



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:

[Answer - Terrance Roberts](#)

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

[Answer - Democrat](#)

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

[Answer - Derrick Blanton campaign manager](#)



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

Answer - Terrance@TerranceRobertsforMayor.com

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

Answer - 720-477-8115

6. Campaign social media handles listed by platform

Answer - Instagram and TikTok ([@TerranceRobertsforMayor](https://www.instagram.com/TerranceRobertsforMayor))

Twitter ([@TRobforDenver](https://twitter.com/TRobforDenver)) - Facebook (Terrance Roberts for Mayor)

7. Campaign website

Answer - TerranceRobertsforMayor.com

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

Answer - To create more Public Social Housing. Create a Public Banking System. Make sure our Public Safety Budget is structured to address our cycle of poverty.

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

Answer - Yes I do support that.

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.¹ 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

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



residents with direct legal representation and affirmative relief services including support with DACA renewals and citizenship applications.² 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 I do.

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?

Make sure the city continues to fund the initiative and organizations who support the Defense Fund are also well supported.

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.³

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

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



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 I definitely do.

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

The mayor of Denver literally appoints the sheriff and sets the direction of the city’s relationship with ICE. As mayor I would not allow the sheriff’s department to cooperate with ICE in that fashion; it will be a policy directive. If violated that will be a direct violation of policy.

12. Our groundbreaking report titled, “**Sabotaging Sanctuary: How Data Brokers give ICE access to Colorado’s Data and Jails**,”⁴ 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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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 I definitely do.

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

Denver may need to end it's contracting with LexisNexis. If that does not happen, they definitely will not be able to have information that is essentially owned by the city, and should not be given to them in the first place.

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."⁵ 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 definitely do.

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

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



Not a good job considering this was to be expected within the course of this last decade this was something that could occur, and our housing situation was getting progressively worse. Placing people on cots in the Denver Mart or army tents isn't a good solution.

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

We need a real plan with resources and a safe space for newly arrived people that is voluntary and responsible for giving information and a step up for people who arrive from places they had to migrate from.

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 I do.

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

Yes I do.



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 I have family members who are DACA recipients and they live in fear. Humans deserve safety and security and those wanting to end DACA are simply being mean spirited and racist.

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?

Making sure Denver is a true Sanctuary City. Making sure there is housing, rent controls, food security, and other resources will ensure our DACA family members and neighbors feel welcomed and safe. If you live in Denver, it's your home.

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?

I just answered this above coincidentally. Denver needs more Public Social Housing, not just affordable housing. After having a roof over your head and a safe space to gather your resources and make a plan, then a family can move into affordable housing. We also need a Public Banking



System to pay for it and to democratize our banking to our migrant neighbors.

- 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?**

Yes, as soon as Governor Polis signs the bill into law, I will immediately implement it at a municipal level.

17. Denver recently announced plans to wind down the federally funded Emergency Rental Assistance Program due to limited federal funding⁶. 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.

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

Yes I will. Cost of living is the cause of many of our other issues, especially with our domestic violence youth violence situation here in our city.

Connection to Community

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

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



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

My community based organization Frontline Party for Revolutionary Action (FPRA) organized over 3 dozen actions from 2019-2022 for justice for Alexis Mendez Perez, Elijah McClain, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other victims. We attended several actions at the GEO Center as well. Vinny Cervantes (Founder of STAR Program) - Christabelle Guevara (FPRA) - Jeff Campbell (Emancipation Theater) - Kathy Karam (FPRA) - Amy Kaafuma (Community Reentry Support), and many more community leaders support my candidacy.

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

Governance is being a true public servant, period. Having an elected position means you are trusted with decision making and resources that affect thousands of people's lives and futures. Working with the community is working with your boss and supervisors. Any eclectic officials not working with or following the directive of the community, should not be in office.