
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Mayor Johnston Announces Key Appointments to Drive Climate Action and Financial Stewardship

DENVER – Mayor Mike Johnston today announced the nomination of one cabinet position and an appointment to his leadership team. Nicole Doheny is nominated to serve as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), pending City Council approval, and Elizabeth Babcock will lead the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR) as Executive Director.

“As a city and as an administration, we are committed to lead in climate action while maintaining responsible financial stewardship,” Mayor Mike Johnston said. “I am confident that Nicole and Elizabeth will bring the expertise and vision needed to continue driving positive change in our city.”

As CFO, Doheny will prioritize sound fiscal management, a fiscally responsible future, accurate reporting and effective resource allocation. Babcock, as CASR’s Executive Director, will help the city prioritize sustainability in the face of climate change by providing leadership, guidance and coordination with city agencies.

Nicole Doheny – Chief Financial Officer

Nicole Doheny is a government finance professional and a registered municipal advisory principal advising cities, states, and other public agencies across the United States in support of major strategic initiatives. Doheny comes to the City and County of Denver after serving as a Senior Managing Director with Ernst & Young Infrastructure Advisors (EY), an affiliate of Ernst & Young LLP, where she has been a part of the government and public sector practice since 2013.

Prior to joining EY, she was part of the public finance team at Lehman Brothers and Barclays Capital, working directly with state and local governments on capital strategies and public debt issuances.



Doheny returned home to Colorado in 2017 after a decade in New York City. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School, and a Bachelor of Science in Symbolic Systems with a Secondary Major in Economics from Stanford University.

Elizabeth Babcock – Executive Director, Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency

Elizabeth Babcock is a champion for climate action, sustainability, and resiliency with over 20 years of experience managing collaborative, equitable and transformational projects. For more than a decade, Elizabeth has led the City and County of Denver in the development of Denver’s climate office and created nationally recognized programs under Denver’s Climate Protection Fund.



Babcock has managed several multimillion-dollar grants, including the Denver Energy Challenge, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. She also led Denver’s engagement in the American Cities Climate Challenge, instilling climate action across city government.

In previous roles, Babcock worked with universities around the world to advance youth civic engagement through the Talloires Network and community engagement through the Civic Knowledge Project at the University of Chicago. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with highest honors from the University of Florida and an Master of Arts from the University of Chicago. Babcock is the co-author of Denver’s Love My Air program, which won the Bloomberg Mayors Challenge. The Love My Air program focuses on reducing air pollution at schools through behavior change, advocacy and community involvement.

Denver’s City Charter requires that Cabinet appointments be confirmed via a resolution passed by Denver City Council. The resolutions generally take three weeks to go through the full Council process.

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