



## 2023 Denver Mayoral Race Questionnaire

Thank you so much for taking our survey! We are excited to learn more about how you plan to address some of the issues that matter most to our immigrant community in Denver. This survey is meant to provide some background information on critical issues in Denver, please feel free to reach out to our team after you have completed the survey if you have additional questions on any of the topics discussed.

We also want to prioritize voter education and plan to publish answers publicly afterwards. We will be reaching out to all candidates in the Denver Mayoral race with the opportunity to respond. We do not plan to endorse any candidate in the Denver Mayoral race but hope this survey serves as a way for our constituents to differentiate between candidates.

This survey includes values based “yes or no” statement questions as well as qualitative open ended questions. We encourage you to add as much detail to your open ended answers as you can.

### Candidate Background Information

**Tell us more about your campaign.**

**1. Candidate name:**

[Chris Hansen](#)

**2. What is the candidate's party affiliation, regardless of whether the race is partisan or non-partisan?**

[Democrat](#)

**3. Who should we contact if we have questions? (i.e. name of campaign manager, if applicable)**

[Parker Butterworth](#)

**4. What is the best email to contact the campaign/candidate?**

[parker@chrisfordenvermayor.com](mailto:parker@chrisfordenvermayor.com)



**5. What is the best phone number to contact the campaign/candidate?**

[206.794.1961](tel:206.794.1961)

**6. Campaign social media handles listed by platform**

<http://fb.com/chrisfordenvermayor>

<http://instagram.com/chris4denver>

<https://twitter.com/Chris4Denver>

**7. Campaign website**

<https://www.chrisfordenvermayor.com/>

**8. Why is the candidate running for office (e.g. platform)?**

Chris is running to be Denver's next Mayor because he is frustrated with the direction the city is headed and he is confident that with his private and public sector background he can make a meaningful, positive impact on the city. He knows we need to build a city that works, which means a safer, more affordable, and greener Denver. As Mayor, Chris will prioritize public safety and will recruit, retain, and highly-train public safety officers so we have a Department that is accountable and works for everyone. Chris will audit the homelessness programs and ensure we're investing in programs that show results and cutting ones that don't. Chris will enforce the camping ban because we need to get folks into housing with wrap-around services, like substance use and mental health treatment, as well as job training, in order to help the unhoused get back on their feet. As Mayor, Chris will also help Denver make the transition to clean energy by electrifying city buildings and fleets, adding EV charging infrastructure, and reducing transportation emissions. He envisions Denver as a connected, dynamic, thriving city and he has the skill set to help Denver become a city that works.

**9. Do you support a small tax on landlords to fund legal representation for tenants who are being evicted?**

In the legislature, Sen. Hansen has supported the eviction legal defense fund.



## On the Issues

**Tell us more about your values and how you would tackle major issues impacting the immigrant community in Denver.**

10. In 2017, Community leaders in Denver pushed council to pass an ordinance to limit police collaboration with ICE and create the Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund (DILSF) to support community members through immigration legal proceedings.<sup>1</sup> Since the program launched in 2018, local nonprofit legal service providers have received a total of more than \$1.5M in funds to provide Denver residents with direct legal representation and affirmative relief services including support with DACA renewals and citizenship applications.<sup>2</sup> Denver residents served by this fund - who on average have called Denver home for 17 years - have been able to stay with their families and in their communities thanks to the support provided!

While the fund has been critical to expanding legal services for hundreds of Denver residents, many continue to go through immigration proceedings without representation due to gaps in available resources.

**a. Are you in support of Denver's Immigrant Legal Defense Fund?**

Yes.

**b. What will you do to continue expanding the Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund (DILSF) to ensure Denver residents have access to counsel in immigration proceedings?**

As Mayor, Sen. Hansen looks forward to working with advocates and groups who are engaged in providing these services to identify the most impactful ways he can use his office to ensure Denver residents have access to counsel in immigration proceedings.

11. The 2017 ordinance also sought to tackle long standing issues for the immigrant community regarding police collaborating with ICE and federal immigration

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<sup>1</sup> <https://denverite.com/2017/08/31/heres-else-denver-will-help-immigrants-risk-deportation/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://denverfoundation.org/denver-immigrant-legal-services-fund/>



officials. The passage of the ordinance made strides to protect Denver residents from federal overreach by prohibiting Denver city employees from asking about immigration status or sharing that information with federal agents and prohibiting Denver law enforcement from holding individuals beyond their release date for ICE.<sup>3</sup>

While this change marked a powerful shift in Denver standing up for the equal rights of all residents, there are still some key practices Denver's Sheriff Department engages in that contribute to the separation of our immigrant families. The Denver Sheriff's Department continues to inform ICE proactively when undocumented Denver residents are being released from custody. This practice of notifying ICE of individual release leads directly to the incarceration of undocumented Denverites and separation of Denver families through deportation.

**a. Do you support ending the practice of 'ICE notifications' in Denver?**

Yes.

**b. What additional measures would you propose to limit police collaboration with ICE in Denver?**

As Mayor, Sen. Hansen would consult with CIRC to identify the most effective additional measures.

12. Our groundbreaking report titled, **"Sabotaging Sanctuary: How Data Brokers give ICE access to Colorado's Data and Jails,"**<sup>4</sup> shows how ICE contracted with the data broker company Appriss Solutions, a subsidiary of LexisNexis, to receive jail-booking data from a Colorado jail alert system (VINE). The system alerts ICE agents immediately when anyone on the agency's target lists is booked into county jails, allowing ICE to arrest them upon release. By contracting with 3rd party data brokers ICE can obtain information on hundreds of millions of

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<sup>3</sup> <https://denverite.com/2017/08/28/ice-cooperation-bill/>

<sup>4</sup>

[https://notechforice.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Sabotaging-Sanctuary\\_Final-Report\\_Design-4.pdf?link\\_id=2&can\\_id=c3f37b433cea47238c8ae84f743f8f72&source=email-new-report-shows-ice-uses-data-brokers-to-skirt-sanctuary-laws&email\\_referrer=&email\\_subject=new-report-shows-ice-uses-data-brokers-to-skirt-sanctuary-laws](https://notechforice.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Sabotaging-Sanctuary_Final-Report_Design-4.pdf?link_id=2&can_id=c3f37b433cea47238c8ae84f743f8f72&source=email-new-report-shows-ice-uses-data-brokers-to-skirt-sanctuary-laws&email_referrer=&email_subject=new-report-shows-ice-uses-data-brokers-to-skirt-sanctuary-laws)



people across the country.

Further, our report also shows that Denver's ongoing contract with LexisNexis permits information sharing with other LexisNexis customers, including ICE.

- a. Do you support efforts to limit expansive surveillance by third party entities and law enforcement/ICE?**

Yes.

- b. What steps would you take to address this issue in Denver?**

In the legislature, Sen. Hansen sponsored the bill [SB22-113](#) that puts limitations on the use of facial recognition software at the state level and as Mayor, he would seek opportunities to protect the privacy of Denver residents.

**13.** When Mayor Hancock signed the 2017 ordinance he stated the administration's goal of "affirm[ing] Denver's commitment to stand with immigrants and refugees" and "maintain Denver as a welcoming city where everyone can feel safe and thrive."<sup>5</sup> Over the past months migrants have been coming to Denver and the city has mobilized staff, shelter, and support to help people find security and stability.

- a. Do you support Denver's efforts to support newly arrived people?**

Yes.

- b. How do you think the city has done with the current plan to support newly arrived immigrants?**

Sen. Hansen thinks there is definitely room for improvement. We need to be better prepared and avoid the emergency use of recreation centers.

- c. What would you do as Mayor to support newly arrived people?**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://denverite.com/2017/08/31/heres-else-denver-will-help-immigrants-risk-deportation/>



As Mayor, Sen. Hansen would make sure that we have strategic planning in place so that we have a playbook to follow when new folks arrive in town.

**14.** H.R. 8433, introduced by Congressman Lofgren and Senator Padilla, revises the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929. The act allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant lawful permanent resident status to individuals who have been in the US since the registry date - which is currently January 1, 1972. Historically updates to the registry date have had bipartisan support with the last update happening under the Reagan Administration in 1986. This bill updates the date and changes it to a rolling cutoff so that an individual may qualify for lawful permanent resident status if they have been in the U.S. for at least seven years. This would benefit millions of undocumented Americans who currently have no path to citizenship, including DACA and TPS recipients and their family members, farm workers, and essential workers.

**a. Would you support a rolling update to the US Registry Act?**

Yes.

**b. Do you support a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented people?**

Yes.

**15.** Though the timeline is not clear yet, we expect the 5th circuit to rule negatively on DACA, possibly ending the program in its entirety. With a split Congress, we are doubtful that a federal solution will come in time to aid the 11 million undocumented people who have built lives here in the US.

**a. Do you believe leaders in Denver have a role to play to support DACA recipients in the wake of a negative supreme court decision?**

Yes.

**b. Within your elected role in Denver, what *specific* actions would you take to support the community in the wake of a negative DACA decision?**



As Mayor, Sen. Hansen would have different courses of action prepared for the different potential scenarios of potential final decisions. No matter how the Court decides the case, he would work with advocacy groups to figure out how to best support immigrant families.

16. As an immigrant rights coalition, our members have identified access to affordable and dignified housing as a top priority.

**a. If elected, what are you willing to do to expand access to affordable housing and to support Denver’s immigrant community and workforce to meet their housing needs?**

In the legislature, Sen. Hansen was the sponsor of a bill that created and secured funding for the Left Behind Workers Fund ([SB21-233](#)) and he made sure that it benefited folks who are not U.S. citizens. Also, he led the effort to get \$700 million in affordable housing funding at the state level to supercharge funding projects that include revolving loan funds and tax credits to build affordable housing. As Mayor, Sen. Hansen will work towards generating additional workforce housing and make sure the city can quickly take advantage of state and federal programs that we are currently losing out on.

**b. Immigrants have also identified cost of housing as a key issue impacting mental health, financial stability, and the overall wellbeing of our communities. With housing costs and costs of living far surpassing raises in wages, do you support local control on rent stabilization if the state repealed the ban on rent stabilization?**

No, Sen. Hansen does not support rent control because it ultimately leads to higher housing costs and a drastic reduction in housing supply because it stifles investment in housing development.

17. Denver recently announced plans to wind down the federally funded Emergency Rental Assistance Program due to limited federal funding<sup>6</sup>. With a budget of over \$130 million, this program helped around 14,000 Denver families stay housed and displacement by offering to cover rent and utility debts. Cost of living in Denver remains inaccessibly high for too many working class Denverites and evictions are steadily climbing.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://denverite.com/2022/12/02/denver-emergency-rental-assistance-application-deadline/>



- a. **Would you support Denver reinvesting in the program to provide rental assistance at similar levels to Denver residents?**

Sen. Hansen is certainly open to supporting that program, but the city budget does not have \$130 million available to displace the federal money. He supports the Rental Assistance Program, but replacing federal funding with city funding will be difficult to achieve at that level.

### **Connection to Community**

**Tell us more about the communities you work most closely with.**

- 18. What grassroots leaders and organizations are supporting your campaign? Who are you accountable to?**

As a legislator and as Denver's next Mayor, Chris Hansen is accountable to the voters of Denver. Organizations that have endorsed his campaign for Mayor include: Teamsters 17, Teamsters 455, Colorado Cleantech Industries, 314 Action, and he is under consideration for the support of many others currently.

- 19. What does co-governance mean to you? How do you hope to serve in partnership with the community as an elected official?**

To Sen. Hansen, co-governance means showing up and listening at the neighborhood and grassroots level. He has done this during his time in the legislature and he will continue to do this as Denver's next Mayor.