

# TOMORROW BOULDER

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## November 2009 City of Boulder ballot issues

1. We urge a “yes” vote on Issue 2A
2. We urge a “no” vote on Issue 2D.

1. **The Boulder Tomorrow Board of Directors supports the proposed .15% sales and use tax extension (Issue 2A)** on the November, 2009 City of Boulder ballot as a clearly necessary and reasonable municipal revenue mechanism. This tax helps to fund several essential city services, including libraries, police and fire protection, human services and other programs that provide the foundation of our community.

This measure follows the recommendation of the first Blue Ribbon Commission on Revenue Stabilization to avoid earmarked taxes and to remove sunsets on general fund revenue sources. We support this manner of funding essential city services.

2. **We strongly oppose Issue 2D;** the measure that would eliminate the Housing Excise Tax upon residential development and dramatically increase the HET upon non-residential development to fund the city’s affordable housing program. Unlike the broadly assessed .15% sales tax, this measure would not fund proven programs that make up the foundation of our community. It would ask current taxpayers to support removing a tax upon themselves and place a much higher tax upon a minority group to fund an ostensibly community-wide priority. We believe such a program should instead be funded by the majority of residents in accordance with the premise of community-wide support.

More specifically, we believe clarity is required around the scope and effectiveness of the city’s affordable housing program. In 2007, the C.U. Leeds School of Business analyzed this program’s impact and open questions remain as to who is being served and exactly how the program benefits the city relative to the amount of taxes collected for the program.

The ballot language increases a tax between 500 percent and 1300 percent and places it narrowly upon one group. Such an onerous tax increase without the benefit of the forthcoming analysis from the Blue Ribbon Commission 2, combined with concerns over how it would be spent, is inappropriate.

There is no urgency to this tax increase in the face of such questions. **We urge a “no” vote on Issue 2D.**

Gary Horton, Chair  
Board of Directors