faster.

Burlington's Champlain Housing Trust provides a useful model: it has built and stewarded permanently affordable rentals, shared-equity homes, and cooperative housing by retaining community control of land and resale affordability.

Economic Vitality

To repeat a question that we've asked since 2019: "Do you believe it's important to continue to sustain a strong economy, including the potential for increasing job growth in Boulder?"

Expand On Your Response (Optional) **Yes**

What are your top three proposals for strengthening Boulder's economy?

1) Make it easier to start, expand, and operate a business. This aligns with my goals to reduce the complexity of our current permitting process. Establishing a process, especially for small businesses, to use a single portal would be a solid start. Service/approval delivery times would need to be commercial in nature and not be a reason not to open a storefront in Boulder.

2) Reduce vacant space. Success begets success, and filling empty storefronts will attract more foot traffic, which benefits nearby stores as well. We should analyze what services/merchants are most desired by residents, local employees, and visitors and make a concerted effort to attract them to Boulder. For most of Boulder's history, we have had demand that exceeded supply and now need to recognize that we are competing with nearby towns as a desirable place to open a new storefront. We are in a competitive market and should work to be the location of choice for businesses that open across Boulder County, ideally for Boulder to be the location of their flagship store.

3) Leverage the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Boulder can continue to improve the resources available for new and existing small businesses (at no charge) to grow and thrive.