

One thing has remained a consistent theme throughout the 25 years I have been in Englewood, when asked what is best about living in Englewood the **character** of the community always tops the list. Englewood benefits from the City of Denver's large urban area shopping, culture & arts and jobs, just down the street. However, Englewood maintains a small-town feel, where you know your neighbors, enjoy your family and friends, while living in a close-knit community that remains independent and largely self-sustaining.

In short, Englewood is a community with "character."

During my last town hall meeting, one neighbor defined "character" as the willingness to sacrifice for your principles. 2018 revealed the current struggle our community is grappling with to define what those principles are and the sacrifices, if any, we are willing to make.

Can the small-town, neighborhood "feel" of Englewood survive the growing Urban sprawl pressures of the encroaching high-density city lifestyle? Should we set boundaries to maintain our suburban identity or become part of the Urban movement? Can independent suburbs remain sustainable or is regionalization necessary to address service and infrastructure needs? Will more people and "rooftops" provide financial stability or will additional people just cost us more? Will increased density forever change the culture of our community?

This is not the first time our community has struggled with these issues. Twice in the mid 1920's Englewood citizens narrowly voted against a Denver annexation. Whether we officially vote to become part of Denver or not, is the "Denver Urbanization" of our community inevitable?

Identifying our principles and any potential sacrifices are key to answering these questions. The Citizens, City Council, Boards and Commissions and staff are wrestling with issues like Accessory Dwelling Units, and short-term rental Air B&B's, bringing more people and creating businesses in single family residential neighborhoods. Potential zoning changes using P.U.D.s that turn industrial and residential properties into high density apartments. Along with addressing our aging infrastructure needs. These are just a few of the decisions that will greatly impact the future of our community.

While we wrestle with these "Character" issues it is important that we hear from the community we represent. We need to know what the guiding principles and priorities are that will shape our quality of life, culture and community. Above all, it is critical that we understand the sacrifices we are or are not willing to endure to make that future happen.

It is an honor to serve as your City Council representative, I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurett Barrentine

Englewood City Council, District 3

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Everyone is welcome to attend my Monthly Town Hall Meeting:

Second Saturday of each month:

Second Saturday Coffee-4Gs Restaurant 3866 South Broadway 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Or call me to set up a time to discuss any issues or concerns.