

Boulder County DSA

Voter Guide:

State & Municipal 2021



**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

Boulder DSA Candidate Endorsements



Nicole Speer

Boulder DSA is proud to endorse Nicole Speer for the position of Boulder City Council Member. As an active member of United Campus Workers of Colorado, we are confident that Nicole recognizes the importance of worker struggles. She also recognizes the need for more affordable housing in Boulder and is in favor of lobbying the state government to make rent control legal. She sees the City's "sweeping" of our unhoused neighbors' encampments as shameful and wants to find long-term solutions, such as supportive housing. Finally, she is in favor of reducing the funding of the police department, shifting responsibilities that have until now been the purview of BPD to more appropriate areas of municipal government.

VOTE YES



Lauren Folkerts

Lauren Folkerts is an architect and uses that knowledge to help improve the very foundation of Boulder. She already does this through her work with Colorado Green Building Guild and City of Boulder's Design Advisory Board and is looking to do even more on the Boulder city council. Lauren understands that the homelessness in Boulder is a symptom of just not having enough housing, and instead of inhumane sweeps, she supports expanding affordable and public housing options. Improving city planning and ensuring that new buildings are sustainably built along with ensuring our existing buildings make the transition to green energy is also a focus that both the DSA and Lauren share. She also stands with true criminal justice reform, supporting both ending cash bail and expanding the STAR program to Boulder. We believe Lauren will be a true ally if she is put into the city council and she has our full endorsement.

VOTE YES

Boulder DSA Candidate Disendorsements



VOTE NO

Steve Rosenblum

Steve Rosenblum is a prominent member of the group Safer Boulder. This group engaged in transphobic, classist rhetoric and advocated for violence against our unhoused neighbors. While a member of this group, he repeatedly denigrated his impoverished tenants and chided city council members for advocating for the needs of the unhoused. He has expressed little remorse and taken no responsibility for the rhetoric of himself or his political allies. Steve rejects housing first, favors sweeping, and has repeatedly shown disdain for the poorest in Boulder. He is against providing emergency services to the unhoused. He is against shifting funding from BPD to other, more useful programs, like housing and healthcare. He wants to separate Boulder's transit from RTD, depriving local transit of badly needed resources. Steve has filed lawsuits against local activists and organizers to chill their speech. His primary experience before running for office is as a financier and landlord. Steve would be an awful member of our city council. He is an enemy of working people, and Boulder County DSA strongly opposes his candidacy. Please, do not vote for Steve Rosenblum.

Ballot Initiatives

Recommendations shall be color coded to allow for a quick read:

YES, **NO**, and **NEUTRAL**

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

AMENDMENT 78:

(Legislative Authority for Spending State Money)

The bloat of American bureaucracy would be increased with this bill, adding an additional step to appropriating funds given to the state by the federal government and giving the legislature the power to redirect federal funds away from the expressed purpose of those funds.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 119:

(Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress Program)

This initiative would raise the marijuana sales tax, with funds going to a new voucher program which would fund private out-of-school programs for students. We are in favor of providing increased funding for education and related activities, but we are committed to doing so through a public system, not through a transfer of public funds to private entities. We recommend voting no.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Statewide Amendments and Propositions

PROPOSITION 120:

(Property Tax Assessment Rate Reduction)

This reduction in property tax rates would starve schools, utilities, and other local services of desperately needed funding. This is unacceptable when they are already underfunded.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

City of Boulder Ballot Issues

BALLOT ISSUES 2I & 2J:

(Extension and Bonds for the TABOR tax)

These issues both pertain to the Community, Culture, Resilience and Safety Sales and Use Tax, which helps fund vital city projects like improvements to the Boulder Creek Path, construction of fire stations, and renovations to the East Boulder Rec Center. 2I extends the tax to 2036 and 2J allows issuances of bonds to help fund these projects. These taxes help fund projects that benefit the entire community with strong infrastructure while ensuring the preservation of public services and spaces.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City of Boulder Ballot Issues

BALLOT ISSUE 2K:

(City Council Committee Reform)

This ballot issue won't change how the city council is operating, it is a formality to align the charter with how the council already functions in practice.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

City of Boulder Ballot Issues

BALLOT ISSUE 2L:

(Signatures for petitions)

This issue clarifies the amount of signatures needed to get an issue onto the ballot for Boulder County elections. Currently, there are two conflicting thresholds that are on the books for the amount of signatures to get a petition onto the ballot each year and this keeps the lesser threshold, increasing opportunity for more direct democracy and worker empowerment.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City of Boulder Ballot Issues

BALLOT ISSUE 2M:

(Council payment schedule)

This issue would fix certain irregularities pertaining to pay for city council members, without raising or lowering the overall pay that they receive. Currently, members are paid after each meeting, and this initiative would make it so that they would be paid on the same schedule as other municipal workers. We see this as a useful simplification of council members' payments. Though this ballot issue would not raise council member salaries, we further add that we are in favor of increasing pay for council members overall, as the current level of pay renders it challenging for anyone without an independent source of wealth to run.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City of Boulder Ballot Issues

BALLOT ISSUE 300:

(Bedrooms are for people)

One of the key causes of Boulder's housing affordability crisis is its highly restrictive zoning policies, and one of the more absurd demonstrations of these restrictions is the requirement that only three or four unrelated people live in the same house, regardless of its size. This ballot issue would slightly loosen this restriction, making the number of allowed residents in a house be equal to the number of bedrooms in it, plus 1. We note that the occupancy restriction is already widely disregarded. However, having it on the books leads to residents being vulnerable to facing selective enforcement by the police, or being extorted for more rent money by unscrupulous landlords. We recommend voting yes.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City of Boulder Ballot Issues

BALLOT ISSUE 301:

(Ban on fur)

The fur industry is an archaic and cruel institution that has no place in a society that stands against all forms of oppression. This ban will help diminish the profitability of the industry while leaving out important exemptions for Native Americans and recycled or second hand furs.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City of Boulder Ballot Issues

BALLOT ISSUE 302:

(Voter approval for annexation of CU South)

The annexation of CU South will enable the building of CU student, faculty, and staff housing, flood mitigation, and green space. There will also be 5 acres set aside for desperately needed affordable housing. This is an irrelevant initiative that will do nothing to stop the annexation of CU South. Boulder City Council has already approved it. This ballot issue is a last ditch effort at sabotage by those who oppose building affordable housing in Boulder.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Lafayette Ballot Issues

LAFAYETTE PROP 2B:

(Funding Public Safety Services)

This proposition gives needed funding to the fire department, but couples it with funding for police. We believe that funding for critical services should be decoupled from funding for police departments. We recommend a NO vote.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

Lafayette Ballot Issues

LAFAYETTE PROP 2C:

(Funding Mental Health and Human Services)

This gives the city of Lafayette a desperately needed outlet to reach the communities most vulnerable members. Instead of policing the problem away Boulder DSA firmly believes in uplifting individuals out of the material conditions that creates the struggle to just survive in America today, and this measure will help the residents of the city to do this. Through an increase of the sales & use tax, Lafayette will create a Health & Human Services department and begin implementing programs to help domestic violence victims, mental health services, and emergency access to food.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Lafayette Ballot Issues

AMENDMENTS:

(Amendments to the Home Rule Charter Pertaining to Gender Neutral References)

We support recognizing the reality that there are more than two genders. We are in favor of this amendment.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Lafayette Ballot Issues

AMENDMENTS:

(Amendments to the Home Rule Charter Pertaining to Removal of Archaic Language)

We support removing archaic language such as “master” and “citizen” from legislation, charters, etc.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Lafayette Ballot Issues

AMENDMENTS:

(Amendment to the Home Rule Charter to Shorten the Residency Qualification for City Councilors to One Year)

This amendment is cleaning up contradictory information in the town charter on exactly how long a resident must be living in the city to be eligible to run for city council.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

Louisville Ballot Issues

LOUISVILLE PROP 2A:

(Debt and Tax Increase for Transportation Improvements)

We think that it is important to provide robust support for public infrastructure. This ballot issue would fund bicycle and walking paths. We are in favor of it.

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

