



# Eye on the Ballot

For an overview of the Boulder Chamber's positions on issues of concern to the community, please visit [SensibleBoulder.com](http://SensibleBoulder.com).

Ballot Issue	Chamber's Position	The Chamber's Position Explained
<p><b>Colorado Proposition CC</b> Retain Revenue for Transportation &amp; Education TABOR Measure</p> <p>Asks voters to allow the state to retain approximately \$300M per year in collected revenues for reinvestment, to be distributed equally between transportation infrastructure, K-12 public schools and higher education.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p>	<p>The Boulder Chamber has a history of supporting investments in education and transportation. Due to revenue restrictions posed by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), lawmakers have been unable to retain all tax revenues the State of Colorado collects, instead forcing them to return any revenue over the limit to taxpayers. Proposition CC asks Colorado voters to remove the arbitrary revenue limits and invest those funds toward addressing the high priority needs of our growing state, without raising taxes. In particular, our transportation infrastructure fails to keep up with the growth of our state and our schools are significantly underfunded, from K-12 through to our higher education institutions. These investment deficits pose a serious threat to sustaining Colorado's economic vitality and high quality of life. Allowing the state to reinvest the revenues it already collects is sound fiscal policy that will provide more sustainable funding to meet Colorado's most critical needs.</p>
<p><b>City of Boulder Ballot Issue 2G</b> Tax on Tobacco Vaping Products</p> <p>A 40 percent sales and use tax on electronic smoking devices, refills, cartridges and components of such product.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p>	<p>The Boulder Chamber shares the concerns of the broader community regarding the increase in teenage vaping. For this reason, in the absence of federal regulation over these products, it's appropriate to implement local government measures that discourage their use by teenagers. As federal and state governments fill this void, the City of Boulder should remove any duplicative taxation.</p>
<p><b>City of Boulder Ballot Issue 2H</b> Sales &amp; Use Tax Extension for Open Space &amp; Long's Garden</p> <p>Extends 0.15 city sales and use tax until 2039 to maintain, restore, acquire and preserve Open Space lands in addition to purchasing a conservation easement at Long's Garden.</p>	<p><b>NEUTRAL</b></p>	<p>Open Space and Long's Garden are community assets with clear economic benefits that add significantly to our high quality of life. They must be protected and maintained. However, the Boulder Chamber expects stronger efforts to fund our community priorities through the City of Boulder's operating budget and fiscal management, rather than to continually depend on passage of supplemental funding initiatives. Our members also have expressed concern about the length of this tax extension in the absence of solutions for other funding priorities, like transportation, housing and libraries.</p>
<p><b>City of Boulder Ballot Issue 2I</b> Middle Income Housing Assistance Program</p> <p>The City's ability to increase debt, without raising taxes, to fund a housing down payment assistance program that would make loans to middle-income applicants to purchase homes in Boulder. Those homes would then become deed restricted for middle income purchasers.</p>	<p><b>NEUTRAL</b></p>	<p>This financing mechanism provides our middle-income workforce with another tool to attain home ownership in our community, which is sorely needed. It also aims to maintain the stock of middle-income housing through an appreciation cap on homes that are purchased through the program. These are all very good reasons to support Ballot Initiative 2-I. At the same time, there is concern about risks that this program presents for the City as a lending agency when considering such issues as the future refinancing challenges participants might face when interest rates rise. Further, given other opportunities for significantly increasing the stock of middle-income housing in our community, such as infill development and slight density increases, the return on administrative and financing costs associated with this program is nominal. We are therefore neutral on this specific approach, but supportive of the initiative's goals and commend the efforts of the leaders who developed this middle-income housing solution.</p>