

Catherine Nakai – Candidate for Woodland Park City Council

My name is Catherine Nakai, and I am running for re-election to the Woodland Park City Council.

I have proudly served on our Woodland Park City Council since July 2021, first by appointment and then by election in April 2022. I currently serve as Mayor Pro Tem, a role I have held since April 2024.

Before joining City Council, I was appointed to the Woodland Park Board of Adjustment in September 2019, serving as an alternate, then as a regular board member, and later as Vice Chair in January 2021. I also chaired the Transportation and Drainage Committee for the Woodland Park 2030 Comprehensive Plan and participated in the 2020 Citizen's Academy, gaining valuable insight into our local government.

During my four and a half years on City Council, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. These achievements include adopting the citizen-driven 2030 Comprehensive Plan, maintaining a balanced budget, and paying off the Memorial Park bond early in 2022—saving the city about \$800,000 dollars in interest. We also preserved open space through the purchase of the Avenger Open Space in 2023 and the Shining Mountain Golf Course and Events Center, including 255 acres of open space, in 2025. Additional priorities include continued construction of our reservoir and working toward adoption of an updated Universal Development Code to make land use regulations more user-friendly and accessible.

I believe in respectful dialogue and collaboration to get city business done. I served on the Charter Review Committee in 2022 as a voting member and again in 2025 as Chair. In both instances, the committee forwarded three charter amendments to voters, all of which passed. I continue to serve on the Utility Advisory Committee, where we are focused on securing Woodland Park's water future.

Looking ahead, I am focused on continued debt reduction, pursuing a reliever route, and ensuring Woodland Park remains a great place to live, work, and play. I strongly believe in preserving our community's heritage while thoughtfully planning for the future needs of residents and businesses.

I am a 24-year resident of Woodland Park and grew up in Colorado Springs in a military family. Fiscal responsibility is a core value of mine—paying off debt early whenever possible without sacrificing essential city services. Protecting education, the environment, wildfire preparedness, our City Charter, and our Municipal Code are also extremely important to me.

I attended the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and San Jose City College. Professionally, I began my career in high-tech customer service and accounting and have spent nearly 30 years as an Integrated Circuit Layout Designer.

I have been married for almost 36 years and am a stepmother, a grandmother to three, have two siblings, and am a proud owner of two cats. My life is rooted in family and in Woodland Park, and I am honored to continue serving this community.