

Boulder County DSA

Voter Guide:

2020 Democratic Primary



**Boulder Democratic
Socialists of America**

BoulderDSA.org | BoulderDSA@gmail.com

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Boulder County DSA is a local chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, the largest socialist organization in the US. We are a “big tent” organization: our members come from many backgrounds with many points of view, but we all agree on one thing—unchecked capitalism has created a society that puts corporate profit above human rights, and we are committed to changing that through direct, grassroots action.

Find out more about **Boulder County DSA** in this short video:
<https://tinyurl.com/WholsBoulderDSA>

Special thanks to all Boulder County DSA members who contributed their votes, time and labor to this project. Without your tireless volunteer efforts, this guide would not be possible!



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Democratic Primary Election

For each of the major issues discussed in the democratic primary we would like to see a candidate who aligns with us on the following ideals:



Environment: We recognize that the largest contributors to climate change are corporations and that meaningful progress can only be achieved by rapid divestment and strong opposition to oil and gas companies. Furthermore, in Boulder County and Colorado as a whole, fracking presents an immediate environmental threat to our communities and the land itself. We support candidates willing to take strong stances against corporate power in this regard.



Affordable housing: Efforts to constrain municipal growth by restricting the housing stock are fundamentally unjust and harm working class and marginalized people, who are the most impacted by rising rent and the first to be displaced by gentrification. We oppose NIMBYism and support zoning and policy changes to encourage increased density, allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and cooperative housing, and tax commercial and luxury construction to subsidize affordable, if not public, housing.



Human rights: We believe it is unacceptable for any of our fellow Boulder residents to go hungry or be denied shelter. We also stand firmly against discrimination that inflicts harassment and violence upon people of color, undocumented immigrants, people experiencing homelessness and poverty, and other marginalized individuals. Our ideal candidate will fight to house the unhoused, provide adequate emergency services, welcome and protect immigrants to strengthen Boulder's status as a sanctuary city.



Anti-capitalism: We believe that the economy and society should be run democratically to meet the needs of all people, not to make profits for the few. We do not support policies that expand control by private business owners or that allow the exploitation of workers or the environment. We insist on returning democratic control of the economy to the people in a way that strengthens political and civil rights and that guarantees access to the resources needed to live a rich life, including healthcare, housing, and fulfilling employment.

Democratic Primary Election



Policing: We believe that the function of the police is not to protect and serve; it is to restrain and subjugate. The system of capitalism breeds contradictions, and the police resolve these contradictions through violence. Our ideal candidate would be one that is firmly committed to the end of policing as we know it. At a minimum, candidates should be willing to defund police departments, to bring the goal of eventual abolition closer.



Accessibility and Cost: We believe all education should be tuition-free, debt-free, and accessible to all. We recognize that systemic disadvantages exist for many of the people pursuing higher education, and that these barriers must be addressed at the level of policy. Our ideal candidate would oppose and condemn tuition, promote policies to alleviate and ultimately abolish student debt, and approach education as a public good fundamental to a democratic society, not a business.



Accountability and Justice: Convoluted and opaque administrative structures produce oppressive environments and allow for the mistreatment of students and workers. University of Colorado campuses are rife with sexual abuse, labor exploitation, and racism. Our ideal candidate would advocate for women, people of color, and working class members of the University community by promoting policies that dismantle failed institutional structures, demand accountability at all levels, and exemplify justice.



Diversity and Equity: We maintain that the University of Colorado system has failed to address severe inequities in all aspects of its operations, including the recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty and student body. We also recognize that the CU system does not equitably serve communities in Colorado, preferring recruitment of wealthier students and faculty from out of state. Our ideal candidate would promote policies to explicitly address these failings, expand recruiting across the state, and provide resources and agency for faculty and students who have been historically underrepresented by the system to build resilient communities that can support their research, creative work, and pedagogy.

US Senate Primary Candidates

Candidate	Human Rights	Environment	Law Enforcement	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
John Hickenlooper	F	F	F	F	F
Andrew Romanoff	C	B	B	C	C+

Boulder County Commissioner Candidates

Candidate	Environment	Affordable Housing	Human Rights	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
Marta Loachamin	B-	F	F	F	D
Jonathan Singer	B+	C+	B	C	B-

CU Regent CD2 Primary Candidates

Candidate	Accessibility & Cost	Accountability & Justice	Diversity & Equity	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
Callie Rennison	C	A-	B	B	B
Dave Gross	D	D	D	F	D-
Aaron Harber	F	F	D	F	F

A Call to Action

Are you angry about inequality and injustice in the US? Do you see the problems of racism, sexism, xenophobia and poverty getting worse rather than better? Are you finished with electing representatives that vote with their donors and not their constituents?

It's time to radically re-define US democracy. Workers have a right to participate in the decisions of their employers. Residents of a community have the right to say whether oil companies can put wells next to their children's schools. That the wealthiest country in the world can't adequately feed, shelter, and medically treat all of its citizens is a travesty and embarrassment.

With American life expectancy falling, the wealth gap growing, the public education system under siege, and a President who is the worst example of a racist, sexist, and incredibly incompetent boss with no virtue but his extreme wealth—we are not waiting for someone to save us with promises of hope and change. This time, change will come from below, and it will be overwhelming. Join us and fight. Join us and win.

In solidarity,

—Boulder County Democratic Socialists of America

