

Boulder County DSA

Voter Guide:

State & Municipal 2023



**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.

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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Endorsements & Anti-endorsements

For each of the major issues discussed in this 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.



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.



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.



Law enforcement: We believe that the function of the police is not to protect and serve; it is to restrain and subjugate. Capitalism breeds contradictions, and the police resolve these contradictions through violence.

Thank you to all candidates who answered our questionnaire.

Boulder DSA Candidate Endorsements

City of Boulder Mayoral Candidates



Nicole Speer

Nicole Speer is a DSA member, a union member, a CU employee, and a serving City Council member. Speer is the only Boulder County DSA-endorsed candidate in the race and is running on raising Boulder's minimum wage to be aligned with a living wage index, solving Boulder's homelessness crisis by reallocating the City's encampment clearing budget, and paying City Council members a living wage. We recommend ranking her first.

RANK FIRST

Boulder Valley School District RE-2 Director District G



Andrew Brandt

Andrew Brandt is a DSA member and a cyber security expert. Brandt is focused on addressing disproportionate school discipline, achievement and funding gaps, declining enrollment, and support for neurodivergent, BIPOC, and LGBTQ students and staff. Brandt opposes Measure 302 and Boulder's camping ban.

VOTE ANDREW

Boulder DSA Candidate Anti-endorsements

City of Boulder Mayoral Candidates

Bob Yates

Bob Yates is a current Boulder City Council member, and was a Republican until 2022. Yates is conservative and opposes inclusionary zoning and land use changes that remove municipalities' control over their own housing decisions. Yates also opposed raising Boulder's housing occupancy limits from three to five unrelated people, and expressed skepticism toward the Policy Oversight Panel in the past.

DO NOT VOTE BOB

City of Boulder Council Candidates

Terri Brncic

Terri Brncic is a co-founder of Safe Zones 4 Kids/Measure 302 and is part of the SAFER Boulder candidate slate. Brncic supports the camping ban and opposes a solely housing-first approach to homelessness. Brncic's interest in public safety and health are limited to spending on behavioral health for the unhoused. Brncic also opposes an end to single-family zoning.

DO NOT VOTE TERRI

Jennifer Robins

Jennifer Robins supports the camping ban and Measure 302, and is part of the SAFER Boulder slate. Robbins self-reports a focus on improving public health and safety, youth leadership opportunities, mild zoning reforms, and permitting and use reform.

DO NOT VOTE JENNIFER

Boulder DSA Candidate Anti-endorsements

City of Boulder Council Candidates cont.

Jacques Decalo

Jacques Decalo has contradictory positions. Decalo supports a 24-hour shelter with wraparound mental health and rehab facilities, but also supports Measure 302 and the camping ban. Decalo purports a focus on public safety, affordable housing, growth and development, water quality, and supports rent stabilization, and opposes occupancy limit increases.

DO NOT VOTE JACQUES

Waylon Lewis

Waylon Lewis grew up in Boulder and is the founder of Elephant Journal. Lewis claims many contradictory opinions including opposing Boulder's encampment sweeping policy and endorsing Measure 302. Lewis also supports expanding affordable housing options in Boulder, but doesn't support rent stabilization.

DO NOT VOTE WAYLON

Tara Winer

Tara Winer is an incumbent City Council member and is part of the SAFER Boulder slate. Winer supports Boulder's camping ban, Measure 302, and is focused on broadening access to transitional housing and treatment options for the unhoused and people with substance misuse disorders. Winer opposed raising Boulder's minimum wage and raising housing occupancy limits.

DO NOT VOTE TARA

Boulder DSA Candidate Anti-endorsements

City of Boulder Council Candidates cont.

Tina Marquis

Tina Marquis served eight years on the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) School Board, and was president for the last four years. Marquis supports Measure 302 and is part of the SAFER Boulder slate. Marquis supports RTD's efforts to increase public transit and wants expanded safe options for pedestrians and cyclists.

DO NOT VOTE TINA

Boulder DSA Candidate Anti-endorsements

Boulder Valley School District RE-2 Director District G

Lalenia Quinlan Aweida

Lalenia Quinlan Aweida is endorsed by Michael Dougherty, the District Attorney, and has been volunteering with the Boulder Sheriff's Department for almost seven years; this is counter to DSA's abolition goals. Her priorities focus on providing educational opportunities for all students, supporting student mental and physical health, and advocating for personal and campus safety.

DO NOT VOTE LALENIA

Boulder DSA Ballot Questions Anti-endorsements

Ballot Question 302: Safe Zones for Kids

Measure 302 seeks to enact enforcement zones of 500ft from school property lines and 50ft from multi-use paths and sidewalks to prioritize the removal of tents, propane tanks, and other prohibited items under Boulder’s camping ban. It would have the effect of displacing the unhoused, not moving them into services or improving public safety.

Boulder DSA has endorsed a “no” vote on Measure 302, and has endorsed 302’s counter campaign, Solutions Not Safe Zones. Solutions Not Safe Zones is a group of BVSD parents and Boulder residents opposing measure 302 because enforcement-only measures neither improve public safety nor reduce homelessness, public substance use, or crime.

VOTE NO

Candidates for Office

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

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

Local Offices - Ranked Choice

City of Boulder Mayoral Candidates

This is the first year Boulder directly elects its Mayor with a ranked choice voting format. Ranked choice voting enables voters to mark their ballots in order of preference -- 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, etc. Fill in your ballot oval:

- ◆•In the first column, for your first choice.
- ◆•In the second column, for your second choice.
- ◆•In the third column, for your third choice, and so on.

Aaron Brockett

RANK SECOND

Aaron Brockett is the current Mayor of Boulder. Brockett is a liberal who has consistently voted in favor of housing affordability and accessibility measures, including raising Boulder's occupancy limits. Brockett is endorsed by Governor Jared Polis, who is fiercely anti-labor. As this year is ranked choice voting, we recommend ranking him second.

Nicole Speer

RANK FIRST

Endorsed | See pg. 6 on endorsements

Bob Yates

DON'T RANK

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 7 on anti-endorsements

Paul Tweedlie

DON'T RANK

A former aerospace software developer who is a self described "conservative," Tweedlie is a political newcomer and has essentially zero public policy or public service experience outside of the private sector. Tweedlie is a law and order candidate who is aligned with the SAFER Boulder slate and has talked openly about the need to crack down on crime and homelessness.

Local Offices

City of Boulder Council Candidates

Terri Brncic

DON'T VOTE

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 7 on anti-endorsements

Jennifer Robins

DON'T VOTE

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 7 on anti-endorsements

Aaron Neyer

JUST VOTE

Aaron Neyer advocates for intersectional community, environmentalism, and sustainability. Neyer supports ambitious climate action, expanded affordable housing options, and inclusionary zoning. Neyer opposes Measure 302, and has expressed ambivalence about the camping ban. Neyer also supports a day shelter, but has stated that “some level” of enforcement may be necessary to move people into services.

Jacques Decalo

DON'T VOTE

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 8 on anti-endorsements

Silas Atkins

VOTE SILAS

Silas Atkins advocates for housing for everyone, improved pedestrian and bike infrastructure, direct cash assistance, and the right to strike for workers. Atkins is endorsed by the Boulder Area Labor Council and CO/WY Communications Workers of America State(s) Council. Atkins opposes Boulder’s camping ban and Measure 302.

Waylon Lewis

DON'T VOTE

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 8 on anti-endorsements

Ryan Schuchard

JUST VOTE

Ryan Schuchard is focused on expanding transportation mobility options and deepening Boulder’s work on climate action, while building more equitable transportation and housing options. Schuchard opposes Boulder’s camping ban and Measure 302. However, Schuchard has expressed ambivalence about unionizing small businesses with few employees and tight margins.

Tara Winer

DON'T VOTE

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 8 on anti-endorsements

Tina Marquis

DON'T VOTE

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 9 on anti-endorsements

Taishya Adams

VOTE TAISHYA

Taishya Adams is a former Police Oversight Committee member, community advocate, and public servant, and was the first Black woman elected to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission. Adams is focused on improving Boulder’s climate resilience and meeting the urgent needs of Boulder’s unhoused and housing insecure residents. Adams opposes Measure 302 and the camping ban, and is in favor of safe outdoor camping spaces.

School District Offices

Boulder Valley School District RE-2 Director D (4 years)

Andrew Brandt

VOTE ANDREW

Endorsed | See pg. 6 on endorsements

Lalenia Quinlan Aweida

DON'T VOTE

Anti-endorsed | See pg. 10 on anti-endorsements

Ballot Measures

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

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

State Ballot Measures

COLORADO PROPOSITION HH:

Property Tax Changes and Revenue Change Measure

Proposition HH proposes to reduce property taxes, allowing Colorado to retain and spend revenues it would otherwise refund to residents under TABOR. The measure would reduce the residential property tax assessment rate and subtract a set amount of money from a property's taxable value before applying the assessment rate. HH is endorsed by multiple progressive groups and Colorado Democrats, including Governor Jared Polis.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

State Ballot Measures

COLORADO PROPOSITION II:

Tobacco and Nicotine Produce Tax Revenue Measure

Proposition II proposes to allow Colorado to keep revenue that exceeds official projections from increased taxes on cigarettes, tobacco, and nicotine products. If approved, Colorado could use the revenue, which amounts to \$23.65m, and allocate it to the state's universal preschool program. Boulder County DSA supports funding universal education programs, especially as these programs will be most helpful for under-resourced communities.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

County Ballot Measures

COUNTY ISSUE 1A:

Open Space Extension; Open Space Sales and Use Tax Exemption and Revenue Change

A proposal to extend for fifteen years the existing 0.05% countywide sales and use tax for the purpose of acquiring, improving, and maintaining open space lands and open space property interests. Maintaining open spaces is important for recreation and reducing wildfire risks. However, sales taxes are regressive and levied hardest against those with the fewest resources.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

JUST VOTE

County Ballot Measures

COUNTY ISSUE 1B:

Affordable Housing Extension; Affordable Housing Tax Extension and Revenue Change

Boulder's available affordable housing stock is severely limited and the County is in desperate need of affordable housing options for residents. Extending an existing sales tax for County affordable housing would provide much needed relief for land purchases, construction, and related costs. However, sales taxes are regressive and while this measure is useful, it is not the sole way to increase Boulder County's available affordable housing and supportive services.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

County Ballot Measures

COUNTY ISSUE 6A:

Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Extension

A proposal to extend for ten years the District's existing property tax mill levy imposed at a rate not to exceed 1.85 mills for the purposes of paying the costs of providing a Regional Transportation District EcoPass to all District residents. Any measure that increases access to public transit and reduces the impact of greenhouse gas emissions is worth supporting, particularly one that impacts smaller, rural communities. A property tax is reasonably equitable and preferable to a sales tax.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES

City of Boulder Local Ballot Measures

BALLOT ISSUE 2A:

(TABOR) City Sales and Use Tax Extension

Proposes to extend for 20 years an existing 0.15% City sales and use tax with 50% for General Fund purposes, including fire and emergency response and public safety services, and 50% to support arts and culture. Although Boulder County DSA supports funding arts and culture, as well as essential services like emergency services and administration, a sales tax is regressive and falls hardest on those with the fewest resources.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE NO

City of Boulder Local Ballot Measures

BALLOT ISSUE 2B:

Elections Administrative Charter Cleanup Amendment to sections 27, 37, 39, 46, and 56 to:

Proposes to amend Boulder's Charter to remove the requirement that petition signers appear personally before the city clerk, changes provisions of filing a petition to 160 days before an election instead of 150 days, gives the city clerk more processing time to reduce the need for overtime or weekend work to process paper petitions. Any change that makes it easier for people to participate in democracy is worth supporting.

Boulder County DSA Recommends:

VOTE YES