

MICHAEL B. HANCOCK

Mayor



“Being the Mayor of Denver has been one of the greatest honors of my life and I have been grateful for the partnership with the DDP. Over the course of my time as Mayor, my team and I – alongside the community we serve – have been working on plans and building teams of experts to achieve some bold goals. No other candidate has my experience, track record, budget plan or understanding of the ways in which the city departments work in tandem to keep this city moving. I am proud of everything we have accomplished in these last eight years, and I am truly excited about the opportunities we have to deliver a more welcoming, modern and progressive city.”

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INTERVIEW TAKEAWAYS

As the incumbent candidate, Mayor Michael B. Hancock is looking to sustain the momentum that’s been created in Denver and take it to the next level. He is running for a third term because he believes that as a City we have a lot of work to continue and he wants to finish job that he started. Mayor Hancock’s priorities are affordable housing, building out multimodal network, homelessness and sustainability. If re-elected, Mayor Hancock will look to ignite energy and opportunity in the city with a focus on becoming more inclusive and equitable. He says he is excited about addressing challenges. In addition, Mayor Hancock believes we are not focusing enough on supporting small businesses across the City. He says the more we focus on small business, the more successful we will be. Mayor Hancock sees an abundance of opportunity rather than an abundance of deficits in our growing City and looks forward to building upon this momentum in his next term as Mayor.

TRANSPORTATION

“To keep Denver accessible, affordable and equitable, residents must be able to get around the city easier with more transportation options. I launched a Mobility Action Plan that will invest \$2 billion to address Denver’s congestion and accelerate projects, policies and programs to move more people, more efficiently and more safely.

This includes ensuring our streets learn to share giving more people safe, reliable options such as mass transit, bikes, scooters and pedestrian paths. My Mobility Action Plan addresses the ways in which we can embrace these types of transit and make them easier to access from all parts of the city.

To help encourage this behavior, we are working with RTD to increase priority routes on main corridors – including a new Colfax Rapid Transit express route. We have added miles of protected bike lanes and paths. Improved signs, signals, striping and paving throughout the city to make it easier for pedestrians and wheelchairs to get around. We have joined the Vision Zero program with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities by 2030.”

PARKS, PUBLIC SPACES & AN OUTDOOR DOWNTOWN

“Our downtown is more than just a series of buildings, streets and lights – it’s where we come together to enjoy culture, have fun, gather as a community, express ourselves as a city and create memories. Because these downtown spaces are the most heavily used in the city – by residents, tourists and the workforce – they deserve a corresponding level of service. That’s why my administration has increased funding for park maintenance, upkeep and security in our downtown parks. It’s also why we are placing a renewed focus on downtown’s parks and public spaces through the Outdoor Downtown Plan, to elevate these experiences for the tens of thousands of residents, employees and tourists in our downtown every day.

The Outdoor Downtown Plan identifies thoughtful proposals to increase not just green space but public spaces for residents, employees and tourists. We need to strengthen existing and develop new public-private partnerships as development continues downtown to leverage the opportunity for additional green space.”

BUILDING A STRONG DOWNTOWN

“There is a symbiotic relationship between the city’s downtown and neighborhoods that makes Denver the vibrant, progressive city that we all love. As Mayor, I have worked hard to ensure our downtown core remains vibrant. This is all while working to create complete communities throughout Denver and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to thrive.

The city’s investment has gone well beyond the financial to include collaborative problem-solving and opportunity-planning. Through this work, we have had many successes and lessons learned, and ultimately, we have set our downtown on a path to not just be the bellwether but to serve as a national model. Together, we have retained and grown downtown’s employment and residential bases, created safety net solutions unique to the population, and piloted some of the most progressive ideas in the country. And we have established thoughtful downtown-specific plans for mobility, parks and public space, land use, retail, and safety.”

GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

“We are making Denver the most equitable and inclusive city in the U.S. by increasing wages, expanding access to affordable housing and connecting our most vulnerable residents to the resources they need to find stability – housing, meals, substance abuse treatment and mental health care. We are creating new opportunities for local businesses, minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses. And we are committed to preserving the history, culture and diversity of our neighborhoods.

We are making Denver the most welcoming city in America by fighting for civil rights, for criminal justice reform and to protect immigrants and refugees in the face of a hostile Trump administration.

And we are making Denver the most modern and progressive city by implementing new technologies, new transportation options, protecting our climate, moving toward 100% renewable electricity, building new parks and open space and creating better opportunities for our kids.

My vision is a home, a job and a future for everyone.”

INITIATIVE 300: OPPOSED

“I grew up in Denver as one of ten kids, raised by a single mom in public housing. I know firsthand the pain of poverty and homelessness. There were many times when we didn’t know where we were going to sleep or if we would have enough to eat. I am committed to fighting for Denver’s most vulnerable people so that everyone has access to a home, a job and a future.

Currently, Denver invests nearly \$50 million annually toward direct and indirect services to those experiencing homelessness. These include affordable housing, supportive housing services, street outreach workers, and transportation to and from our shelters. I recognize and value the DDP’s committed work and strong advocacy for increased services and funding to support the most vulnerable in our city.

This is important and impactful work, but we know we can and most do better. This is particularly true when it comes to preventing homelessness, to serving those who utilize our shelters, and to aiding those who remain unsheltered on our streets. However, Initiative 300 is not the answer. We need to continue fighting the opioid crisis with fervor and compassion. We need to continue investing in shelters, meal programs, services that connect individuals to critical resources, and programs that allow people to thrive.

I’m opposed to Initiative 300 because I will never be convinced that it’s dignified for people to sleep on the street. I will never accept the risks of needles in our parks or trash accumulating in our streets.”