

Boulder County DSA

Voter Guide:

General Election 2020



**Boulder Democratic
Socialists of America**

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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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Candidates for Office

For each of the major issues discussed in this federal election 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.



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. For candidates for federal office, we also consider a candidate's foreign policy positions. Their positions should promote solidarity with all peoples, anti-imperialism, and mutual cooperation among nations. 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.



Law enforcement: 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.

Thank you to all candidates who answered our questionnaire.

Candidates for State and County Office

President of the United States

Candidate	Human Rights	Environment	Law Enforcement	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
J. Biden	C-	D	D	F	D
D. Trump	F	F	F	F	F
H. Hawkins	A	A+	A	A	A
J. Jorgenson	D	F	D-	F	F+

United States Senate

Candidate	Human Rights	Environment	Law Enforcement	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
J. Hickenlooper	D-	F+	F	F	F+
C. Gardner	F	F	F	F	F

United States Congressional District 2

Candidate	Human Rights	Environment	Law Enforcement	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
J. Neguse	B	B+	C	C	B-
C. Winn	F	F	F	F	F

United States Congressional District 4

Candidate	Human Rights	Environment	Law Enforcement	Anti-Capitalism	Final Grade
I. McCorkle	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
K. Buck	F	F	F	F	F

Candidates for Federal Office

For the sake of space, we've limited state and county office candidates to a single, overall rating.

United States Congressional District 2

CU Regents CD 2

Callie Rennison: **B**

Dick Murphy: **F**

State Rep 13

Judy Amabile: **C**

Kevin Sipple: **F**

State Senate 17

Sonya Lewis: **C**

Matthew Menza: **F**

State Rep 33

Matt Gray: **C**

Mindy Quiachon: **D**

State Senate 18

Steve Fenberg: **C+**

Peg Cage: **F**

County Commissioner Dist. 1

Claire Levy: **C**

Cinda Kochen: **D**

State Rep 10

Edie Hooton: **B**

Kenneth Stickney: **F**

County Commissioner Dist. 2

Marta Loachamin: **D**

James Crowder: **F**

State Rep 11

Karen McCormick: **C**

Mark Millman: **F**

CO Supreme Court

Justice Melissa Hart: **Yes**

Justice Carlos Samour: **No**

State Rep 12

Tracy Bennett: **C**

Eric Davila: **F**

CO Court of Appeals

Justice Ted Tow III: **No**

Justice Craig Welling: **Yes**

20th Judicial District

Judge Andrew McDonald - **No**

Ballot Initiatives

*Recommendations shall be color coded to allow for a quick read:
YES, NO, and NEUTRAL*

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

AMENDMENT B:

(Repeal Gallagher Amendment)

Amendment B would repeal the Gallagher Amendment, which regulates how much revenue can be generated from commercial and residential property taxes. The set split results in low residential property tax rates, and prevents a steady stream of revenue from being generated for a range of public services, including education. While Gallagher is harmful for generating revenue, it does regulate property tax rates, and its removal could allow the legislature continually lowering tax rates, particularly for commercial properties whose owners extract wealth from the labor of Colorado workers. While Gallagher may be a poor instrument, its removal could lead to tax cuts. In the midst of a depression, Colorado should be shoring up revenue streams and preventing austerity. Repealing the Gallagher amendment is the first step in preventing painful austerity.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

AMENDMENT C:

(Charitable Gaming)

Amendment C would allow non-profits and religious groups to raise money more easily through raffles. Non-profits do not directly benefit working class people, but this Amendment would not harm them either.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

AMENDMENT 76:

(Citizen Qualification of Voters)

Amendment 76 will restrict voting in primaries to those over 18. DSA opposes any efforts to restrict voter franchise. This amendment reeks of right-wing fear mongering over supposed voter fraud. Colorado voters would be wise to reject it.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

AMENDMENT 77:

(Local Voter Approval of Casino Bet Limits and Games)

Amendment 77 clears the path for casinos to expand no limit gambling to a wider variety of games. While Boulder County DSA does not unilaterally oppose gambling, the practices of casinos are predatory and they should not be deregulated to allow for even higher losses by attendees.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

STATE PROPOSITION EE:

(Taxes on Nicotine Products)

Prop. EE would impose a sales tax on vapes. Sales taxes are inherently regressive and we oppose any efforts which would overburden poorer people for personal choices. Colorado should pursue other means to raise revenue.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 113:

(National Popular Vote)

While we should abolish the anti-democratic Electoral College, this proposition will help subvert and weaken it - and move us closer to electing the President by a popular vote.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 114:

(Reintroduction of Grey Wolves)

Grey wolves are an important, iconic predator that will control elk and deer populations. The reintroduction of grey wolves will help to restore Colorado's biodiversity. There are some grey wolves in Colorado already, but substantial populations cannot be restored without reintroduction. Additionally, the state will compensate farmers for loss of livestock due to the reintroduction. Concerns about wolves as human hunters are false. Finally, reintroduction of grey wolves has been a success in other regions of the United States, like Yellowstone. Colorado should replicate this success.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 115:

(Ban “Late Term” Abortions)

Prop 115 would ban all abortions after 22 weeks. Boulder County DSA opposes any efforts to restrict abortion access.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 116:

(Reduce State Income Tax)

State income tax reductions will overwhelmingly benefit Colorado's wealthy, and will lead to cuts in public services. Colorado should be shoring up revenue, not giving it away to the rich.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 117:

(Expand TABOR-like Controls on State Enterprises)

Prop 117 would expand a vote requirement (like TABOR) to all funding for state enterprises, including the creation of new schools and hospitals. TABOR stifles the ability of the legislature to spend for the common good and should be abolished, certainly not expanded.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 118:

(Paid Family and Medical Leave)

Prop 118 will provide 12 weeks of paid leave to Colorado workers for qualifying time off. No one's ability to earn an income should be jeopardized by medical or family emergencies.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City Ballot Issues

BOULDER 2B (NEWR):

(No Eviction Without Representation)

“The No Eviction Without Representation (NEWR) Act is a citizen-led initiative that will provide free legal counsel and rent assistance to all tenants facing eviction in Boulder, regardless of age, income or immigration status. NEWR will be the most comprehensive anti-eviction program in the nation. It will improve tenant’s rights and prevent our friends, family and neighbors from winding up on the street.” — NEWR Campaign

Boulder County DSA and National DSA have endorsed this proposition, and we are proud to stand by our endorsement.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City Ballot Issues

BOULDER 2C/2D:

(Kill the Muni; Return to and Fund Franchise Agreement)

In 2011, voters in Boulder voted for and funded the effort for the municipalization of the city's electric utilities. In 2015, as a statement of faith in the muni, voters extended the funding for muni effort through 2022. Voters have repeatedly supported municipalization, 6 times in 10 years. These propositions represent a betrayal of the voters by returning to a franchise agreement with Xcel. Xcel is a private, profit seeking company that continues to invest in fossil fuels, including coal. Xcel built the Comanche coal power plant in 2010. Xcel attempted to pass on costs of their failed Smart Grid project onto customers. They have pledged to 80% renewables by 2030, but Boulder has already committed to 100% by 2030. Municipalization may be messy, but it beats Xcel continuing to pollute our air and destroy our climate. These propositions are a spit in the face of Boulder voters, they undermine needed efforts to move to renewables, and they hand over control of public goods to greedy profiteers.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

City Ballot Issues

BOULDER 2E:

(Direct Election of the Mayor through Ranked-Choice Voting)

Almost every other large city in Colorado directly elects their mayor, and Boulder should not be any different. Passing this proposition would align us with other cities, and would use ranked choice voting to do it. Ranked choice voting will lead to the most representative outcome, as voters could vote for their preferred candidate without spoiling the election for their ideological allies.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City Ballot Issues

BOULDER 2F:

(Increase Size of Boulder Art Commission)

The Boulder Art Commission needs more members, as they are struggling to get funds out to local artists.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City Ballot Issues

LOUISVILLE 2A:

(Single-Use Plastic Bag Tax)

While there are many merits to a single use bag tax, this tax would be more than twice the cost of Boulder's and provides no alternatives, free or otherwise, to single use bags. It does exempt WIC/SNAP users. Boulder County DSA believes that a state-wide single use bag ban would be far more effective in reducing plastic pollution.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

City Ballot Issues

LONGMONT 3C:

(Revenue Bonds for Funding Water System Improvements)

Many water infrastructure improvements are required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This proposition, if passed, would fund those improvements through bonds, which will allow for longer term debt servicing - preventing sudden spikes to rates.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City Ballot Issues

LONGMONT 3D:

(Charter Amendment to Extend Leases of Public Property)

This proposition, if passed, would let businesses rent publicly owned property for 30 years at a time, locking in rental rates. Shorter leases provide the city with more opportunity to leverage the increasing value of land in Longmont. At a time when millions are struggling to pay rent, choosing between food and medicine, businesses should not get to cheap out on public property.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

City Ballot Issues

SUNSHINE FIRE DISTRICT 6A:

(Evade Gallagher Amendment)

Boulder County DSA believes that the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment will negate the need for this issue's passing. We remain neutral.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

City Ballot Issues

BASELINE WATER DISTRICT 6B:

(Eliminate Term Limits for District Directors)

Boulder County DSA believes that term limits are essentially pointless; the best term limit is a free and fair election. However, we remain neutral.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

City Ballot Issues

ST. VRAIN CONS. DISTRICT 7A:

(Water Conservancy District)

This ballot issue would increase district taxes (by about \$9 per \$100K of property value) to pay for the district's water plan. This water plan would have an appointed board of residents that would oversee and audit the program. This water plan would maintain healthy water supplies and protect forests.

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

