

# 2017 Aurora Municipal Election

I  vote

# Aurora

## Aurora City Council Ward III & At-Large Candidate Survey 2017 Voter Guide



Mark Your Calendars!  
And VOTE

Oct. 16th – Ballots mailed

Nov. 7th – Election Day  
ballots must be received by 7pm.  
Postmarks don't count

24/7 ballot drop off locations

Aurora Municipal Center  
15151 E. Alameda Parkway

Aurora Motor Vehicle Office  
3449 N. Chambers Rd.

Aurora Center for Active Adults  
30 Del Mar Circle

For more info on registering to vote go to:  
[www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com)

Your voice & vote matters

## Aurora City Council Elections

The Aurora City Council is made up of an elected mayor and 10 elected council members. Of those 10 members, six are ward council members, representing one of the six wards that section the city. The remaining four council members are elected at large, like the mayor, to represent the entire city.

This November, City Council members representing Ward I, II and III and two at-large members will be elected.

City Council members serve for 4 year terms.



CCJRC submitted a candidate survey to all the candidates running for City Council in Ward III and At-Large

The responses we received by the deadline are included in alphabetical order in this Voter Guide, including:

### Ward III Candidates

Debi Hunter-Holen  
Martha Lugo  
Naquetta Ricks

### At-Large Candidates (2 will be elected)

Brian Arnold  
Reid Hettich  
Allison Hiltz  
Abel Laeke  
Thomas Tobiassen

We hope this helps you learn more about each candidate. We greatly thank the candidates for responding.

*Founded in 1999, the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) is a community-based nonprofit organization. Through our civic engagement campaigns, we hope to help inform and encourage people to use their voice and vote! To learn more, go to [www.ccjrc.org](http://www.ccjrc.org)*

## What does City Council do?

The Aurora City Council is the City's primary legislative body. It is responsible for adopting the city budget, approving mayoral appointees, and making or amending city policies and ordinances.

*CCJRC publishes this Aurora City Council Voter Guide for educational purposes only. The views expressed by the incumbent do not necessarily reflect the perspective of CCJRC nor does CCJRC endorse any candidates.*



# Debi Hunter-Holen

## Candidate Ward III

<http://www.debihunterholen.com/>

### 1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?

- Not at all Concerned
- Slightly concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- X Moderately concerned**
- Extremely concerned

#### Additional Comment:

- *The POC that find themselves in the legal system frequently cannot make bail*
- *Most cannot afford adequate legal counsel*
- *High-crime areas frequently are in lower socio-economic areas*

### 2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as “sanctuary policies”.

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- X Strongly support**
- Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Very much in favor of community policing in all communities. This builds trust between law enforcement and communities they serve, resulting in lower crime.*

### 3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- 5. X Strongly support**
- Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Criminal history should not be a barrier for employment.*

### 4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- X Strongly support**
- Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*90% of those who participate in this program have a smaller recidivism rate. This would include the veterans.*

**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. Job creation and training
2. More community involvement in crime prevention-neighborhood organizations
3. Fund youth programs that have measurable positive results

**Additional Comment:**

*Crime prevention starts with early childhood involvement, and a development of programs that actually work in preventing our youth from criminal activities*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- Not at all concerned       Slightly concerned       Somewhat concerned       Moderately concerned       **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*Being innovative with private entities and developers can create unique opportunities for attainable, quality housing.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of “School Resource Officers” in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as “The School-to-Prison Pipeline.” Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- Strongly don't support       Somewhat don't support       Neutral       Somewhat support       **Strongly support**       Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*SRO's frequently report to schools of criminal activity a student is involved in outside of school time which creates a nexus which results in lengthy suspensions and or expulsions.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

Affordable housing is a critical issue facing Aurora. With creative thinking involving multiple players, Aurora can create great opportunities for home ownership. Job internships and trainings is another area that is crucial to the residents of Aurora. With these efforts, housing opportunities are attainable. While the city is not responsible for school district governance, building relationships between elected school board members and city council members is critical for improving such issues as after-school programs and better relationships with law enforcement.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified candidate to represent Ward III on City Council.**

My extensive experience with having served on city council for four years has prepared me well for representing the residents of Ward III. Coupled with my 28 years in Aurora Public Schools and my active involvement in community organizations, I know well the needs and concerns of Ward III. My ability to collaboratively work with other organizations and programs to better the constituency of aurora is without peer. My record of community involvement is an example of the broad range of community issues that I have been involved in during my 37 years in Aurora.



# Martha Lugo

## Candidate Ward III

<http://www.marthalugoforaurora.com/>

### 1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?

- Not at all Concerned    
  Slightly concerned    
  Somewhat concerned    
  Moderately concerned    
 **Extremely concerned**

#### Additional Comment:

*I witnessed the disparity while a probation officer (2000-2010 in Colorado). As a society, we must do more to change this pattern.*

### 2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as “sanctuary policies”.

- Strongly don't support    
  Somewhat don't support    
  Neutral    
  Somewhat support    
 **Strongly support**    
 Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*We must enact policies that protect our immigrants no matter their status. Studies show that immigrant communities are safer. They should not live in fear.*

### 3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?

- Strongly don't support    
  Somewhat don't support    
  Neutral    
  Somewhat support    
 **Strongly support**    
 Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Yes! We must give people a fair chance. Making mistakes in their past should not bar them for life from pursuing better opportunities.*

### 4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?

- Strongly don't support    
  Somewhat don't support    
  Neutral    
  Somewhat support    
 **Strongly support**    
 Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Yes, I know all too well that the system does not help this population, rather it creates more roadblocks. These programs are effective and a better solution.*

**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. After school programming for kids and teens plus youth engagement programs
2. Community policing engagement initiatives to improve relationships with the community
3. Diversion programs for petty offenses and misdemeanors including minor drug offenses

**Additional Comment:**

*A sense of belonging and acceptance is often what pushes teens to commit offenses. Extra-curricular activities can serve as outlets and sense of purpose.*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- Not at all concerned       Slightly concerned       Somewhat concerned       Moderately concerned       **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*We must create income based housing and place rent caps on these properties. We must remove greed to stop pricing out our residents.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of “School Resource Officers” in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as “The School-to-Prison Pipeline.” Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- Strongly don't support       Somewhat don't support       Neutral       **Somewhat support**       Strongly support       Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*If proper retraining could be attained, I believe it would be successful. Otherwise, I support the removal of SRO's.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

Very difficult because there are many pressing issues in Aurora. 1. Attainable housing that is truly affordable for all, not everyone can afford to live in Aurora and it's creating a problem-people are being pushed out of their homes. 2. Work toward providing solutions to our homelessness issues, the city must invest in long range solutions to prevent homelessness. 3. Bring better paying jobs and work to increase the minimum wage in Aurora. Large corporations are not helping by paying poverty wages, we must hold them accountable and not allow them to contribute to the problem.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified candidate to represent Ward III on City Council.**

I am the most qualified candidate because I am an average, everyday person with my own struggles, and feel like I do not have a voice on city council. I do not take contributions from with corporate funders, I will answer to the people and not to corporations. I am a servant leader who plans to co-govern with my community, I will build relationships with my constituents and vote for the people every single time. I am not in love with power or money and will be an effective voice for the people. I will always put people over profit.



# Naquetta Ricks

## Candidate Ward III

<http://www.ricksforaurora.com/>

### 1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?

- Not at all Concerned     Slightly concerned     Somewhat concerned     Moderately concerned     **Extremely concerned**

#### Additional Comment:

*People of color are disproportionately thrown into the criminal justice system because institutions (school to prison pipeline and criminal justice system) of racism have set that course for them unjustly.*

### 2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as “sanctuary policies”.

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*As an immigrant, we need to ensure that all the residents of Aurora feel safe in public spaces and can report abuse and issues without fear and threats of deportation.*

### 3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Not allowing people to work after paying their debt to society and serving time is setting them up for failure and counterproductive to society as a whole.*

### 4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*These are progressive steps that Aurora Police Department can implement to help reform the criminal justice system*

**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. Education
2. Mental health programs
3. Substance abuse programs

**Additional Comment:**

*We need better schools and programs that understand the needs of the students. We need to address the issues of trauma, substance abuse and mental health within our community.*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- Not at all concerned       Slightly concerned       Somewhat concerned       Moderately concerned       **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*We need to create a public-private partnership that offers a multi-pronged approach to ensure that those who call Aurora home can afford to live here. All people deserve access to a home.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of “School Resource Officers” in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as “The School-to-Prison Pipeline.” Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- Strongly don't support       Somewhat don't support       Neutral       **Somewhat support**       Strongly support       Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*We need to focus more on restorative justice in schools, so that youth 13 to 18 are not placed in the criminal justice system. We all have been kids and made bad decisions, that shouldn't follow you forever.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

1. Making smart, responsible decision now to invest in our City's future that can grow aurora's economy and foster a better quality of life for all.
2. Create good paying jobs here in Aurora in all industries including construction, technology, clean energy, and healthcare.
3. Putting in a Veterans initiative to help increase jobs for Veterans.
4. Bridge the gap between communities through initiatives that encourage participation, collaboration, and shared prosperity for all. I want to ensure the voices of all Ward III residents are heard.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified candidate to represent Ward III on City Council.**

I am most qualified to represent Ward III because I represent the community. I am an immigrant and refugee, small business owner, and a working class single mother. In my interactions with constituents in Ward III I have come across people who face the very same things I have. For far too long now, many in Ward III have been left voiceless, that will change because I will be a strong advocate for ALL residents. I have spent years working in my community too at a grassroots level, I am now ready to fight for my community on a higher level.



CCJRC sent the survey to all Ward III candidates but did not receive a response from the following by the deadline. We include their websites for information.

**Ward III**

Marsha Berzins <http://www.marshaberzins.com/>  
Robert Hargrove <https://www.robertlhargrove.com/>

\* \* \* \* \*

The next section includes the survey responses from four of the candidates running for an At-Large seat on Aurora City Council. Two of these candidates will be elected.

At-Large Candidates

Brian Arnold  
Reid Hettich  
Allison Hiltz  
Abel Laeke  
Thomas Tobiassen

CCJRC sent the survey to all At-Large candidates but did not receive a response from the following by the deadline. We include their websites for information.

**At-Large**

Dave Gruber <http://www.gruberforaurora.com/>  
Timothy Huffman <http://timhuffman.org/>  
Russell Wagner <https://www.wagnerforcouncil.com/>



# Brian Arnold

## At-Large Candidate

<https://www.arnoldforaurora.com/>

### 1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?

- Not at all Concerned
- Slightly concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Moderately concerned**
- Extremely concerned

#### Additional Comment:

*I am African American and don't know many of us that have been not impacted by this crisis. The school to prison pipeline must be stopped. This is going to take leadership and a community effort.*

### 2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as "sanctuary policies".

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral**
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support
- Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Police are responsible to protect and serve everyone. They are not ICE agents and everyone in the community deserves the same protection.*

### 3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support**
- Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Each person is unique and so is their situation and many of us need second chances. Disqualification on paper doesn't allow for a person to prove themselves.*

### 4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support**
- Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*Our jails are full. Let’s find a way to help people no just lock them away. This program is designed for just that.*

**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. More officers and more officers of color
2. Gang Prevention and Early childhood Education (community and relationship building).
3. Trauma informed care classes for all officers.

**Additional Comment:**

*Our city is too big not to have a greater number of officers that are well trained for the diversity in our community. We also need to have officers out in the community.*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately concerned | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Extremely concerned</b> |
|---|---|---|---|--|

**Additional Comment:**

*People need a place to stay. When they don’t crime goes up and our communities suffer as a result.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of “School Resource Officers” in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as “The School-to-Prison Pipeline.” Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- |   |   |                                  |   |   |   |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strongly don’t support</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat don’t support | <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat support | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support | <input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know – need more information |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|

**Additional Comment:**

*Having a person who cares about kids doesn’t contribute to committing crimes. The officer should be education as well, maybe helping teach a criminal justice class.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

1. Public safety. We need to keep everyone safe.
2. Affordable Housing. Everyone should have a place to live
3. Transportation. Everyone should be able to move around on our streets with ease and not be worried about car repair bills.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified At-Large candidate to represent Aurora on City Council.**

I come with a unique perspective. As a teacher and a man of color, I can offer City Council what it doesn’t have...”representation.” I run a homeless service organization and spend a lot of my time in Ward II. I understand the needs and how to make sure the residents of Ward III and the whole city have the best quality of life possible.



# Reid Hettich

## At-Large Candidate

### 1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?

- Not at all Concerned
- Slightly concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Moderately concerned
- Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*It is clear that our system and people within our system have failed to provide equal justice for all. We must work hard to root out both the systemic causes and the people that continue to plague our community.*

### 2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as “sanctuary policies”.

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral**
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support
- Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*What is meant by sanctuary policies or sanctuary cities is not clearly defined. In general, I believe local municipalities must follow the federal laws, but not give any additional aid to ICE. Additionally, we must pressure our Federal Elected Official to pass comprehensive Immigration Reform as soon as possible.*

### 3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support
- Don't know – need more information**

**Additional Comment:**

*It would seem that if the information is eventually requested, we'd only be delaying the inevitable. I'd like to hear the argument for policy change.*

### 4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?

- Strongly don't support
- Somewhat don't support
- Neutral
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support**
- Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*Aurora should take the lead in exploring effective ways to solve the deeper issues rather than simply incarcerating people.*

**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. Community policing
2. School Resource Officers
3. Creative Crime Prevention Strategies

**Additional Comment:**

*Some of the best use of our dollars would be in preventing crime.*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- Not at all concerned     
  Slightly concerned     
  Somewhat concerned     
  Moderately concerned     
  **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*Housing is becoming less and less affordable. Many of lower income neighbors are being forced to look for housing in other communities or to stay in housing that is of an unacceptable quality. We need to work hard to make sure that a wide spectrum of housing options are available in our community.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of “School Resource Officers” in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as “The School-to-Prison Pipeline.” Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- Strongly don’t support**     
  Somewhat don’t support     
  Neutral     
  Somewhat support     
  Strongly support     
  Don’t know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*Properly trained, SRO’s should actually prevent “the School-to-Prison Pipeline”.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

1. Public safety. Ensuring a safe city where Police, Fire and emergency services are given the respect, training, budget and accountability to get the job done correctly.
2. Empowering Neighbors. Building a community where diversity is valued and leveraged for the common good.
3. Affordable Housing. Creating guidelines and processes for affordable housing for our neighbors.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified At-Large candidate to represent Aurora on City Council.**

I am the most qualified candidate for the At Large seat on City Council because I have a very broad range of friends and neighbors...from the rich and powerful to immigrant, refugees and people experiencing homelessness. I have also demonstrated the interest and ability to bring people together from every sector to identify problems, investigate solutions and implement programs that will address those issues.



# Allison Hiltz

## At-Large Candidate

<http://allisonhiltz.com/meet-allison/>

### 1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?

- Not at all Concerned     Slightly concerned     Somewhat concerned     Moderately concerned     **X Extremely concerned**

#### Additional Comment:

*There is no doubt that there is systematic and institutionalized racism in our criminal justice system and I support efforts to reform it.*

### 2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as “sanctuary policies”.

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **X Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*I support sanctuary cities. I am the only at-large candidate to publicly support such policies.*

### 3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **5. X Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Criminal history should not preclude someone from seeking employment, however criminal history may be relevant for the job applied for (i.e. sex offenders working with children).*

### 4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **X Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*In addition to supporting alternative sentencing, I am a proponent of alternatives to arrest when possible because of the long-term impacts a record can have.*

**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. Improving access to capital for minority-owned businesses
2. Eviction assistance programs
3. Boost alternative sentencing programs

**Additional Comment:**

*Focusing on helping, rather than punishing, people and increasing access to build wealth can foster a greater sense of economic security and stability.*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- Not at all concerned       Slightly concerned       Somewhat concerned       Moderately concerned       **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*In addition to a lack of affordable housing, we need to bring up wages. Current housing is not in-line with average incomes and is a problem.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of “School Resource Officers” in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as “The School-to-Prison Pipeline.” Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- Strongly don't support       Somewhat don't support       Neutral       Somewhat support       Strongly support       **Don't know – need more information**

**Additional Comment:**

*I have grave concerns about police presence in schools leading to entry in the juvenile justice system. I would like to learn more but oppose the school to prison pipeline.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

**Accessibility:** Until all of our community members have a seat at the table, we cannot enact good policies that benefit all of aurora. But to do that, we need to improve access by having translators at Council meetings and live-streaming Ward meetings.

**Affordability:** We need to both ensure affordable housing options in the bidding process and increase wages.

**Inclusivity:** This includes protecting our immigrant population and combatting racial discrimination in the criminal justice system.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified At-Large candidate to represent Aurora on City Council.**

In my career as a policy associate, I focus on incorporating facts and evidence into the policymaking process. But more than that, I understand the challenges many Aurorans face. I, too, work paycheck to paycheck, I know the burden student loans place on us. I have watched as housing costs have risen and pushed my own family out of our community. I love this city, but we have a long way to go and I want to be a voice for those who are too often pushed out of the process.



# Abel Laeke

## At-Large Candidate

<http://abellaeke.com/>

**1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?**

- Not at all Concerned     Slightly concerned     Somewhat concerned     Moderately concerned     **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*I believe this overrepresentation of people of color is a systemic effort to segregate the said population. This segregation is evident when a person with a criminal record cannot sign leases, and pass background checks for employment, and amongst other factors separating classes in society.*

**2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as “sanctuary policies”.**

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*I support legislation that protects immigrant rights at all levels to include the municipal level. I support a center dedicated to educating what rights our immigrants have and how to apply for citizenship.*

**3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?**

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*Background checks should not play any role in any private or public role of evaluating a person's readiness to perform any duty. A person with a criminal record may have paid his/her debt to society and should be absolved of any retribution.*

**4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?**

- Strongly don't support     Somewhat don't support     Neutral     Somewhat support     **Strongly support**     Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*Mental health is a delicate issue and should be treated as so. A mentally ill person is a person one who is at risk of hurting themselves. Any program that aids in securing the health and wellbeing of our at risk population I will support.*



**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. Citizen Review Board
2. Education
3. Outreach

**Additional Comment:**

*These three choices lead to more accountability and awareness with these two fundamental issues in the fold I believe we provide the residents with better public safety. As well, these choices will provide the residents the incumbency of safe neighborhoods.*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- Not at all concerned       Slightly concerned       Somewhat concerned       Moderately concerned       **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*Because of the lack of affordable housing we are experiencing an epidemic homelessness issue. Being fully employed with the current average income in Aurora a person cannot afford a 1 bedroom apartment. I believe we need to accept the federal monies to fund affordable housing project.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of “School Resource Officers” in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as “The School-to-Prison Pipeline.” Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- Strongly don't support       Somewhat don't support       Neutral       Somewhat support       **Strongly support**       Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*Officers in the class room is a preventable reaction to some of the issues occurring in public schools. I believe that if there are behavioral issues within the school that the teachers should and are trained to handle any issues. I do not support officers in the classrooms.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

If I am elected to City Council one my priority would be to improve our public safety systems. Initially by improving relations of our aggrieved residents and the police force. I will also implement a police review board to facilitate better service and more oversight. Secondly, I'd like to usher in measures to help bring more affordable housing to our city. I believe that with all new construction projects we can make housing more affordable by adjusting how these projects are funded. And lastly, I'd like to use some of the City's windfall of monies in the budget to fund more educational and art projects. A more educated citizenry will bring a lasting effort of understanding. While art can bring more appreciation to our communities as a whole.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified At-Large candidate to represent Aurora on City Council.**

My life experiences have brought me to want to be a servant of the people. I will follow the will of the people at every step. There are many challenging issues that our communities face and I willing to meet those challenges with fortitude. I will do all the outreach necessary to bring good governance to the council. If chosen I will lead to the best of my abilities with efficacy and due diligence.



# Tom Tobiassen

## At-Large Candidate

<http://www.tom4aurora.com/index.html>

### 1. How concerned you are about the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system?

- Not at all Concerned    
  Slightly concerned    
  Somewhat concerned    
  Moderately concerned    
 **Extremely concerned**

#### Additional Comment:

I will work to bring good companies that offer good paying jobs that build strong families to Aurora. I believe that strong families that raise great kids start with respectable, sustainable jobs for our young men and women. I also believe that access to good education and home ownership build strong, sustainable families.

### 2. What is your opinion about local policies designed to protect immigrant communities that are often referred as “sanctuary policies”.

- Strongly don't support    
 Somewhat don't support    
 Neutral    
 Somewhat support    
 **Strongly support**    
 Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*Having discussed this issue with both Chief Metz and Arapahoe County Sheriff Welcher, I support the policies they have both adopted.*

### 3. Would you support or not support Aurora revising its municipal hiring policies so that employment applications did not require people to disclose a criminal history and that criminal history information would only be requested if an applicant is selected as a finalist?

- Strongly don't support    
 Somewhat don't support    
 **Neutral**    
 Somewhat support    
 Strongly support    
 Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*At RTD we did not do background checks or drug testing until very late in the hiring process. Often offers are made pending the clearance of the various references checks, drug screening and background investigations. I would support a similar policy.*

### 4. In 2017, the state Legislature provided funding for several pilot programs for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) which diverts people with mental health or substance abuse treatment needs that are engaged in low-level offenses to treatment or other services rather than arrest and book them into jail. Would you support or not support the Aurora Police Department in applying to be a LEAD pilot site?

- Strongly don't support    
 Somewhat don't support    
 Neutral    
 Somewhat support    
 **Strongly support**    
 Don't know – need more information

#### Additional Comment:

*I support treatment for mental health of substance abuse issues before prison or jail.*

**5. In rank order, please list the top 3 things that you would increase funding for in the city budget to prevent crime and increase public safety in Aurora?**

1. Neighborhood watch, community policing, building strong neighborhoods
2. After school rec center activities, libraries and tutoring
3. Video monitoring of high crime areas like we did at RTD at light rail stations and parking lots.

**Additional Comment:**

*Crime prevention starts with early childhood involvement, and a development of programs that actually work in preventing our youth from criminal activities*

**6. How concerned you are with the availability of affordable housing in Aurora?**

- Not at all concerned       Slightly concerned       Somewhat concerned       Moderately concerned       **Extremely concerned**

**Additional Comment:**

*Homes have been priced out of the range of modest wage earners. We need to build a full spectrum of home price points from starter homes to senior homes where people can build an asset, move into a larger home as their family grows and into a home that is suitable for a person's golden years.*

**7. There is a growing public concern that the placement of "School Resource Officers" in public schools may be contributing to an increase in children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, often referred to as "The School-to-Prison Pipeline." Would you support or not support removing School Resource Offices from Aurora public schools?**

- Strongly don't support       Somewhat don't support       **Neutral**       Somewhat support       Strongly support       Don't know – need more information

**Additional Comment:**

*My experience with School Resource Officers in Aurora is that they work to understand children, work with teachers and parents for the best outcome of the child. Experience has shown me that is having issues. SRO is a difficult and caring job not easily done by just any police officer.*

**8. Please tell voters what are your three top priorities if elected?**

Bringing in good companies with good paying jobs that build strong families.

1. Ensuring that our police and fire departments have the staffing, equipment and training they need to remain world class.
2. Ensuring that our water and transportation systems meet our future needs.

**9. Please tell voters in why you think you are the most qualified At-Large candidate to represent Aurora on City Council.**

My wife Carol and I love Aurora and give back through volunteering. We have both served our city on various boards, commissions, charitable foundations and relief organizations. I personally have served on the citizens' Budge Advisory Committee, the Water Advisory Committee, the Aurora Planning and Zoning commission, Snow Busters, High Line Canal clean up, Neighborhood Watch Head Area coordinator, Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross and other organizations. Recently, I served on the RTD Board Chairman and worked to finish the Aurora Light Rail Line in 2017, years ahead of project. I want to continue serving our city and I need your vote to do that.

**USE YOUR  
VOICE**

**REGISTER  
TO VOTE**

**&**

**VOTE!**