



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:** [Trinidad Rodriguez](#)
2. **What is the candidate's party affiliation, regardless of whether the race is partisan or non-partisan?** [Democrats](#)
3. **Who should we contact if we have questions? (i.e. name of campaign manager, if applicable)** [Brooke Brown](#)



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

info@trinidad4denver.com

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

[720-659-8771](tel:720-659-8771)

6. Campaign social media handles listed by platform

Facebook: [Trinidad Rodriguez for Denver Mayor](#) Twitter: [@trinidad4denver](#)

Instagram: [trinidad_for_denver](#)

7. Campaign website www.trinidad4denver.com

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

I was born and raised in west Denver by a single mom. It was a community rich in love though money was tight. Growing up, we confronted the effects of housing insecurity, addiction, violence, and mental health struggles.

Like many Denverites, this city helped my mom and me through tough times, and I wanted to pay it forward. That's why I've spent the last 25 years volunteering and in my finance career working with local nonprofits and civic groups, securing funding for schools, health clinics and affordable housing communities. That sets me apart from the other candidates.

Denver is facing significant challenges including homelessness, public safety, and affordability, but I won't stop fighting because I believe in this city. We can't keep doing the same thing and expect different results. It's time for my vision to build a city where every Denverite, regardless of their neighborhood, can achieve their version of success.



On the Issues

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

9. 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 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

- 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?**

I will challenge our philanthropic community to explore how this program can expand with valued nonprofit partners that ably serve immigrant communities.

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

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



10. 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

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?**

I will be committed to ending all police collaboration with ICE in Denver; constitutionally our local law enforcement should not be carrying out the work of federal agencies and I will enforce that as mayor.

11. Our groundbreaking report titled, “**Sabotaging Sanctuary: How Data Brokers give ICE access to Colorado’s Data and Jails**,”⁴ shows how ICE contracted

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

⁴

https://notechforice.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Sabotaging-Sanctuary_Final-Report_Design-4.pdf?ink_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



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

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

Assess the data contract with the State’s jail alert system for compliance with Denver’s ordinance. If it is not compliant, steps must be taken by the State to comply and protect Denver’s data except as required by state or federal law.

12. 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

- 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/>



Denver responded to newly arrived immigrants with rapid shelter and other support with compassion and humanity.

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

I will develop a program of support that offers migrants more time than just two weeks to stay in shelters for those who are particularly interested in exploring Denver as a place to settle.

13. 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

14. 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?**

I will immediately call upon our delegation to pass an Act of Congress protecting now DACA-eligible individuals from deportation and a continuation of their employment status. I will offer DACA recipients the opportunity to join in petitioning Congress with testimonials and other evidence and provide the means to collect and transmit such materials. I will use my position to recruit and organize business, faith, education and other leaders to join in our effort to mobilize Congress and work with leaders around the state to coordinate efforts.

15. **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 will accelerate the creation of total housing supply and its diversity, particularly housing stock to meet the needs of the workforce and lowest income families. Having served on the board of Denver Housing Authority for over 11 years, I helped lead the organization through its first affordable housing bond backed by the city of Denver to speed up the delivery of 5,000 units in Sun Valley, Westridge and other neighborhoods, and open new opportunities in permanent supportive housing land banking. Denver should innovate this approach to support this development amidst today's market realities.



My involvement on the Blueprint Denver Task Force for three years and knowledge of capital and development markets have positioned him to catalyze private sector momentum in the supply of so-called missing middle housing types that can be priced to be affordable to moderate income households. These can be built in medium and medium-low density along high frequency transit corridors and nodes becoming a large-scale opportunity for our city.

Denver also needs to cut red tape and accelerate the permitting process, which involves investing in logistics plans and accountability, which can be through independent contracting and/or resource alignment.

- 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

16. 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

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/>



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

I have a strong record of volunteering with Denver nonprofits including the Urban Peak, the Denver Housing Authority, the Colorado Fiscal Institute, the New America School, and the Downtown Denver Partnership. As an investment banker, I've done financing of schools, hospitals, housing and clinics for Denver Health, Denver Public Schools, and colleges and universities across the US. All of these are non-profit or governmental agencies that are prohibited from candidate endorsements.

In all my volunteer and professional and volunteer work, I've built teams and managed them with great efficacy to deliver results and goals of my partners and clients.

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

Co-governance is a way for residents to be involved in shaping policies that affect their daily lives. I am interested in exploring it because I want to initiate it in our most disadvantaged areas with residents who have not been invited to participate in neighborhood organizations or other civic groups as opposed to putting out a call for participants that the usual active civic leaders attend. I want to hear from residents who are rarely if ever asked for input.