
[External] Application for City Council Member – Ward 2 [#19]

From Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>

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To City Clerk <City_Clerk@longmontcolorado.gov>

Name *	Stephen Emmett-Mattox
Address *	<input type="checkbox"/> 5833 Grandville Ave Longmont, CO 80503 United States
Email *	semmettmattox@gmail.com
Daytime Phone *	(720) 300-3139
Evening Phone *	(720) 300-3139
How long have you been a resident in Longmont? *	4 years, 5 months
Current occupation: *	Environmental Consultant

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

I have lived in Longmont for the past four years, and in Boulder County for the 15 years prior to that. For this entire time, I have regularly utilized and enjoyed the restaurants, businesses, cultural and educational opportunities, and outdoor resources offered by Longmont. I have come to care deeply for the city and our community. I believe Longmont can be a national leader in sustainability, enjoy thriving local businesses, protect and restore its natural environment, and become truly resilient to the impacts of climate change and economic and political factors. I want to serve on the City Council to help bring about a vibrant, connected community, where all residents have their basic needs met and the opportunity to pursue their interests and goals. I would like to serve the residents of Ward 2, as well as the city as a whole. I am grateful for the excellent work of current and past Council members and staff, and I am excited about the possibility of contributing my skills, experience and passion to our wonderful City.

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

I believe the greatest issue facing Longmont, and the world, is climate change. It is well established that the warming planet will have far reaching impacts for centuries to come. Longmont has made progress toward achieving net zero emissions and increasing our resiliency to climate impacts, but it is critical that we accelerate our efforts on both fronts.

I would like to explore several solutions: requiring all new construction to be fully electric and include solar panels; a faster transition to renewable energy, diverting more waste by increasing the levels of recycling and composting, especially in the commercial sector; improved transportation options within the City and to and from the City; reducing our use of single-use plastics; and the protection and ecological restoration of natural areas. Adopting additional water conservation measures will also be important as weather patterns change and temperatures rise.

To ensure climate equity, I would explore conversations with organizations such as El Comite and the OUR Center

to identify how under-served communities are most impacted by climate change and identify opportunities to address their needs.

I also think the city should strongly consider a moratorium on development on all remaining undeveloped lands that have ecological value – doing so will help to reduce emissions and increase resiliency. I am optimistic that we can do this while focusing instead on redevelopment. I worked for a national non-profit for more than 15 years, advocating for ecosystem protection and restoration, and I would bring this experience to help Longmont restore its degraded natural areas.

Another issue of great importance is affordability and providing for the basic needs of residents. Several of my friends have left the area with their families for other states where the costs of housing and living are lower. Every time a family moves away, Longmont loses their unique set of skills, experiences and potential contributions to the community. More importantly, sixty-four homeless people died in Boulder and Longmont in 2024, and we clearly need to do more to prevent this.

There is an overlap between the issues of homelessness, mental health, addiction, and housing affordability. Solutions are difficult, but I would like to explore imposing stronger requirements on new development to create more low-income housing, as well as allocating additional funding for rent and mortgage assistance. I would advocate for increasing education and outreach efforts within the community about available resources, while strengthening the CORE program. Wherever possible, we should fight for more support from the State to support these efforts. When we prioritize taking care of those with the greatest needs, we automatically ensure everyone's needs are met.

I would look to other cities for examples of successful programs and lessons learned that can be applied in Longmont. It is vital that we balance environmental and climate priorities with social justice, affordability and economic stability. I am excited to explore these issues with staff, city council and other stakeholders.

Also, as the new Administration takes office this month, it will be important to ensure that Longmont remains a sanctuary for all residents, regardless of their background or current situation. Let's work together to make this a reality.

Letter of Interest *



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66.59 KB · PDF

Resume (Optional)



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Signature *

Stephen Emmett-Mattox

Date *

Monday, January 6, 2025

Dear Longmont City Council Members,

I am excited to apply for the Ward 2 City Council position. I have lived in Boulder County for 19 years and Longmont for the past four, and I care deeply for our city and our community. I am eager to serve the residents of Ward 2, and the city as a whole, to help achieve existing goals as well as explore new opportunities.

I think that what's most important in a council member is engagement with and responsiveness to constituents, and the ability to build relationships with other council members, staff, citizens, businesses, and organizations, while prioritizing a sustainable financial model.

I first learned and internalized the importance of listening to and engaging with stakeholders while working as training coordinator for the Environmental Law Institute, and then as Projects Director for the Institute for Conservation Leadership. There I had the privilege of working with highly skilled organizational development trainers to conduct stakeholder workshops and board development workshops.

I have a great deal of experience and success in developing and managing programs and organizations, finding new partners and building productive collaborations across sectors, engaging community members, and identifying and securing new sources of funding. I would bring this experience as well as my enthusiasm for Longmont to my role as a Council Member.

For more than 15 years, I helped to run a national environmental non-profit organization. Managing a non-profit is not unlike serving on the City Council: you have to meet programmatic needs consistent with the mission and vision while maintaining fiscal responsibility in order to succeed and thrive. There are always opportunities and needs that exceed available resources. Prioritizing resources while seeking new partners and innovative ways to achieve your goals is a necessary skill that I honed as Vice President for Restore America's Estuaries (RAE).

While at RAE, I developed new program areas, raised necessary funds through grants and partnerships, managed staff, worked closely with the coastal community, and regularly engaged with the Board of Directors. Beginning in 2009, I played a pivotal role in developing a new nature-based solution to climate change – blue carbon, which refers to the greenhouse gases stored in and sequestered by coastal wetlands. As a pioneer in this field, I brought together researchers, policy-makers, carbon market experts, coastal managers, and non-profit organizations to develop the science and market-based tools needed. I listened to and helped educate people throughout the country on this new opportunity. And I identified and initiated pilot projects to test and refine tools and policies. The key to launching this initiative was creating and sustaining close collaborations among stakeholders across all sectors, which enabled the development of a robust climate solution benefiting our coastal ecosystems and communities.

In addition, for four years I served as a volunteer steering committee member of the Boulder Community Foundation's Environmental Affinity Group. And for four months, I was hired as a consultant by the Community Foundation to lead the EAG while the previous director took a sabbatical. While with the EAG I connected with various environmental initiatives in Boulder County and helped develop educational programs connecting funders to where there is need in the environmental community. I was also able to incorporate Longmont people and programs into educational events and to connect funders to Sustainable Resilient Longmont.

Other relevant experience includes serving on the Board of Trustees for Shepherd Valley Waldorf School (now Boulder Valley Waldorf School) and as Board Chair for one year. In this role I helped to prioritize fiduciary responsibility while maintaining vital programs. Engagement with staff and parents was important to create an atmosphere of trust, responsiveness, and shared responsibility for this small private school.

I make new connections easily and enjoy reaching out to a broad range of people to shape and implement new ideas. During graduate school, I trained in conflict resolution and mediation and served as a court-appointed mediator. I have given countless public presentations at workshops and meetings, including some volatile situations which required me to be an excellent listener and avoid being defensive.

Becoming a City Council member will bring a steep learning curve. As a part-time environmental consultant, I have the time and energy to devote to this new challenge. I am a quick learner and will not hesitate to engage with Council Members and staff to get up to speed, begin to address existing challenges, and explore new opportunities. You will have my full commitment to this position.

Thank you again for the opportunity to apply, and I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you would like references.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Emmett-Mattox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" being the most prominent part.

Stephen Emmett-Mattox
5833 Grandville Avenue
Longmont, CO 80503
720-300-3139

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Strategic Collaborations, LLC, 2017 to present

President of environmental consultancy focusing on blue carbon strategies (see below).

Community Foundation Boulder County, Jan to April 2023

- Managed the Environmental Affinity Group and its Steering Committee (as a contractor).

Restore America's Estuaries, 2000 to 2017

Senior Director for Strategic Programs (2008-2017), Vice President and Program Director (2000-2007)

- Provided leadership and essential contributions to RAE becoming a sustainable and successful conservation non-profit organization.
- Developed and directed strategic initiatives and program areas.
- Co-led annual planning and organizational strategic planning.
- Raised millions of dollars for programs and operations from diverse funders, including corporate, government and foundation sources. Recruited corporate partners. Catalyzed substantial additional investment in estuary restoration and protection, and blue carbon.
- Managed national partnership with NOAA for community-based habitat restoration program resulting in the investment of tens of millions of dollars in more than 1,000 projects in 11 estuaries.
- Co-created first national conference for coastal habitat restoration community, which has since grown to more than 1,200 participants and remains a successful organizational fundraiser.
- Hired, trained and supervised staff, including director of development, administration director, restoration director, office manager and blue carbon program manager.

Launched and Led U.S. Blue Carbon Initiative

From 2009 to 2017, while with Restore America's Estuaries, pioneered blue carbon in the U.S. through cross-sector collaborations. From 2017 to present, continue to support blue carbon project development and market-based tools as a consultant.

- Opened carbon markets to tidal wetland restoration and conservation by overseeing a technical workgroup to revise market requirements. Directed development of and contributed to the first carbon offset methodologies for tidal wetland restoration and conservation.
- Promoted use of carbon offset methodologies through feasibility assessments in several locations and conducting an outreach campaign. Partners included U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, National Estuarine Research Reserves, various universities and researcher, state government agencies, coastal conservation organizations, and U.S. EPA, among others. Reached thousands of coastal managers, advocates, scientists and citizens through workshops, presentations, meetings, publications, webinars, and other events.
- Advanced the science of blue carbon by identifying research needs and guiding project design. Initiated the first estuary-scale assessment of carbon sequestration potential of tidal wetland restoration. Advocated for increased government and foundation support for research on greenhouse gases in coastal ecosystems.
- Advanced national and international policy by advising members of Congress and their staff, including Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR) on blue carbon legislation, which was introduced in Congress.
- Provided strategic guidance to The Nature Conservancy's program offices in several countries and to various national, international and regional working groups.

Yoga Teacher, 2020 to present

Teach ongoing Avita Yoga classes in-person and via Zoom.

- Completed 200-hour training
- E8 Yoga Studio, Longmont – substitute teacher

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – Director, Trails and Greenways Program
Institute for Conservation Leadership – Projects Director
University of North Texas – Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy
Environmental Law Institute – Editor, *National Wetlands Newsletter*
Environmental Law Institute – Research Associate and Training Coordinator

EDUCATION

Rice University, B.A. in Philosophy
University of North Texas, M.S. Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (concentration in Environmental Ethics)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Rocky Mountain National Park – Lumpy Ridge Trailhead volunteer (Summers, 2018 – current).
Rocky Mountain National Park – Volunteer Program Office volunteer (2024 – current).
Community Foundation Boulder County – Steering Committee Member, Environmental Affinity Group (2019-2023)
Tara Performing Arts Waldorf High School – fundraising
Shepherd Valley Waldorf School – Board of Trustees and Board Chair
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks – Volunteer Naturalist

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Emmett-Mattox, S. and Simpson, S. 2019. “The Importance of Blue Carbon in Coastal Management in the United States.” In *A Blue Carbon Primer: The State of Coastal Wetland Carbon Science, Practice and Policy*. Windham-Meyers, L., Crooks, S. and Troxler, T. (Eds.)

Needelman BA, Emmer IM, Emmett-Mattox S, Crooks S, Megonigal JP, Myers D, Oreska MPJ, McGlathery K. 2018. *The science and policy of the verified carbon standard methodology for tidal wetland and seagrass restoration*. (2018) 41: 2159. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-018-0429-0>.

Moyer, R., K. Radabaugh, C. Powell, I. Bociu, A. Chappel, B. Clark, S. Crooks, and S. Emmett-Mattox. 2016. *Quantifying Carbon Stocks for Natural and Restored Mangroves, Salt Marshes, and Salt Barrens in Tampa Bay*.

Emmer, I., von Unger, M., Needelman, B., Crooks, S., Emmett-Mattox, S. 2015. *Coastal Blue Carbon in Practice: A manual for using the VCS Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration VM0033*. Restore America’s Estuaries and Silvestrum. Arlington, VA.

Emmer, I., Needelman, B., Emmett-Mattox, S., Crooks, S., Megonigal, P., Myers, D., Oreska, M., McGlathery, K. and Shoch, D. *VM0033 Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration, v1.0*. 2015. Verified Carbon Standard, Washington, DC.

Emmett-Mattox, S. and Crooks, S. 2014. *Implementing Coastal Blue Carbon Projects: Lessons Learned and Next Steps*. National Wetlands Newsletter, 36:1.

Crooks, S., Rybczyk, J., O’Connell, K., Devier, D.L., Poppe, K., Emmett-Mattox, S. 2014. *Coastal Blue Carbon Opportunity Assessment for the Snohomish Estuary: The Climate Benefits of Estuary Restoration*. Report by Environmental Science Associates, Western Washington University, EarthCorps, and Restore America’s Estuaries. February 2014.

Emmett-Mattox, S. and Crooks, S. 2013. *Coastal Blue Carbon as an Incentive for Coastal Conservation, Restoration and Management: A Template for Understanding Options*. Restore America’s Estuaries and Waquoit Bay NERR.

Emmett-Mattox, S. & Crooks, Stephen & Findsen, Jette. 2011. *Gases and grasses: The restoration, conservation, or avoided loss of tidal wetlands carbon pools may help mitigate climate change*. Environmental Forum. 28. 30-35.

Emmett-Mattox, S. & Crooks, Stephen & Findsen, Jette. 2010. *Wetland grasses and gases: are tidal wetlands ready for the carbon markets?* National Wetlands Newsletter. 32. 6-10.