

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

CANDIDATES MEMORANDUM-Denver Commission on Aging

To	Denver City Council
From	Mayor's Office of Boards & Commissions
Date	06/05/2026

BOARD PURPOSE

The **Denver Commission on Aging** (DCoA) works to make Denver a great place for older adults through outreach, communication, and advocacy. The Commission advocates for the rights and needs of older adults, empowers them by sharing information and community resources, and monitors legislation and policy changes that impact their well-being.

APPOINTMENT CANDIDATE PROFILES

Term Dates: 2026-2029



Bio:

Megan Edge presented an exceptional background in aging advocacy, healthcare literacy, and community engagement. During the interview process, she demonstrated a strong understanding of the challenges impacting older adults, particularly surrounding healthcare access, communication barriers, and equitable resources for aging populations. Her professional experience and thoughtful approach to advocacy reflected both compassion and strategic insight. Megan also spoke passionately about improving support systems for older adults in Denver and helping bridge gaps between community services and residents.

Megan Edge
Healthcare Strategist

White

Female

Statement of Support:

The Commission on Aging interview panel was thoroughly impressed with Megan Edge's knowledge, professionalism, and dedication to serving older adults. Her ability to connect healthcare concerns, advocacy priorities, and community-based solutions made her stand out as an outstanding candidate. The panel unanimously agreed that Megan would be an excellent addition to the Denver Commission on Aging due to her collaborative mindset, understanding of aging issues, and commitment to improving the quality of life for Denver's older adult population.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

Megan demonstrated her collaborative and solutions-oriented approach through her work supporting aging adults and navigating healthcare communication challenges. She emphasized the importance of advocacy, accessibility, and ensuring older adults feel heard and supported.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

Megan expressed strong alignment with the Mayoral administration's goals surrounding equity, accessibility, community wellness, and improving services for underserved populations, particularly older adults facing barriers to healthcare and resources.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 2026-2029



Riaz Qureshi

Professor

White

Male

Bio:

Dr. Riaz Qureshi is an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus with appointments in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Epidemiology. His work centers on aging research, vision care, public health, and improving outcomes for older adults, particularly those living in long-term care facilities. Dr. Qureshi has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, received major research grants, and collaborated with national aging and vision organizations. His expertise in community-based participatory research, healthcare equity, and evidence-based policy makes him uniquely qualified to serve the Denver Commission on Aging. He has also demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing transportation, affordability, and healthcare accessibility challenges impacting Denver's aging population.

Statement of Support:

The Commission was unanimously impressed by Dr. Qureshi's remarkable accomplishments, academic leadership, and extensive experience in aging-related research and public health. His depth of knowledge, commitment to older adults, and ability to connect research with real-world community needs make him an exceptional candidate for the Denver Commission on Aging. Dr. Qureshi brings valuable national and local partnerships, extensive scientific expertise, and a thoughtful community-centered perspective that would greatly benefit the Commission's work. His dedication to improving healthcare access, transportation, affordability, and communication around aging issues aligns strongly with the mission of the DCoA. The Commission believes Dr. Qureshi would be a tremendous resource and a perfect fit for helping strengthen advocacy and support for Denver's older adults.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

Dr. Qureshi demonstrated his collaborative and community-focused leadership through his work bringing together residents, facilities, and healthcare providers to identify barriers to vision care in long-term care settings. His approach emphasizes listening to community voices, utilizing evidence-based practices, and building partnerships that improve health outcomes for aging populations.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

Dr. Qureshi shared that his priorities align closely with the Mayoral administration's focus on housing stability, homelessness prevention, accessibility, and improving public transportation systems. He emphasized the importance of ensuring older adults can safely access healthcare, housing, and community resources throughout Denver.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 2026-2029



Bio:

Ashley Woolard is a healthcare executive with more than 15 years of experience in Medicaid and Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) managed care, where she has worked extensively to improve care coordination and access for aging adults and individuals with complex health needs. Throughout her career, she has partnered with providers, members, and caregivers to improve how individuals navigate the healthcare system and access the services needed to age with dignity and independence. A Denver resident, Ashley is committed to supporting her local community and brings both nonprofit governance experience and a strong understanding of healthcare systems that impact older adults and vulnerable populations.

Statement of Support:

We are thrilled about the opportunity to bring Ashley Woolard onboard to the Denver Commission on Aging. Ashley is not only exceptionally qualified, but her professional background aligns directly with many of the issues impacting older adults in Denver today. Her extensive experience in Medicaid,

Ashley Woolard
VP Growth Strategist

White

Female

Medicare, managed care strategy, clinical operations, and community-based healthcare solutions brings valuable insight to the commission. Ashley has demonstrated a strong ability to collaborate across diverse teams, develop practical solutions, and advocate for systems that improve quality of life and long-term independence for aging populations. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ashley's community involvement and nonprofit leadership reflect her sincere commitment to service, equity, and improving outcomes for residents. Her expertise, leadership, and compassionate approach would make her an outstanding addition to the commission.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

In my professional roles, I have often worked across teams with very different perspectives, priorities and expertise to solve complex problems affecting vulnerable populations. One example was leading the development of a new clinical model for a dual-eligible Medicaid and Medicare population in Washington, D.C. Although I am not a clinician myself, I led a cross-functional team that included clinical leaders, operations teams, product experts and community-focused stakeholders. My role was to create alignment around the shared goal while ensuring every perspective was heard and incorporated into the final approach.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

I appreciate Mayor Johnston's focus on building a Denver that is vibrant, safe and affordable for everyone who lives here through expanding housing opportunities, strengthening community wellbeing and addressing interconnected city challenges through collaboration and practical action. Those priorities strongly align with my own commitment to supporting healthy communities and improving quality of life for Denver residents, especially older adults and vulnerable populations. I value the administration's emphasis on practical, cross-sector solutions that help residents remain safe, healthy, connected to their communities, and able to age with dignity.

Reappointment? No
For New Appointments:
 Filling an Open Seat? Yes
 Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Term Number: 1

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 2026-2029



Glenn Harper
Founder, Sun Valley Kitchen
and Community Center
He/Him
White
Male

Bio:

Glenn Harper is the Founder of Sun Valley Kitchen + Community Center and has spent years building meaningful relationships throughout Denver through community advocacy, food access, youth engagement, and neighborhood collaboration. Glenn has become widely respected for his ability to bring people together and create opportunities that directly support underserved communities. Through Sun Valley Kitchen, he has developed programs focused on nourishment, employment opportunities, mentorship, and dignity for residents of all ages. Beyond his work with the kitchen, Glenn has continuously demonstrated compassion through acts of service, including providing blankets during winter months, organizing wellness and spa experiences for community members, and supporting vulnerable populations with care and humanity. His extensive network, collaborative leadership style, and authentic commitment to improving lives make him an exceptional candidate for Denver's Commission on Aging.

Statement of Support:

The Commission on Aging interview panel spoke very highly of Glenn Harper and the longstanding impact he has had throughout the Denver community. Glenn has worked alongside the commission on multiple occasions, and commissioners consistently expressed appreciation for both his character and his dedication to service. His work through Sun Valley Kitchen + Community Center reflects many of the same values the Commission on Aging seeks to uphold: compassion, community building, equity, collaboration, and meaningful support for vulnerable residents. Glenn's natural ability to connect people, mobilize resources, and foster trust across communities was viewed as an incredible asset to the commission. Commissioners also recognized his vast community network and his heart-centered approach to giving back through food initiatives, wellness support, and winter outreach efforts. The panel strongly believes Glenn's presence would further strengthen the mission and outreach of the Denver Commission on Aging.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

As the founder of Sun Valley Kitchen + Community Center, I have spent years working directly with families, older adults, youth, and community organizations in Denver. Much of my work has required bringing together individuals from different backgrounds and perspectives to solve complex challenges facing the community. Whether organizing outreach programs, building trust between organizations, or creating opportunities for underserved residents, I have learned the importance of listening first and leading with compassion. I believe collaboration is essential for long-term impact. Through my work, I have consistently focused on building relationships and creating spaces where people feel supported and valued. I would bring those same principles of community engagement, collaboration, and service to my role on the Denver Commission on Aging.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

I strongly align with Mayor Johnston's vision of creating a Denver that is vibrant, safe, and supportive for all residents. Many of my personal priorities center around community wellness, food accessibility, housing stability, and creating opportunities for underserved populations. Through Sun Valley Kitchen + Community Center, I have worked to strengthen neighborhoods by providing resources, support, and opportunities for connection. I also value the administration's focus on collaboration and community-driven solutions. Supporting older adults, reducing social isolation, and helping vulnerable populations access meaningful services are goals that deeply resonate with me. I believe building stronger communities begins with compassion and investment in people, and I look forward to contributing those values through service on the Commission on Aging.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation