
[External] Application for City Council Member – Ward 2 [#21]

From Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 6:38 PM

To City Clerk <City_Clerk@longmontcolorado.gov>

Name *	Pauline (Polly) Christensen
Address *	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Judson St. Longmont, CO 80501–4800 United States
Email *	pollyan@indra.com
Daytime Phone *	(720) 979–3202
Evening Phone *	(720) 979–3202
How long have you been a resident in Longmont? *	35 years
Current occupation: *	Customer support and sales at McGuckin Hardware, Boulder

Why are you interested in serving as a City Council Member? *

I am interested in serving as the interim Councilor for Ward 2 because I have lived in Ward 2 for 35 years and know it well. We deserve a good representative who fairly represents all the people who live here, not just special interests. I served for eight years as Longmont City Councilor at Large and for several years as Longmont Mayor Pro Tem. I know the job and I love the people of Longmont. And I do not have further ambitions.

In two terms on Longmont City Council here is some of what I did:

- Initiated, fought for, and achieved the Affordable Housing (Inclusionary Housing) Ordinance, mandating 12% affordable housing (as defined by HUD)
- Initiated, fought for, and achieved restoration of the city's previous ban on residential metro housing to provide less expensive and more fair and accountable housing for the residents of Longmont
- Initiated the Sustainability Plan and voluntary city-wide composting pickup
- Co-initiated with then Councilor Joan Peck the zero-carbon waste by 2030
- Restored funding (every year) to El Comité that it had been denied
- Increased funding for early childhood education
- Defended Longmont's fracking ban
- Upheld Longmont's Fair Campaign Act and increased transparency
- Initiated several community summits and forums to address the surge in threats and hatred targeting DACA people, recent immigrants, Blacks, Latinos, Asians, Muslims, Jews, and women following the 2016 elections
- Initiated community summits to address the need for greater gun violence prevention laws and voted in a ban on guns in public buildings
- Helped bring Costco and Smuckers to Longmont, creating hundreds of jobs for the residents of Boulder and Weld counties.
- Collaborated with federal, state, county, and other municipalities to overcome the disasters of the 2013 flood and the later COVID pandemic that hit all of us, but especially marginalized communities

Briefly explain what you believe are the two most important issues facing City Council and how do you believe those issues should be addressed? *

The two most important issues facing Longmont are maintaining a fiscally sound budget and continuing to deal with the housing crisis.

1. Without a fiscally sound budget to run the city nothing else is possible for Longmont. It is the foundation of the government. Having been through eight city budget cycles, I am very familiar with the very hard choices sometimes necessary in order to sustain the city's future.

2. The housing crisis is very complex and longstanding. The current Council has done a very good job as LHA Commissioners at providing more housing. There are still more creative options to consider for low-end housing. Fifty percent of Boulder County residents are financially stressed by their housing. If we do not have any programs (except vouchers) to help those making under 50% AMI, the number of stressed and homeless will only increase.

Letter of Interest *



[letter_of_interest_for_ward_2_appointment.pdf](#)

134.97 KB • PDF

Resume (Optional)



[resumechristensen2025.pdf](#)

145.35 KB • PDF

Signature *

Pauline (Polly) Christensen

Date *

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Letter of Interest for Ward 2 Appointment

Mayor and Councilors,

Polly Christensen here. I am sure most of you are surprised to see me expressing an interest in the appointment as my ward representative. This is an odd offer for an odd position that has been created by Councilor Martin. I would gladly serve as Ward 2 representative for 10 months, AND 10 MONTHS ONLY. I doubt that you will take me up on this, but here is why I think you should do this:

I foolishly still believe in democracy. Whoever is appointed by Council, should they run in the fall (and you know they will) is likely to win because this fall's election is an off-presidential year and will have low voter turnout; those with greater name recognition and incumbency have a tremendous advantage with the voters. Thus, Council would be effectively appointing AND electing the next Ward 2 representative. Unless you select a person who is truly just an interim appointee with no further ambition. That would be me.

This fall is a very important election. Two at-large seats and the mayor's seat are up for re-election *as well as* Ward 2. I believe it requires more time than the next month to choose a good candidate for Ward 2 if you are choosing from those who have never served in office before.

It does not matter to me if you choose me. It matters to me and the people of Longmont that you choose wisely:

- Please do not choose someone who uses this office to further advance their ego or their ambition.
- Please choose someone who truly cares about all the residents of Longmont, not just those with wealth and power.
- Please choose someone who works hard, does the research, is open minded, and listens to and considers all perspectives. Longmont City Council is not a partisan office and the issues of electricity, sewage, code enforcement, public safety, and yes, better housing and transportation should not be partisan issues.

Best wishes and good luck,
Polly Christensen
410 Judson St.
Longmont, CO 80501
polly.chri410@gmail.com
720-979-3202

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CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SALES, McGuckin Hardware, Boulder, Colorado • Oct. 2023–

Customer support and sales at Boulder's only family-owned, independent hardware store. Inventory, stocking, psychological support for those needing help with household and garden pests (mice to bears), garden and farm supplies, power tools, etc.

LONGMONT CITY COUNCILOR (member-at-large), City of Longmont, Colorado • Nov. 2013–Nov. 2021

Representing ALL of the people of Longmont. Communicated with constituents by phone, email, letter, in person, in meetings, in my front yard. Attended weekly council meetings and county, state, and national meetings and conferences.

Longmont Housing Authority commissioner, Longmont Sustainability advisory board, Resource Conservation advisory board, Longmont Housing and Human Services advisory board, El Comité board, Multicultural Action board, Longmont Youth Services advisory board, Senior Services advisory board, Longmont Public Media board liaison, Visit Longmont board, Longmont Urban Renewal Authority commissioner, Colorado Municipal League (CML) Policy Committee, National League of Cities (NLC) member, East County Housing (ECHO) attendee.

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ART DIRECTOR AND MANAGING EDITOR FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

University of Colorado Boulder, Office of Strategic Communications • Boulder, Colorado • 1999–2014

Project analysis and planning, design, and marketing of print and online publishing and communication for the largest public university in state of Colorado, Department of Strategic Communications.

Design, editing, project management, analysis, and marketing of books, catalogues, orientation materials, signage, newsletters, and their collateral marketing. archiving, and production coordination. Coordinating photo shoots and interviews with students. Over my years at CU, I worked with every department to produce the university catalogue, all orientation and recruiting materials and other foundational communications for recruiting and retaining in-state, out-of-state, and international students.

CHRISTENSEN & SON DESIGN

San Francisco, California, and Longmont, Colorado • 1988–2014

Design, editing, project management, and marketing of books, signage, newsletters, and their collateral marketing materials, print and online. Over 30 years experience in both trade and educational (elementary, college, and scholarly) publishing.