

Boulder County DSA

Voter Guide:

2019 Ballot Measures



**Boulder Democratic
Socialists of America**

BoulderDSA.org | BoulderDSA@gmail.com

Boulder County DSA Voter Guide: 2019 Ballot Measures

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!



**Boulder Democratic
Socialists of America**

Table of Contents

Colorado Statewide Measures	2
Proposition CC.....	2
Proposition DD	3
Boulder County Measures	4
Proposition 1A.....	4
City of Boulder	5
Proposition 2G.....	5
Proposition 2H.....	6
Proposition 2I.....	7
Boulder City Council candidate report cards.....	8
City of Lafayette	10
Proposition 2A.....	10
Proposition 2B.....	11
Proposition 2C.....	12
Lafayette City Council candidate report cards	13
City of Longmont	15
Proposition 3B.....	15
Proposition 3C.....	16
Proposition 3D.....	17
Proposition 3E.....	18
Longmont Mayoral candidates.....	19
Longmont City Council candidate report cards.....	20
City of Louisville	21
Proposition 6A	21
Proposition 2D.....	22
Proposition 2E.....	23
Proposition 2F	24

Colorado Statewide Measures

PROPOSITION CC:

This proposition would overturn the requirement in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) that mandates taxes be returned to taxpayers if they are in excess of the amount originally forecasted. Excess funds would instead be allocated to education and transportation.

Since its passage in 1992, TABOR has been a blight on Colorado's public finances. It has seriously constrained the ability of state and local governments to provide for the public welfare. This amendment goes some way toward fixing the issues that TABOR introduced. While a full repeal of TABOR would be ideal, this represents a sizeable step in that direction.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

PROPOSITION DD:

This proposition authorizes sports betting in the state of Colorado. A 10% tax on the proceeds of sports betting would be directed to the State Water Plan.

We do not endorse the use of conservative-aligned “sin taxes” to circumvent the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) and insist instead on a full repeal of TABOR in Colorado. It should also be noted that one of the largest contributors to DD is FanDuel, a bookmaking and fantasy sports app and website. Governor Jared Polis owned a small portion of shares in FanDuel when he signed off on the bill that created the legal framework for this proposition in May. We reject capitalist trajectories that align social freedom with market expansion and consumption.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Boulder County Measures

PROPOSITION 1A:

This proposition extends the maximum number of four-year terms that a coroner may serve from the current limit of three terms to a new limit of five.

Term limits prevent power from being held exclusively by one person for too long. For a technical labor like a coroner, this may be an unnecessary precaution. However, there have been cases where a coroner's rulings are shown to be unduly influenced the interests of police or the district attorney.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

City of Boulder Measures

PROPOSITION 2G:

This proposition allows the City of Boulder to tax sales and use of electronic smoking devices up to 40%, with collected funds allocated to a licensing program for nicotine retailers and a health education program.

A tax on vaping products as most sin taxes, is regressive, hitting the poorest members of our community the hardest.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

PROPOSITION 2H:

This proposition extends the 0.15% sales tax from its current expiration date of December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2039, with funds allocated to open space maintenance and the purchase of a conservation easement at Long's Gardens (3240 Broadway).

Though Boulder DSA stands opposed to regressive taxes, such as sales and use taxes, we also recognize that it is necessary to provide proper funding to purchase and maintain open space.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

PROPOSITION 2I:

This proposition allows the City of Boulder to finance a housing assistance program for home buyers making up to 120% of the median income. The proposition will allow the City to take out up to \$10 million in debt for this program.

This initiative typifies the sort of political indecisiveness that has led to Boulder's current affordability crisis. Rather than enacting policies that would positively impact cost-of-living in Boulder, this initiative provides public funding for a down payment program that encourages families to take on mortgages beyond what they can afford. Boulder must focus on improving affordability through rent control or public housing, not by underwriting mortgages for homes with purchase prices in excess of \$900,000.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

Boulder City Council Candidates

For each of the major issues discussed in the city council race, 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 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 discriminatory law enforcement 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 in accordance with Boulder's sanctuary city policy, and support strong independent oversight of the police.



Anti-capitalism: We believe that 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.

Boulder City Council Candidates

Candidate	Environment	Affordable Housing	Human Rights	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
Aaron Brockett	B	C+	A	C	B-
Brian Dolan	B	C	C	C	C+
Benita Duran	C+	D	C	C	C-
Rachel Friend	B-	C+	B	C-	C+
Junie Joseph	B	B+	A	B-	B+
Corina Julca	B	A	--	B-	B
Nikki McCord	C	B	B+	C	C+
Mark McIntyre	B	C-	--	D+	C-
Susan Peterson	B+	C	B-	C-	C+
Adam Swetlik	B	B	--	B-	B-
Mark Wallach	B+	C+	B	B-	B-
Bob Yates	C+	C	F	D	D
Andy Celani	B-	C	C	D	C
Gala Wilhelm a Orba	B	B	C	C-	C
Paul Cure	--	C+	--	C	C

City of Lafayette Measures

PROPOSITION 2A:

This proposition adopts Colorado Constitution Article 21.4 as the municipal procedure for recall elections in the City of Lafayette, while maintaining the Lafayette Home Rule Charter provision on the number of signatures required for a recall petition.

This proposition generally simplifies and modernizes procedural guidelines for petitions and elections, though it allows city council to set additional ordinances providing for compensation of candidates who campaign in recall elections. We believe it may expand the signature gathering period for recall petitions from 30 days to 60 days, which improves the ability of the people of Lafayette to enact change.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

PROPOSITION 2B:

Current Lafayette Home Rule Charter requires city council to fill any vacancy occurring more than 90 days before a municipal election, allowing a 30 day period for new appointment. This proposition will increase the allowable period of vacancy to 180 days before a municipal election and will increase the appointment period to 45 days.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

PROPOSITION 2C:

This proposition amends the Lafayette Home Rule Charter to adopt Colorado State law on municipal initiative and referendum procedures, while maintaining local provisions on the number of signatures required for an initiative or referendum petition.

As with Ballot Measure 2A, this proposition generally simplifies and modernizes procedural guidelines for petitions and elections, though it allows city council to set additional ordinances providing for compensation of candidates who campaign in recall elections. We believe this proposition may expand the signature gathering period for initiatives and referenda from 60 days to six months, which improves the ability of the people of Lafayette to enact change.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Lafayette City Council Candidates

For each of the major issues discussed in the city council race, 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.



Public Transportation: We support free & subsidized public transportation, as well as expanded service on nights and weekends and in underserved areas. While we support improved conditions for pedestrian and bike traffic, we recognize that significant structural change is required for these types of personal choices to outweigh suburban planning that prioritizes car culture and corporate commercial property.



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 ADUs and cooperative housing, and tax commercial and luxury construction to subsidize affordable, if not public, housing.



Anti-capitalism: We believe that 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.

Lafayette City Council Candidates

Candidate	Environment	Public Transport	Affordable Housing	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
Timothy Barnes	A	B	B	C	B
Anne Borrell	A	B	A	B-	A-
Tonya Briggs	A	B	B	C+	B
Doug Conarroe	C	C	B	D	C
Marty Feffer	A	C	B	B+	B+
JD Mangat	A	B	B	C+	B
Andrew O'Connor	D	F	D	D	D
Nicole Samson	B	C	C	D	C
Clifton Smedley	B	A	C	B	B
Patricia Townsend	A	A	B	D	B+
Jenna Tullberg	A	D	A	A	B+
Stephanie Walton	B	D	C	B-	B-
Brian Wong	B	B	B	C	B-

PROPOSITION 3B:

This proposition will allow the City of Longmont to build a competition aquatic center and ice rink, funded with a 0.18% sales tax increase and a 20-year revenue bond of \$45.5 million.

An Olympic size pool and NHL ice rink are unnecessary expenditures which do little to improve the lives of the average citizen in Longmont. Further, a sales tax is a regressive measure which disproportionately impacts low income communities, those who are least likely to use this facility. This measure is a vanity project of Mayor Brian Bagley.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

PROPOSITION 3C:

This proposition indefinitely extends the current 0.75% sales tax, allocated for street and transportation projects, from its current end date of 2026.

We recognize the importance of transportation safety for existing modes of transportation, but we also stress the vital need to reprioritize public and carbon-free transportation in city planning and to move away from regressive sales tax which puts more onus on the poor.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

PROPOSITION 3D:

This proposition increases the maximum lease of city property from 20 years to 30 years.

This ballot measure is designed to encourage private development on public land, as 30 year lease terms are less risky for corporate development. Longmont does not need more private/public partnerships. Public land should remain under public control.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

City of Longmont Measures

PROPOSITION 3E:

Retains Judge Robert J. Frick in office for two years.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

Longmont Mayor

Brian J. Bagley

Incumbent Mayor Brian Bagley likes to tout his past as a business owner, a CU Leeds Business School instructor, and a NYT bestseller for his book on “great” companies. Though his 2017 mayoral decree promises 100% renewable energy by 2030 (a vitally necessary project) and he has contributed to the process of banning fracking within Longmont residential areas (also commendable), Bagley seems committed to pandering to right-wing and centrist liberal voters, corporations, and the wealthy, by holding the unhoused population of Boulder County at arm’s length (implying that strong public services attract the homeless and encourage drug use), by siding with corporate real estate developers against those in need of affordable housing, and by pushing for unnecessary vanity projects like the swimming pool and ice rink proposed in Ballot Issue 3B. Given his open opposition to resolutions expressing solidarity against racism and oppression, it’s not hard to see the language of his campaign website - which proclaims that he “knows that it takes to continue to make [Longmont] great” - as a Trumpian dog whistle. We believe Bagley uses his energy policies to greenwash his reputation as a right-wing corporate-class candidate.

GRADE C-

Longmont Mayor

Schuyler Trowbridge

Schuyler Trowbridge, endorsed by both Berniecrats and Colorado Rising, comes from a working class background and is currently an active labor activist in the cannabis industry. He supports affordable housing, affordable pre-K education, Medicare for all, LGBTQ advocacy and education in public schools, and expanded vocational training programs for students and citizens who need it. He has a comprehensive climate and sustainability plan for Longmont that includes eliminating food waste from groceries and restaurants, banning neonicotinoid insecticides and pesticides, and adhering to, if not improving upon, Longmont's current renewable energy goals. He has expressed an intersectional understanding of social, economic, and health issues, and has suggested the use of taxes and fees from the hospitality industry to fund affordable housing and mental health crisis centers in the city of Longmont. He also supports non-cooperation with ICE, a very necessary step towards protecting and celebrating Longmont's immigrant community. Trowbridge seems to be a fairly green, progressive candidate who wishes to ease the burdens of society on the working poor and the marginalized.

GRADE A-

City of Louisville Measures

PROPOSITION 6A:

This proposition increases property tax in the Louisville Fire Protection District to expand and improve fire and emergency services.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

PROPOSITION 2D:

This proposition creates a 5% tax on the sale or transfer of unprocessed retail marijuana, with City Council authorized to raise the tax to a maximum of 10%. Revenue will be allocated to drug and alcohol programs, as well as general purposes. This initiative will only take force if approved in conjunction with Proposition 2F.

We see no reason to bar the production of marijuana in the city of Louisville, and the proposed tax rate is comparable to other nearby municipalities.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

PROPOSITION 2E:

This proposition allows the City of Longmont to retain excess revenue from the 0.15% sales tax increase, if the total collected exceeds the 2016 collection estimate. Funds will be allocated to the Louisville Recreation/Senior Center.

This initiative is proposed in response to the statewide Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), which requires governments to refund taxes collected that exceed initial estimates. We regard TABOR as a deeply harmful piece of legislation, and we recommend that this tax revenue be retained, in agreement with the public will as expressed in the 2016 election.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

PROPOSITION 2F:

This proposition allows retail marijuana cultivation facilities within the Industrial Zone Districts of the city. This initiative only takes force if approved in conjunction with Proposition 2D.

See Proposition 2E, above.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

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

