



City of Brighton
500 South 4th Avenue
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2019 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Vadim B. Epelbaum

Candidate for City Council Ward 4

Fast Facts:

- Age: 35
- Occupation: Self-Employed
- Years Lived in Brighton: Two
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Questions and Answers

(Please provide answers to the following questions. Please limit your answers to 300 words each.)

1. Tell us about yourself.

After serving in the military for eight years, I realized that although exciting, driving tanks and doing convoy escorts was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Originally from a small Eastern European country and having lived in many different cities throughout the U.S., I am truly happy to call Colorado home. In Brighton, I am involved with the American Legion, and am a founding member of our new Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

I am a father to a wonderful young lady, who despite being nearly thirteen will always be a little girl in my eyes. I am a huge supporter of education and enrichment programs for children, and a believer in the idea that people should always pursue their passions. I define integrity as doing what's right, even though no one is watching, and believe that leadership is about far more than just managing resources or people. Finally, it is important to note my belief that the government, at every level, must *serve* its community and earn the trust of its people.

2. Why are you running for City Council?

After a 14-month tour in Iraq, I returned home frustrated with various elements of government and leadership. I had questions that no one seemed to have answers to; I had grievances that I had no idea where to begin to address; and I had solutions that no one was interested in hearing...

After many years, a man much wiser man than I said something to me that changed my life: “You have great ideas, but what are you doing with them?”

That question started me down the path that has led me here. I began getting involved with veteran organizations and non-profits. I would ask hard questions and demand accountability. Then, upon hearing about all the issues facing our city, and a push from my fellow veterans, I decided that it was time to step up.

3. What do you hope to accomplish as a City Council member?

Over the last 25 years or so, I have lived within vastly different cultures – New York City; Dallas, TX; Austin, TX; and Longmont, CO – just to name a few. Although the differences are evident and the values of the people seem like they couldn’t be further apart, I found that for the most part everyone wanted similar things – a safe home, decent food, clean water, a stable job, etc. It made me realize that although there are many issues on which we may vehemently disagree, our foundations are not that different. It is this principal that has guided my approach to resolving problems and disputes.

With this in mind, my goal as a Council Member would be to create a system which will provide Brighton’s residents with unbiased, factual information. Affording everyone who wants to understand, the opportunity to see how the City Council’s decisions would affect the aforementioned foundational needs. Ultimately, my hope is to engage all residents, and get them more involved in shaping our city.

4. What are the three most important issues confronting the City of Brighton and how would you address them?

- a. Water Pricing – Having spoken with many of the residents, both in Ward 4 and outside of it, I have come to realize that there are quite a few people with justifiable concerns about their water bills. Especially based on the sizes of their lots and number of occupants. I would like to create a panel or committee comprised of both impacted residents and city employees. Their mission would be to identify the source of the issues for those impacted. The committee would then present its findings and proposed solutions to the City Council.
- b. Development – Many residents take issue with roads, buildings, zoning, and other developments, more specifically how these items impact their property values and commutes. This goes back to my larger plan of informing and involving our residents. I believe that if we put forth the effort to ensure that



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everyone impacted by a given development is afforded the opportunity to voice their concern, most of the issues would be ameliorated before they even arise.

- c. **Safety** – Although petty crime and vandalism may not seem like a major issue, there are very serious threats that we face as a community. Random and especially shootings are a very real threat. I believe it is critical for us to come together as a community and proactively identify what steps we can take to keep our schools and children safe. This may be something as major as an armed response team, or as simple as educating our residents on how to be more aware of people’s behavior. It is a complex topic and one that we must truly approach as a community, rather than individuals.

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