



Kelly Brough | Candidate for Mayor

Interview Takeaway: Kelly Brough, most recently known for her leadership of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, feels well positioned for the Mayoral seat because of her experience as the Chief of Staff during the Hickenlooper Administration and extensive experience working at the City and County of Denver as Legislative Analyst for City Council and Director of Career Services. Kelly has spent her entire career at the intersection of public, private and non-profit interests which she believes well-positions her to hit the ground running on day one as Mayor. To address the public health crisis facing Downtown, Kelly intends to identify locations across the city for sanctioned camping while the City builds the infrastructure for permanent housing. She would also work to transform over-night shelters into 24-hour facilities. Kelly intends to set and lead a culture at the City which is responsive to what Denver needs right now, including clarity of goal for each department, accountability and support to reach the goal, and recognition when they do.

Top 5 Issues Facing Downtown

1. *Reactivation of Downtown*
2. *Community Safety*
3. *Homelessness*
4. *Housing*
5. *Transportation & Infrastructure*

Key Positions

Will you uphold and enforce the unauthorized camping ordinance?

Yes

Do you support expansion of the Denver Police Department?

Yes

View their full response to our candidate questionnaire to read more about these issues and more including housing, homelessness, and investment in Downtown Denver.

[HERE »](#)

Plan to Address Top Priority Issue

“The successes and struggles of downtown Denver impact the entire region and the entire state. And the revitalization of Denver encompasses all the other major issues facing Denver. Therefore, it is critical that the next Mayor of Denver makes downtown revitalization a key priority. I plan to do so, and DDP is the key partner given your mission and the resources devoted to addressing these issues today. Revitalizing downtown starts with making sure our residents and visitors feel safe. I am committed to ensuring, between DDP and the City, we have the officers we need downtown. I will focus on filling the approximately 150 vacancies in Denver Police Department and expanding the co-responder and STAR programs, so we free up sworn officers to focus on real crime, while providing residents in crisis with more appropriate support. Second, we must meaningfully address homelessness. My plan to end unsanctioned camping within my first year in office by focusing on housing and sheltering and taking a data-drive, regional approach has been endorsed by five metro-area mayors. Third, I will begin immediately working with private sector partners to convert some existing downtown office space to residential to ensure activity in the urban core seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Finally, my administration will partner with DDP to ensure successful completion of the 16th Street Mall revitalization project. As the backbone of our downtown, this is a critical priority and exciting opportunity for our city that I will champion.”

Leadership Style + Attributes

“My unique set of public, private and non-profit sector experiences have prepared me to effectively lead Denver beginning on Day 1. I say that for three reasons. First, this is an executive job and I have executive experience. I have successfully led large and complex organizations in both the public and private sectors. I understand what it is to develop and operationalize policies, build and support teams and deliver projects and programs that improve outcomes. Second, I know Denver inside and out. I served as Chief of Staff to then-Mayor John Hickenlooper, have staffed City Council and ran the City’s personnel department. I understand both sides of the Council / Mayor relationship, have experience balancing the budget and have taken the middle-of-the-night phone calls on public safety issues. Third, through my lived experiences, I have developed empathy and understanding for people facing adversity. My family has been victimized by violent crime and impacted by addiction and suicide. We received public assistance when I was young after my dad was injured on the job as a laborer and I relied on a public education to prepare me for my career. I believe in the resiliency of the human spirit because I’ve lived it. I know that people deserve opportunity and support to achieve their full potential.”

Public Health + Public Safety

“Community safety is about much more than emergency response – it is about creating the conditions that enable people to thrive. We must have successful strategies to address housing and health care, education, and economic opportunity, if we are going to make Denver a safer community. As such, I will ensure that everyone in my cabinet understands the role they play in our community safety strategy and will seek to build a collaborative team focused on shared responsibility for reaching the goal. Further, I believe the private sector can make meaningful contributions to addressing these drivers of community safety, particularly in helping address housing and economic opportunity for Denverites. I look forward to engaging business leaders in this work as well.”