

## **Boulder City Council Candidate Tina Marquis**

**Data continues to show that hunger remains a significant issue within our community. While immediate relief programs are crucial, addressing the upstream causes of hunger is essential for long-term solutions. How do you plan to tackle the root causes of hunger, such as poverty and racism?**

Housing is one of the highest costs in the city of Boulder. The city continues to invest in more affordable housing options at one of the highest rates in the state. In addition, with the manufactured housing factory alongside existing programs, the city will be able to provide more ownership opportunities for people that have been historically discriminated against. Ownership can help create more financial stability and predictability. Similarly, the new childcare tax in the county can help families with very young children that struggle to pay for childcare costs.

**What role should the local government have in ensuring that our community has consistent access to nutritious and culturally desired foods and a robust local food system?**

First, I believe it's important to map out the roles of each local government. For instance, the school district's commitment to universal breakfast and lunch, and a lunch that includes scratch cooking, local foods and culturally desired foods, is a leader in this work. The city has just committed to a year round farmer's market, significantly expanding access to local foods. In addition, the new Boulder Valley Comp Plan includes more options for cottage businesses, which can also provide more access to locally prepared foods. Finally, the county- and city-managed agricultural lands can be used to augment our local food supply.

**The rise of urban agriculture and the demand for local foods has led to greater interactions between producers and city regulations around zoning, permits and city/county policies. These interactions have sometimes been constructive and clarifying, and other times adversarial. How would you work with food producers, entrepreneurs and city agencies to ensure that the right policies are enacted that support a vibrant local food system?**

I think the most important step is to spend time with all of the stakeholders understanding the roadblocks and how we can address them. Boulder has a long history of innovation in natural foods and a commitment to local foods, from a farmer's market to community garden, and now more options for cottage industries. I am confident we can find solutions to support and grow our local food system.