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# PLAN-Boulder County

## Newsletter

### October 2010

"2B or not 2B--that is the question." So Shakespeare famously wrote around 1601, and over 400 years later it is still the question for the voters of the City of Boulder. But although City Issue 2B is critical (its defeat would reduce the city's revenues by about \$4 million a year), it is not the only important question facing the electorate this year. Many other ballot measures will demand thoughtful consideration by the voters, such as the "Bad 3" (State Amendments 60, 61, and Proposition 101), which threaten to wreck the finances of state and local governments; County Issue 1B, which would enable the County Open Space program to buy parcels crucial to the Open Space system; BVSD Issue 3A, which would restore classroom cuts; and Amendment 62, which would effectively ban all abortions and perhaps commonly used methods of birth control. Then, of course, an array of vital political offices are at stake, all the way from Boulder County positions to Colorado governor and United States senator.

October is the month of Halloween, when scary things are expected to happen. But let's do all we can to minimize the fright this year by working and voting to defeat the scary ballot measures and candidates--and there are several--and to pass and elect the good ones.



### Lit Drop Volunteers Needed

PLAN-Boulder County is coordinating the literature drop for the franchise fee replacement tax, Ballot Issue 2B. Help

ensure the passage of this ballot issue and **volunteer to walk a precinct!** Please call Ruth Blackmore at 303-494-3009.

## Endorsements

The Board of Directors of PLAN-Boulder County has voted to make the endorsements set forth below. We hope that you remember and, even better, follow them when marking your ballots on or before November 2.

<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>County Issue 1A</b></p>  <p><b>Human Services Safety Net</b></p>	<p>A "Yes" on 1A means an increase of \$5.4M to support access to food assistance, medical care, financial assistance and linkages to services that can stabilize and support individuals and families in crisis. This temporary mill levy increase (0.9 mil) would result in an annual property tax increase for a \$300,000 home of approximately \$21.00. The tax has a 5-year term.</p>
<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>County Issue 1B</b></p>  <p><b>Open Space</b></p>	<p>The county's open space program has been one of the best investments the citizens have ever made. It has helped to control sprawl and maintained the boundaries between municipalities; it has preserved valuable ecosystems and wildlife habitat; it has provided recreational opportunities for all; and it has preserved agricultural lands and operations.</p> <p>Many critical parcels have become available as a result of both family circumstances and the current economy. This is an opportunity to make an important investment in our environment for our children's future.</p>

<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>City Issue 2B</b></p>  <p><b>Franchise Fee Replacement Tax</b></p>	<p>City of Boulder ballot issue 2B replaces the franchise fee now on our electric bills with an equivalent tax that expires after 5 years, giving Boulder the time to explore all possible ways to ramp-up renewable energy at competitive prices, while keeping City revenues for services intact. Passage of this tax will allow Boulder to pursue decarbonizing our energy supply, which is a critical step in reducing climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions, and will help Boulder lead the way in innovative energy policy and technology.</p>
<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>BVSD Issue 3A</b></p>  <p><b>Mill Levy Override</b></p>	<p>Passage of 3A will enhance education in BVSD, making our community a better place to live, work, and start a business. Issue 3A will generate \$22.5 million in 2011 to restore classroom cuts, compensate teachers and staff, enhance early childhood education and close the achievement gap. None of the money will be used to restore cuts in central administration.</p>
<p><b>No</b></p>	<p><b>State Amendment 60</b></p>  <p><b>Property Taxes</b></p>	<p>Amendment 60 would amend the Colorado Constitution to cut local support for public schools in half by 2020 and require the state's general fund to provide the difference, repeal all past local "de-brucing" elections and limit future "de-brucings" to a period of four years and future tax increases to ten years, and impose property taxes on governmental enterprises and authorities. The state's general fund would simply lack the money to compensate for the reduction in local tax revenues for public schools.</p>

**No**

**State Amendment  
61**



**State and Local  
Debt Limitations**

Amendment 61 would prohibit any debt financing by the state, reduce local governmental debt financing limits from three percent of actual value to ten percent of assessed taxable value of real property (a drop of 60 percent in some jurisdictions), and mandate that local governments automatically cut tax rates when debts are repaid. This amendment would hamstring the state government by forcing it to operate on a cash basis and compel local governments to place much more of the burden of capital projects on current taxpayers, or forgo them.

**No**

**State Proposition  
101**



**Motor Vehicle,  
Income and  
Telecommunication  
Taxes and Fees**

Proposition 101 would amend Colorado's statutes to lower the vehicle ownership tax to \$2 for new cars and \$1 for used cars, reduce the state income tax to 4.5 percent right away and ultimately, under certain conditions to 3.5 percent, and lower the current limit on state spending under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights ("TABOR") and "ratchet" it down after future recessions. It is projected to reduce state general fund revenues for schools, higher education, health, human services, corrections and other state functions by nearly 20 percent, reduce funding for roads and bridges by almost 20 percent from current levels, and reduce general revenues to cities and counties by more than \$600 million a year.

**No**

**State Amendment  
62**



**Definition of Person**

Amendment 62 is a dangerous and deceptive ballot proposal that seeks to extend legal and constitutional rights to a woman's fertilized eggs. It would ban all abortion in Colorado, including in cases of rape, incest or when a woman's life is at risk. It could also ban emergency contraception and commonly used forms of birth control.

**Yes**

**Cindy Dominico**



**Boulder County  
Commissioner**

Boulder County Commissioner Cindy Domenico strongly supports human service programs in Boulder County that emphasize prevention and care for those in need, preservation of rural areas and our agricultural heritage, regional cooperation, and focusing development into our municipalities. Cindy also strongly supports protection of our pristine mountain environment.

**Yes**

**John Tayer**



**RTD District O**

John Tayer, as our RTD representative, has worked tirelessly to ward-off attempts to kill elements of the Eco Pass program. At the same time, he has expanded access to this valuable program for lower income residents, including initiating a pilot Eco Pass program for affordable housing units. John remains committed to protecting the promise of FasTracks for Boulder County. John continues to work with other community leaders in the Boulder County region to advance the Northwest Rail Line and Bus-Rapid-Transit along US 36 through federal grants and other funding sources.

**Yes**

**Melissa Hart**



**CU Regent-at-large**

Melissa Hart has been a CU Law Professor for ten years, is active in a vast array of pro bono and public interest service activities, and has won the “Serving Communities Award” from the University’s Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement. As a CU Regent, she vows to find long term, sustainable funding solutions to make university education affordable, but also accessible and inclusive.

**Yes**

**Dickie Lee  
Hullinghorst**



**State House  
District 10**

Dickie Lee Hullinghorst has been a public servant for over 35 years, fighting for better services for the poor, for civil liberties and choice for women, for better education for children, and for affordable, convenient mass transit. She has served as a volunteer on many state and local boards and commissions, including the board of PLAN-Boulder County, chaired the Boulder County Democratic Party, and retired in December, 2007, as Intergovernmental Relations Director for Boulder County.

**Yes**

**Deb Gardner**



**State House  
District 11**

Deb Gardner has worked in the private sector and for important Boulder County non-profits. She's calm, diligent and productive. Deb is creative and analytical and will bring those talents to serve the people of District 11. She will work for honest, effective government that ensures economic opportunity for all Colorado's workers and families.

**Yes**

**Matt Jones**



Matt Jones is a leader with the experience, ideas, compassion and the judgment we need to get Colorado back on track. He will work to secure our environmental future while creating clean energy and other jobs, providing educational opportunities and improving accessible health care. Matt works as an Open Space planner and is a volunteer wildland firefighter.

**State House  
District 12**

**Yes**

**Claire Levy**



Claire Levy is a former PLAN-Boulder Chair and land use attorney. From public defender to private development rights, Claire has seen it all. As the District 13 representative, she sponsored 13 pieces of legislation in the 2010 legislative season alone. Her hard work has brought us solar gardens, accident victims' rights to recover damages, and the facility of small businesses to incorporate on-line.

**State House  
District 13**

**Yes**

**Cary Kennedy**



**Colorado State  
Treasurer**

Cary Kennedy has served as Colorado's State Treasurer since 2007, navigating a challenging budget and significant budget cuts. Prior to that she served as policy director for House Speaker Andrew Romanoff. Cary has a long history of commitment to education; most notably she was the architect of Amendment 23.

**Yes**

**Bernie Buescher**



**Colorado Secretary  
of State**

Bernie served two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives where he worked on legislation promoting the use of renewable energy for Colorado, counseling for victims of child abuse, and legislation expanding the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. As Secretary of State, Bernie has worked to improve communication with county clerks, created online voter registration and a user-friendly website, improved transparency, and enabled a process for access to public information about charities.

**Yes**

**Stan Garnett**



**Colorado State  
Attorney General**

Stan Garnett currently serves as District Attorney for Boulder County. Stan is an advocate for strong and effective law enforcement and has made the prosecution of violent and sexual crime a top priority. As Colorado Attorney General he will prosecute abusive business practices, aggressively pursue violent crimes, protect the most vulnerable in our society, fight for our environment, maximize efficiency and maintain a high level of transparency.

**Yes**

**John Hickenlooper**



**Colorado Governor**

As a geologist turned entrepreneur, John Hickenlooper built Colorado's first brewpub, The Wynkoop Brewing Co., leading to the revitalization of LoDo. As the mayor of Denver, his business abilities, partnered with his progressive vision for the city, landed him in Time Magazine's top five "big-city" mayors in the country. John has a track record of bringing people together to solve problems instead of stoking the same old partisan squabbles. All of this sets him up to be a great governor for Colorado in very challenging times.

**Yes**

**Jared Polis**



**U.S. Congress 2nd  
Congressional  
District**

Congressman Jared Polis also has entrepreneurial roots, having launched several successful businesses before becoming a public servant. He served six years on the State Board of Education, where he was a strong advocate for school reform and enhancing educational opportunities. Jared is an outspoken advocate for socially progressive policies and fiscal responsibility. His frequent and popular "town halls" are among the best in the nation.

**Yes**

**Michael Bennet**



**U.S. Senate**

Senator Michael Bennet has done excellent work in the U.S. Senate since being appointed in January, 2009. Michael holds an important seat on the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and has been a strong supporter of renewable energy innovation and job creation, protection of Colorado's treasured lands and water resources, stewardship of the environment and clean-up of the legacy of past resource extraction, as well as strong advocacy for health care reform and a strong economy.

## Forum Summary

## South of Downtown, September 17



Fifty-eight percent of the land in SoDA (South of Downtown Area between 13th and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets and Canyon and Arapahoe) is publicly owned, and, if that space is used imaginatively, the redevelopment of the private land in SoDA will almost inevitably succeed in benefiting the public, asserted Sam Assefa, senior urban designer, and Louise Grauer, senior planner, for the City of Boulder at a PLAN-Boulder County forum . . . [Read the entire article on the Blue Line.](#)

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## Advocacy

### SmartRegs

In September, PLAN-Boulder County supported the city's SmartRegs legislation aimed at reducing Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions by requiring energy efficiency upgrades in rental properties. The board [sent councilmembers a letter](#), available at PLAN-Boulder's website, and board members Leonard May and Ruth Blackmore testified before council.

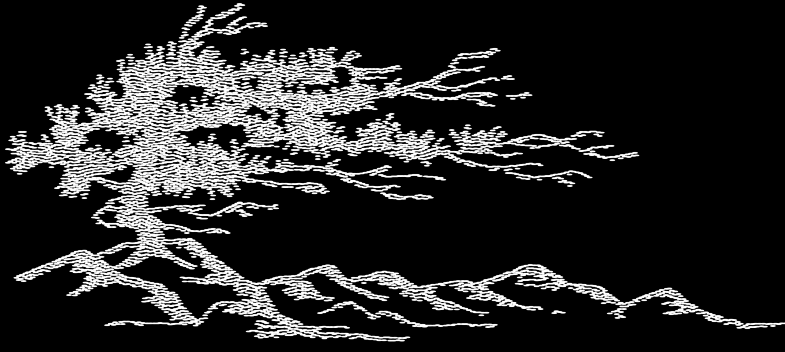
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## Upcoming Fora

Please check the PLAN-Boulder County [website](#) for last minute changes to the forum schedule.

Friday, October 15, 2010, noon-1:300. Boulder Creek Room, Boulder Public Library. *Bikes in the West TSA* . Panelists to be determined.

Monday, October 25, 2010, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sherpa's Restaurant. *Boulder's Water Supplies Under a Changed Climate.* Panelists: Engineers from AMEC Earth and Environmental.



## PLAN-Boulder County

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