

**Boulder County DSA**

**Voter Guide:**

**Democratic Primary 2024**



**Boulder Democratic  
Socialists of America**

**[BoulderDSA.org](https://BoulderDSA.org) | [BoulderDSA@gmail.com](mailto:BoulderDSA@gmail.com)**

# Boulder County DSA Voter Guide: Democratic Primary 2024:

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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!



**Boulder Democratic  
Socialists of America**

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**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.

# Endorsements & Anti-endorsements

A Boulder County DSA endorsement requires candidates to complete our Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire and secure the internal support of at least three dues-paying chapter members. Candidates are invited to a General Meeting for a Q & A session, after which chapter membership holds a formal vote to extend endorsement.

Endorsements do not mean candidates align 100% with chapter priorities, but demonstrate a willingness and ability to fight for DSA's goals. We consider engagement with chapter membership and commitment to the principles of democratic socialism, in particular, when evaluating an endorsement.

*Thank you to all candidates who answered our questionnaire.*

## Boulder DSA Candidate Endorsements

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### State Senator District 18

# Vote Jovita



#### Jovita Schiffer

Boulder DSA is proud to endorse Jovita Schiffer for Colorado Senate District 18 as a candidate who represents the values we hold dear. She is a long-time community leader, advocate, educator, and Boulder County resident. Schiffer supported the No on 302 Campaign, which opposed the use of Boulder police to displace unhoused people, opposes the use of police in schools, and supports ending the state ban on rent control. Schiffer consistently created better outcomes for children and families in Boulder County through her work in BVSD, her service on boards including the Colorado Department of Education, and as a research partner with CU Boulder's School of Education and the Renée Crown Wellness Institute. Schiffer is endorsed by Boulder Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Speer, Boulder City Councilmembers Taishya Adams and Lauren Folkerts, Lafayette Mayor JD Mangat, and Colorado Working Families Party, among others.

## Boulder County DSA Quick Voting Guide

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Several Democratic Primary Elections on Boulder County ballots are uncontested. You may see a sample ballot here. Contested races are listed below.

### State Board of Education Member - Congressional District 2

- ☐ Kathy Gebhardt
- ☒ Marisol Lynda Rodriguez

### Regent of the University of Colorado - At Large

- ☐ Elliot Hood
  - ☐ Charles "CJ" Johnson
- No recommendation

### State Senator District 18

- ☐ Judy Amabile
- ☒ Jovita Schiffer\* \*Boulder County DSA-endorsed candidate

### State Representative District 10

- ☒ Junie Joseph
- ☐ Tina Mueh

### State Representative District 49

- ☐ Lesley Smith
- ☒ Max Woodfin

# Candidates for Office

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

**YES**, **NO**, and **No Recommendation**



# Candidates for Office

## State Board of Education Member- District 2

### VOTE Marisol

#### ✓ Marisol Lynda Rodriguez

Website: <https://www.marisolforcolorado.com>

Marisol Rodriguez is a Boulder-based Hispanic business owner and education advocate. Rodriguez supports LGBTQ+ stories in school curriculums and supports students participating in sports regardless of their gender identity. Rodriguez does not support the use of police in public schools and believes they should undergo de-escalation and cultural competency training. Rodriguez supports public charter schools and opposes the use of school vouchers. Rodriguez is endorsed by Boulder City Councilmember Taishya Adams, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Speer, Former BVSD School Board Candidate Stuart Lord, Senator James Coleman, Governor Jared Polis, and others. Boulder County DSA recommends a vote for Rodriguez primarily due to her opposition to having police in schools, the clearest difference between the candidates.

#### ■ Kathy Gebhardt

Website: <https://www.gebhardtforcolorado.com>

Kathy Gebhardt is an attorney and former BVSD school board president. Gebhardt supports LGBTQ+ stories in school curriculums and supports students participating in sports regardless of their gender identity. Gebhardt believes police should provide safe environments for students that do not criminalize them and should not be engaged in school discipline. Gebhardt opposed paying BVSD school board members a yearly stipend out of concern about diverting money from classrooms and district employee salaries. Gebhardt has expressed support for public charter schools, opposes the use of school vouchers, and is endorsed by Joe Neguse and Senator Steve Fenberg, Boulder Mayor Aaron Bocket, Boulder City Councilmembers Tara Winer and Tina Marquis, among others. Boulder County DSA opposes Gebhardt due to her position on the use of police in schools.

# Candidates for Office

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## Regent of the University of Colorado - At Large

### No Recommendation

*Boulder County DSA is not making a recommendation on this race as we are not convinced that either candidate represents the policies we believe should be implemented at the University of Colorado.*

#### ■ Elliot Hood

Website: <https://www.hoodforcolorado.com>

Elliot Hood is a University of Colorado Boulder graduate and a school attorney who advocates for school districts, teachers, gender inclusion, anti-racism, and students with disabilities. Hood helped Douglas County School District defend their COVID-19 safety protocols and helped BVSD reject a charter school proposal. As Regent, Hood aims to ban concealed carry at CU, remove guns from classrooms, and make universities gun-free. Hood is endorsed by Judy Amabile, Lesley Smith, and Speaker of the Colorado House Julie McCluskie, among others.

#### ■ Charles “CJ” Johnson

Website: <https://www.cj4cu.com>

CJ is a University of Colorado Boulder graduate. Johnson is the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Ball Corporation. In his time at CU Boulder, Johnson played quarterback on the 1990 National Championship team, served on student government, and worked as athletic director. Johnson’s platform includes addressing rising tuition costs and financial aid availability, addressing issues of underrepresentation and exclusion of staff, faculty, and students, mental health services, resources, and support systems, and promoting sustainable and environmentally conscious practices campuswide. Johnson is endorsed by former Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Colorado State Senator James Coleman, and CU Board of Regents Member Wanda James, among others.

# Candidates for Office

## State Senate – District 18

### VOTE Jovita

#### ✓ Jovita Schiffer\*

\*Boulder County DSA-endorsed candidate

Website: <https://jovitaschiffer.com>

Boulder DSA is proud to endorse Jovita Schiffer for Colorado Senate District 18 as a candidate who represents the values we hold dear. She is a long-time community leader, advocate, educator, and Boulder County resident. Schiffer supported the No on 302 Campaign, which opposed the use of Boulder police to displace unhoused people, opposes the use of police in schools, and supports ending the state ban on rent control. Schiffer consistently created better outcomes for children and families in Boulder County through her work in BVSD, her service on boards including the Colorado Department of Education, and as a research partner with CU Boulder's School of Education and the Renée Crown Wellness Institute. Schiffer is endorsed by Boulder Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Speer, Boulder City Councilmembers Taishya Adams and Lauren Folkerts, Lafayette Mayor JD Mangat, and Colorado Working Families Party, among others.

#### ■ Judy Amabile

Website: <https://www.judyforcolorado.com/>

Judy Amabile currently represents Colorado House District 49. Amabile is a mental and behavioral health champion and has fought to decriminalize mental health at all levels of government. Amabile advocated for Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) reform in this year's legislative session and has fought for statewide gun control, including prohibiting the sale of assault weapons. During the 2024 legislative session, Amabile voted against a bill to expand protections for sexual assault victims by prohibiting the admission of evidence about the victim's hairstyle or clothing as evidence of consent during a trial and opposed a police accountability bill which would have protected whistleblowers from retaliation. Amabile is endorsed by Joe Neguse, Boulder Mayor Aaron Brockett, and the SEIU Union, among others. Despite Amabile's support for policies Boulder County DSA supports like removing bans on ADUs, her position on several key bills is inconsistent with Boulder County DSA's priorities.

# Candidates for Office

## State Representative – District 10

### VOTE Junie

#### ✓ Junie Joseph

Website: <https://www.junie4colorado.com/>

Junie Joseph is a family lawyer, a CU Law graduate, a former Boulder City Councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem, and the first Black woman, renter, and immigrant to represent HD10. In her two years in office, Joseph has carried legislation to lower taxes for low-income older adults and provide low-income tenants with no-cost mediation and a 30-day waiting period before eviction, passed a bill of rights for youth trapped in Colorado's criminal justice and foster care systems, and set up an equal justice fund to provide free legal aid to low-income Coloradans. Joseph has consistently voted for housing reforms, renter protections, public education, regulation of the oil and gas industry, and police accountability. Joseph is endorsed by Boulder Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Speer, Boulder City Councilmembers Taishya Adams and Lauren Folkerts, the SEIU Union, and Working Families Party, among others.

#### ■ Tina Mueh

Website: <https://www.friendsoftinamueh.org/>

Tina Mueh is a scientist, educator, and former Boulder Valley Education Association leader. Mueh supported Ballot Measure 302, which advocated for the use of Boulder police to displace unhoused people, opposed Ballot Measure 2E, which moved Boulder municipal elections to coincide with federal elections, opposes requiring cities and school boards to move off-cycle elections to align with presidential and midterm elections, and opposes Colorado's elimination of local occupancy limits. Mueh supported HB24-1152, which prohibited municipalities from restricting the construction of ADUs. Mueh is endorsed by Boulder City Councilmembers Tara Winer and Tina Marquis, Boulder County Commissioner Claire Levy, and former City Council Member Bob Yates, among others. Boulder County DSA opposes Mueh due to her opposition to the elimination of local occupancy limits.

# Candidates for Office

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## State Representative – District 49

### VOTE Max

#### Lesley Smith

Website: <https://www.lesleyforco.com>

Lesley lives in Boulder and worked at CU for 30 years as a scientist and educator, served on the City of Boulder's Water Resources Advisory Board, served on the Boulder Valley School Board for 8 years, and has served as CU Regent since 2019. Smith advocates for net-zero carbon emissions, wildfire mitigation, water conservation, public K-12 education and higher education, housing and healthcare affordability, and the environment. Smith opposes requiring cities and school boards to move their off-cycle elections to align with presidential and midterm elections, which runs counter to Boulder County DSA's commitment to the expansion of democracy and broad electoral participation. Smith is endorsed by Judy Amabile, Joe Neguse, and Javier Mabrey, among others.

#### Max Woodfin

Website: <https://maxforcolorado.com>

Max Woodfin is a veteran of the Colorado Army National Guard, mental health counselor, and educator. Woodfin has practiced as a psychotherapist for more than ten years and works with first responder agencies to provide mental healthcare to police, firefighters, park rangers, and others who respond to disasters. Woodfin champions expanding access to mental health care, affordable housing, public access to public lands, workers' rights, common sense gun reform, reproductive health, public education, and climate mitigation and adaptation. Woodfin is endorsed by the Working Families Party.