

Election - November 2001
Boulder County Ballot Issues

**League of Women Voters
of Boulder Valley**



Issue 1B, cont'd

[Transportation Improvements Sales Tax]

4. Overlay with shoulders on Neva/Niwot Rd. from U.S. 36 to Colo 119, Nelson Rd from U.S. 36 to 75th St., East County Line Rd. from Erie to Colo 119, Valmont Rd from 75th to 95th Streets, Baseline Rd west of Lafayette;
5. Regional transit and trail improvements, intersection improvements, signals and turn lanes at undetermined locations.

BACKGROUND

Boulder County's ability to pay for transportation improvements is outpaced by the growth occurring in the county. This is an attempt to provide road improvements, make county roads safer and reduce congestion.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

1. This tax will help to reduce congestion on county roads. If nothing is done, the situation will only get worse.
2. Most commuters drive cars. They do not ride buses or bicycles on a daily basis. This ballot issue focuses on the road improvements needed by these drivers.
3. It will improve safety for alternative modes of transportation by the addition of shoulders on

many county roads to enable the construction of much needed bicycle lanes.

THOSE OPPOSED SAY

1. About 78% of this tax will be spent on road improvements. This tax is an attempt to build our way out of the current congestion by adding more lanes. It has been proven that this will just encourage ore drivers to use these roads and increase congestion.
2. Only 13% of the tax would be spent on transit. The transit component is described as "general county-wide transit" with no details given while the road component is very specific.
3. Congestion on the Diagonal is not addressed in this ballot issue at all.

**BALLOT ISSUE 1C
Ending Term Limits**

SHALL THE TERM LIMITS IMPOSED BY STATE LAW ON THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF BOULDER COUNTY, INCLUDING THE OFFICES OF COUNTY ASSESSOR, COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY CORONER, COUNTY SHERIFF, COUNTY SURVEYOR, AND COUNTY TREASURER, BE ELIMINATED AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 11(2), OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, WHICH WOULD ENABLE SUCH ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SERVE FOR SO LONG AS THE VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY CHOOSE TO RE-ELECT THEM TO OFFICE?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

The proposal, referred by the County Commissioners, would remove limits imposed by state law on the length of term county officials may serve. A "YES" vote will eliminate term limits on elected county officials. All elected county officials will serve so long as the voters of Boulder County choose to re-elect them to office.

A "NO" vote will continue the present two-term, eight-year limit on county elected officials' time in office.

BACKGROUND

In 1994 voters statewide adopted an amendment to the state constitution that imposed term limits on every state and local elected office. The amendment failed in Boulder County but is applicable to county elected officials because it passed statewide. By the terms of the constitutional amendment itself, the voters of a county can vote to eliminate the state-imposed term limits if a majority vote in favor of such an issue is referred to the ballot by the board of county commissioners of that county.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

1. Term limits are anti-democratic because they deny voters the right to choose their elected officials.
2. Term limits automatically remove experienced, able office holders and deny voters the right to continue them in office.
3. The amendment that instituted term limits allowed local voters to override it for local offices by popular vote.

THOSE OPPOSED SAY

1. Term limits are necessary to prevent office holders from becoming "professional" elected officials. Elected officials need to be changed regularly.
2. No official is indispensable.
3. Boulder County should not override state law. It would be chaotic if counties were permitted to pick and choose the laws they like.

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