



## 2023 Denver Municipal 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:**

**Kelly Brough**

**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)**

**Sheila MacDonald**

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

[sheila@midggroup.com](mailto:sheila@midggroup.com)

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

**303-956-3605**

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

**Facebook- @kellybroughformayor**

**Instagram- @kellybroughdenver**

**Twitter- @kellybroughden**

**7. Campaign website**

**kellybrough.com**

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

I love Denver and I believe in the promise that this city holds. Unfortunately, we're not realizing that promise today. The challenges facing Denver are real and urgent and having significant impacts on people in all parts of Denver. We can't afford a leader with a learning curve. The next Mayor of Denver needs to be ready to make changes on Day 1. I know that my experiences – professional and personal – have prepared me well for this moment and these issues. My top three priorities as Mayor will be:

- Community Safety – I will ensure we are sending the right resources (mental health professionals and addiction experts) at the right time and free our officers up to respond to those true safety incidents where we critically need them. And we will address the drivers of crime to improve safety throughout Denver.

- Homelessness – I will end unsanctioned encampments in my first year in office, temporarily sanctioning camping locations, while I work together with cities and counties throughout our region, strengthen data systems to make smart decisions about where to invest resources to house and shelter people

and focus on prevention.

- Housing – I will build for-sale housing on city-owned property, incentivize transitioning the growing amount of vacant office space to residential units and increase density in strategically selected parts of the city, including along major transportation corridors. I will fundamentally change the City’s approach to development review, aligning and streamlining efforts in my first year, while pursuing the charter changes necessary to establish a new dedicated city agency for development review.

The [Issues Page](#) of my website includes [My Guiding Values](#) and will include policy papers on these and other topics. I encourage you to check it.

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

Voters rejected a proposal like this at the ballot in November 2022. I think it would be important to understand why. Further, I’m interested in exploring public support for up-stream solutions that prevent people from falling into the eviction process in the first place. I would prioritize rent assistance, as well as access to health care, child care, job search resources and other stabilizing supports that help people maintain stable housing.

## **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

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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/>

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. This is a good example of the kind of cross-sector collaboration – public, private and non-profit – that we need in order to tackle major challenges facing the region. I support the fund and would seek to build upon it as Mayor.

**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?**

Yes. I would work with The Denver Foundation to support fundraising efforts to expand the good work that the Fund supports. Building effective partnerships has been key to my work in the past and will be a hallmark of my administration.

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

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

undocumented Denverites and separation of Denver families through deportation.

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

Yes. I support ending the practice of “ICE notifications” in Denver. My impression from the public reporting on this issue was that all the City’s proactive engagement with federal ICE officials was ending. If that didn’t occur, I’d want to understand why not. My first priority would be to listen and learn.

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

I would seek out advice and input from stakeholder groups like yours to understand what else could or should be done.

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 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, I value and respect people’s right to privacy, regardless of their immigration status.

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[https://notechforice.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Sabotaging-Sanctuary\\_Final-Report\\_Design-4.pdf?l](https://notechforice.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Sabotaging-Sanctuary_Final-Report_Design-4.pdf?l)

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

I am not sure I understand the role that the city could play in limiting the activities of 3<sup>rd</sup> party, private sector entities, but am open to discussing what strategies and tactics you see as possibilities.

**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, I support Denver's efforts to support migrants, refugees, and other immigrants. As challenged as our country and our community is right now, we are still a beacon of hope and opportunity around the world. We, as Americans, are enriched by the gifts and talents of those who come to this country. We should embrace and support them.

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

Over the holidays, I volunteered at the Rude Park Recreation Center to meet some of these migrants and see the City's response first-hand. We should be proud of Denver's response to the influx of migrants this winter – we reacted with care and compassion and worked across the public and private sectors to raise resources and support people as best we could with the tools available to us. That said, I do worry about the city and the broader community's ability to sustain services and supports if we continue to see a consistent inflow of migrants. I think we need to pivot from crisis response to sustainability planning, in partnership with regional local governments, as well as our state and federal partners, to determine how we can continue this work most responsibly.

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

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

This experience highlights the urgency of fixing our broken immigration system. The migrants who came to Denver this winter were primarily Venezuelans, seeking humanitarian relief and safety from political violence. It will take months for the federal government to determine if they will receive refugee status. In the meantime, the migrants will be unable to work legally. Our economy needs workers, and these migrants are eager to work and earn a wage. It only makes sense given the mutual benefit that we figure out a way to allow migrants the opportunity to work while their status is pending. I will work to fix our broken immigration system at the federal level and create opportunities for people earn a living and contribute to our economy while they're here in Denver.

**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?**

I don't know a lot about the rolling update specifically, but I do strongly support providing a path to citizenship for the millions of immigrants who are living in, working for, and contributing to our country's success. This is an issue that I championed as President and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, where I developed a resolution our 55 member board adopted and then became a national model for other business advocacy groups around the country. It is critically important to Denver's community and economy that we create opportunities for people to earn a living and support themselves and their families.

**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 – absolutely.

**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?**

I would start by listening, partnering, and lifting up. I am an ally, but I don't know this struggle and I am not going to pretend to know what support would be most needed. I can commit today that I would use the power of my office and my platform to lift up the voices, perspectives, ideas of those who do know the struggle. And I'd carry their voices with me as part of federal advocacy efforts to respond in a meaningful way.

**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?**



We have a serious housing shortage for people of all backgrounds and incomes. My housing policies do not see a distinction based on immigration status. We need solutions that benefit people across the income spectrum,

particularly hard-working people do not qualify for most public assistance programs but struggle to make ends meet with today's high cost of living. My plans to ensure more housing – for rent and for sale, subsidized and market rate – include:

- Building more housing on underutilized, publicly owned land.
- Revitalizing downtown and surrounding neighborhoods by incenting and supporting the transition of commercial space to residential.
- Increasing density on major transportation corridors and at transit stations.
- Working with homeowners to maximize value of their property through accessory dwelling units.
- Fundamentally restructuring how development is reviewed and regulated.

**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. There is not evidence that rent control policies work in expanding access to affordable, stable housing. I do not support it.

**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

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

evictions are steadily climbing.

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

I am committed to partnering with community and finding solutions, but we must be honest with ourselves that the federal funding cliff is real and steep and is going to hurt. We need to focus on partnering with the private sector. Employers have a vested interest in ensuring their employees have stable, secure housing, so that they can most reliably engage in the workforce and be productive. I believe there is more that employers could and should be doing to offer rent and utility support to their teams. I have built public – private collaborative solutions like this before and will do so again.

## **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?**

I am accountable to the people of Denver. One piece of evidence to that end is that the new Fair Elections Fund was intended to reward those with grassroots support, and, through the end of January 2023, I am the candidate who has unlocked the greatest matching funds.

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

My whole career I have shared decision making with others and built collaborative partnerships to enable diverse voices to be heard at decision-making tables. For example, when I was serving as Chief of Staff to then-Mayor John Hickenlooper, I invited the city workforce to help us balance the budget in the wake of the 2009 Great Recession. It was a positive and constructive process that resulted in great suggestions, many of which were implemented. I believe in the importance of meaningful engagement, built on back-and-forth dialogue, honest, transparency and trust. I would seek to include stakeholders and community in all our work.