



2020 Eye on the Ballot

boulderchamber.com/2020electionresources



November 3rd 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
STATE OF COLORADO	COLORADO AMENDMENT B Gallagher Amendment Repeal & Property Tax Assessment Rates	 <p>The Boulder Chamber supports efforts to address the disproportionately high tax rates on commercial properties, and the trickle-down burden put on business tenants, due to the Gallagher Amendment. This repeal protects businesses from higher property taxes and maintains funding for critical public services throughout Colorado, like schools, emergency response, and infrastructure. It rebalances the tax burden on businesses and retains current property tax rates, putting future requests to raise the assessment rate for additional property tax in the hands of voters. For more information in support of Amendment B: www.yesonamendmentb.com</p>
	COLORADO PROPOSITION 118 Paid Medical & Family Leave	 <p>The Boulder Chamber recognizes the need to provide paid medical and family leave benefits for our workforce, and Prop. 118 offers one approach. Paid leave is an important resource for employees, providing them with security to address personal needs while protecting income and careers. We also understand businesses can benefit from insurance that covers the cost of employee leave and retains valuable workforce talent.</p> <p>With respect to Prop. 118, specifically, we acknowledge that any program in the paid medical and family leave space will have costs to either businesses and employees, or both, and finding the right balance is difficult. Yet amidst this challenging economic climate, we are concerned that businesses and families are struggling to meet basic needs. We are also concerned that the description of who is covered under Prop. 118 isn't more specific.</p> <p>The Boulder Chamber is taking a neutral position on this ballot initiative. We urge our business leaders to cast a vote on Prop. 118 that reflects their own balance of interests with respect to the benefit it attempts to secure for our workforce.</p>
CITY OF BOULDER	CITY OF BOULDER BALLOT ISSUE 2B No Evictions Without Representation	 <p>The Boulder Chamber is supportive of initiatives that offer assistance to tenants and landlords when renters struggle with payments. We also understand the value of legal representation for people facing eviction as evictions can have significant impacts on an individual's future ability to retain housing.</p> <p>Yet, the Boulder Chamber also is concerned about placing a new financial burden exclusively on landlords, most of whom only proceed with tenant evictions as a last resort or, in some cases when required by housing laws. Ballot Issue 2B would force landlords to both pay their own legal fees in those instances, while simultaneously finance opposing counsel through the prescribed annual fee. In many cases, landlords likely will simply pass along the fee and anticipated litigation costs onto their tenants in the form of higher rents, further exacerbating Boulder's housing affordability challenges.</p>
	CITY OF BOULDER BALLOT ISSUE 2C Public Service Company Franchise	 <p>The Boulder Chamber has always urged the City of Boulder and Xcel Energy to pursue a collaborative approach to achieving our climate protection and clean energy goals, believing it would offer a more efficient and effective path forward than the current litigious confrontation over municipalization of the electric energy system. The franchise agreement that Ballot Issue 2C implements, along with the supplemental settlement agreement that City Councilmembers negotiated, commits Xcel Energy to critical carbon reduction goals. It also secures important investments in energy reliability, public safety and clean energy opportunities for our community. For more information in support of 2C visit: https://bouldersgreatgreendeal.org/</p>
	CITY OF BOULDER BALLOT ISSUE 2D Repurpose the Utility Occupation Tax	 <p>The Boulder Chamber believes Ballot Issue 2D represents a worthy contribution toward achieving the full promise of a reliable and environmentally sustainable energy future for Boulder that the franchise and settlement agreements embody. We recognize the importance of advancing the type of clean energy initiatives that will help achieve Boulder's climate protection goals and drive innovation that can support Boulder's leadership in advancing clean tech solutions. We, therefore, urge support for the Utility Occupation Tax reauthorization. For more information in support of 2D visit: https://bouldersgreatgreendeal.org/</p>
	CITY OF BOULDER BALLOT ISSUE 2E Direct Election of the Mayor	 <p>The Boulder Chamber recognizes the important role our mayor often plays as the lead representative of our community's vision and for providing direction on key policy issues. We see opportunity for increased community engagement in shaping that vision and guiding policy direction if citizens directly vote in a mayoral election. We also anticipate it will give the mayor greater influence to encourage collaboration and achieve balance in City Council's policy making activities. For more information in support of 2E visit: https://www.ourmayor-ourchoice.org/</p>

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 Lori Call, lori.call@boulderchamber.com or (303) 938-2084 or Director of Public Affairs Andrea Meneghel, andrea.meneghel@boulderchamber.com or (303) 938-2077.