



Boulder County DSA Voter Guide 2024 General Election

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.

For each of the major issues discussed in this election we would like to see candidates who align with us on the following ideals:

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. Further, we believe in the inalienable right of workers to form and organize unions, and believe that the working class is strongest when it is organized.

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.

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. We believe that the police ultimately exist to deploy violence against the working class and we work for a future in which police budgets are drastically reduced and they do not deploy violence against society's poorest people, particularly people experiencing homelessness.

State Ballot Initiatives

- **Amendment G: Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Individual Unemployability Status Amendment:**

Boulder County DSA recognizes veterans are among the most vulnerable people in the US and supports reducing property taxes for veterans whose disability makes them unemployable

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

- **Amendment H: Independent Judicial Discipline Adjudicative Board Amendment:**

Boulder County DSA supports public disclosures and transparency, and holding judges accountable is part of holding the carceral system accountable.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

- **Amendment I: Remove Right to Bail in First Degree Murder Cases Amendment:**

Boulder County DSA believes that denying individuals the right to bail, even when proof is evident they committed first degree murder is inconsistent with an abolitionist stance.

Recommend: **Vote No**

- **Amendment J: Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment:**

Boulder County DSA stands in solidarity with LGBTQ+ people and believes the state has no role in limiting the rights of citizens to marry and that marriage equality is an essential part of creating a free, fair society.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

- **Amendment K: Initiative and Referendum Filing and Judicial Retention Filing Deadlines Amendment:**

Boulder County DSA supports citizen-driven ballot initiatives and referendums as a part of expanding democracy and supports giving election officials additional time to certify ballots.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

- **Amendment 79: Right to Abortion and Health Insurance Coverage Initiative:**

The right to bodily autonomy and reproductive health is a fundamental human right and Boulder County DSA unequivocally supports creating the right to abortion in Colorado's constitution and repealing the ban on the use of public funds for abortion. Abortion should be free and available on demand.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

- **[Amendment 80](#): Constitutional Right to School Choice Initiative:**
Charter schools are undemocratic and Boulder County DSA opposes any effort to subvert the ability of local school boards and districts to make their own decisions.

Recommend: **Vote No**

- **[Proposition JJ](#): Retain Sports Betting Tax Revenue for Water Projects Measure:**
Climate change is the defining challenge of our time, and Boulder County DSA supports efforts to mitigate climate impacts like drought and conserve and protect Colorado's water sources, including through sports betting revenue allocation.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

- **[Proposition KK](#): Excise Tax on Firearms Dealers, Manufacturers, and Ammunition Vendors Measure:**
The proliferation of firearms is a primary driver of gun violence in the US, and Boulder County DSA supports imposing a tax on firearm and ammunition sellers for the purpose of mitigating the impacts of gun violence in Colorado.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

- **[Proposition 127](#): Prohibit Hunting of Mountain Lion, Bobcat, and Lynx Initiative:**
Boulder County DSA supports animal rights, but recognizes that if passed, this proposition may take money away from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Recommend: **Just Vote**

- **[Proposition 128](#): Parole Eligibility Initiative:**
Boulder County DSA opposes the carceral state and disagrees with increasing the amount of time people convicted of crimes of violence must serve before becoming eligible for parole. Instead, we support efforts to reduce rates of incarceration and dismantle the carceral state.

Recommend: **Vote No**

- **[Proposition 129](#): Veterinary Professional Associate Initiative:**

Boulder County DSA opposes the proposed creation of a veterinary professional associate due to the limited clinical experience required, and is skeptical that the initiative will lead to more graduates serving rural veterinary hospitals or shelters.

Recommend: **Vote No**

- **[Proposition 130](#): Peace Officer Training and Support Fund Initiative:**

Boulder County DSA opposes the carceral state and opposes directing public funds to the police. It is important to note that the money required to fund these efforts would be taken from existing state sources.

Recommend: **Vote No**

- **[Proposition 131](#): Top-Four Ranked-Choice Voting Initiative:**

Boulder County DSA supports efforts to make the democratic process more open and representative, but acknowledges this proposed initiative may moderate Colorado elections or make them more expensive.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

City of Boulder Ballot Initiatives

[City of Boulder Ballot Question 2C](#):

Boulder County DSA supports increasing City Council pay to enable more working class people to run for and win public office, and believes that better Council pay could result in a Council that is more reflective of Boulder's working class.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

[City of Boulder Ballot Question 2D](#):

Boulder County DSA supports municipal staff's ability to conduct meetings efficiently, but is wary of the ways in which Executive Session could be used to potentially make decisions that are not transparent to constituents.

Recommend: **Just Vote**

[City of Boulder Ballot Question 2E](#):

Boulder County DSA supports efforts to make board and commission participation easier.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

[Regional Transportation District Ballot Issue 7A](#)

Boulder County DSA supports funding public transportation and freedom of movement, which empowers the working class and combats climate change.

Recommend: **Vote Yes**

City of Lafayette Ballot Initiatives

[Police Collective Bargaining](#)

While Boulder County DSA supports the right of workers to form unions and collectively bargain, the police are enemies and traitors of the working class. Boulder DSA opposes this measure.

Recommend: **Vote No**

[Organization of Downtown Development Authority \(DDA\)](#)

Boulder County DSA opposes the creation of a Downtown Development Authority on the basis that the interests of business leaders often run counter to those of their workers and the working class.

Recommend: **Vote No**

[Authorize DDA to Collect, Retain and Expend Revenues](#)

Boulder County DSA opposes the creation of a Downtown Development Authority in Lafayette and opposes its ability to collect, retain, and expend revenues on the basis that such an authority will work on behalf of business interests, not the working class.

Recommend: **Vote No**

City of Longmont Ballot Initiatives

[2024 Open Space Tax Extension Ballot Issue #3A](#)

Though open space maintenance is a crucial part of wildfire mitigation and habitat restoration, sales taxes are regressive and fall hardest on the lowest earners.

Recommend: **Just Vote**

Town of Superior Ballot Initiatives

[Sales & Use Tax Measure](#)

While capital infrastructure improvements are crucial particularly given the climate crisis, sales taxes are regressive and fall hardest on the lowest earners, who pay a greater percentage of their

total income to the tax. In this case, the average Superior household would pay \$65 more per year in sales taxes.

Recommend: **Just Vote**

Judicial Retention Questions

[Please see this reference.](#) Boulder County DSA does not take a specific position on every judicial retention, but acknowledges that some justices have better judicial records than others.

Candidates for Office

We recommend voting against Republicans.

This election season, Boulder County DSA is declining to make candidate endorsements/recommendations and instead encourages voters to oppose Republicans and support candidates who will fight for a safer, more equitable future for all. We invite people to join our movement and fight for an economy and society that empowers working people.

Boulder County DSA recommends voting strategically for Democrats. The Republican Party is a fascist party and must be defeated. While we see most Democrats working on behalf of for-profit interests rather than working people and supporting violence at home and abroad, we acknowledge their commitment to reproductive freedom and LGBTQ+ rights.

To ensure fascism is defeated in the United States, the Democratic Party must commit to:

- End military and financial assistance to Israel as it perpetrates a genocide in Gaza, apartheid in the occupied West Bank, and military aggression in Lebanon and Yemen.
- Unconditionally support workers' rights to strike and organize unions, with the exception of law enforcement unions like police and border security.
- Support housing as a human right.
- Support ambitious, urgent climate action like the Green New Deal.
- Dismantle exploitative economic systems that privilege the ruling class over the working class.
- Support universal healthcare, including Medicare for All.
- Promote and defend economic, gender, and racial justice