



2022 EYE ON THE BALLOT



November 8th is Election Day, the last day to vote!
 For voter registration, mail-in voting information and to find out where to submit your ballot, please go to bouldercounty.org/elections

Description

Boulder Chamber Position

Colorado Proposition 123: The Dedicate State Income Tax Revenue to Fund Housing Projects Initiative

By redeploying 0.1% of existing income tax revenue, Prop 123 will create a \$300 million fund to: provide grants to local governments and loans to nonprofit organizations to acquire and maintain land for affordable housing; create an affordable housing equity program for multi-family rental units; provide debt financing for low- and middle-income multi-family rental developments; and, create an affordable home ownership down-payment assistance program.



If our businesses want to continue attracting a diverse, competitive workforce, we need an innovative solution to the current housing crisis. More than 60% of residents cannot afford to buy a house in our community. Prop 123 will build 10,000 homes per year without raising taxes. In line with over 150 endorsements from civil rights organizations, developers, labor unions, health industry leaders, and bankers, the Boulder Chamber encourages your YES vote.

BALLOT ISSUE 1A: Countywide Wildfire Mitigation Sales and Use Tax

Establishes a 0.1% (1 cent on a \$10 purchase) countywide sales and use tax for the purpose of funding countywide wildfire mitigation efforts to proactively address the increasing risk of climate-driven wildfires.



The Marshall Fire is sadly only the most recent example of the personal and economic devastation from wildfires that continue to endanger our community. This initiative is a wise investment in preventing the next natural disaster.

BALLOT ISSUE 1B: Countywide Emergency Services Sales and Use Tax

Establishes 0.1% countywide sales and use tax, declining to 0.05% after five years, for the purpose of funding emergency response services and infrastructure, including investing in search and rescue operations, wildland firefighting staffing, and alleviating public safety needs in unincorporated Boulder County.



With tourists flocking to our mountains and residents regularly accessing our scenic areas, a robust emergency response program will protect our community and continue to make Boulder an attractive location for travelers who invest \$746 million into our local economy.

BALLOT ISSUE 1C: Countywide Transportation Sales and Use Tax Extension

Extends the existing 0.1% countywide transportation sales and use tax for the purpose of continuing to fund multimodal transportation needs, including safety improvements to roads, regional trails and commuter bikeways, transit, regional transportation corridors, and community mobility programs. This includes projects, programs and services throughout the county that provide mobility and connect people between Boulder County cities and towns, using all modes of travel.



By investing in mobility options for our 60,000+ commuters, we're helping local businesses attract employees and improve our air quality. This tax continues a successful program that has built additional bike paths, trails, improved road safety, and made transportation more accessible, with great evidence that Boulder County demonstrated good fiscal stewardship in its use of transportation investment resources. Finally, due to new state and federal transportation funding, renewal of the transportation tax will give Boulder County the opportunity to leverage significant matching dollars.

BALLOT ISSUE 6C: Library District Formation and Mill Levy Tax

Creation of a library district would remove direct control over operations of the Boulder public library system to an appointed board. The 3.5 mill property tax will amount to a \$207 tax bill for a \$900,000 home and approximately 4 times that amount for the same valued commercial property. The proposed library district would cover the City of Boulder and portions of unincorporated Boulder County.



We are concerned about ceding control of Boulder's public library system to an independent and unaccountable taxation district. But even more, the proposed steep increase in property tax rates, and its enormous impact on small businesses and people with fixed incomes, is a bridge too far. It is our hope that we can get back to the drawing board with library funding advocates in future years to find a better solution.

BALLOT ISSUE 5A: Boulder Valley School District RE-2 Capital Construction Funding

The \$350 million BVSD capital construction funding initiative will renovate aging schools, decrease over-crowding, increase disability access, and make new investments in career and technical education programs. Further, BVSD assures us that they will continue to keep a mindful eye to avoid large fluctuations in taxpayers' annual property tax bills related to debt service for the bonds.



The Boulder Valley School District is recognized as a statewide and nationwide education leader. Further, with a AA+ bond rating, and one of the highest graduation rates in the state, BVSD has demonstrated strong accountability for our tax dollars. To create a skills-based workforce ready for the 21st century economy, we need the education infrastructure to inspire, motivate, and support our students in their pursuit of myriad career opportunities.

BALLOT ISSUE 2F: Repeal of CU South Annexation

This ballot issue will repeal the negotiated annexation of the 308-acre land parcel that the University of Colorado owns in South Boulder, "CU South." The annexation agreement includes commitments to flood mitigation, open space, and housing provisions.



This carefully crafted compromise has united divergent interests in support of critical flood protection, the commitment to protection for 119 open space acres, and facilitates the construction of significant affordable housing for Boulder and CU's workforce. A NO vote allows this CU South annexation agreement to move forward, avoiding further delay that imposes undue risk on the safety of our residents and businesses.

BALLOT ISSUE 2A: Climate Action Plan Tax

The Climate Action Plan Tax (CAPTax), in place since 2006, expires March 2023. To provide adequate funding for climate initiatives, the city of Boulder proposes the new Climate Tax which would combine both the Climate Tax and the Utility Occupation taxes (UOT).



Boulder businesses recognize the existential threat climate change impacts represent. That is why the Boulder Chamber has supported previous versions of the CAP Tax. In reviewing this ballot initiative, though, the Boulder Chamber was concerned about the disproportionate tax increase to businesses, while not seeing clearly defined CAP Tax funded programs that support business sustainability efforts. We urge voters to take a careful look at Ballot Issue 2A and make your own position with respect to the above balance of interests.

HOW THE BOULDER CHAMBER ARRIVED AT THESE POSITIONS: The Boulder Chamber determines its positions on ballot measures after obtaining input from our diverse membership, receiving information from representatives on all sides of each issue, and through analysis of relevant background materials. Each ballot measure was subject to thoughtful scrutiny by the Boulder Chamber's Community Affairs Council (CAC) before final review and position adoption by the Boulder Chamber Board of Directors. For more information on the Boulder Chamber's ballot positions please contact Senior Director of Policy Programs, Jonathan Singer, at jonathan.singer@boulderchamber.com or Policy Programs Specialist, Devin Edgley, at devin.edgley@boulderchamber.com.