



Friday, September 6, 2019

2019 BALC Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate:

The Boulder Area Labor Council represents over 20,000 union members and their families in 114 affiliates ranging from building and construction, communications workers, janitors, health care workers, airline attendants, state employees, postal workers, firefighters, and teachers, to name a few.

The Boulder Area Labor Council is dedicated to organizing working people in the our Area and the State of Colorado; to securing, protecting, and promoting dignity and equality, rights and benefits; and to raising the standard of living and quality of life for all working people and their families. We represent union members and their families in Boulder, Broomfield, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Summit and Lake Counties.

Running for office is one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences you can have in your lifetime.

There is always room for hard-working candidates who fight for equality, raising wages and improving the lives of working people. Thank you for your service to Colorado and your City.

As part of our multi-step endorsement process for the Boulder Area Labor Council, you must complete the following questionnaire. These questionnaires will be posted on our website and available to the public. This is not a "closed book exam," if you have questions or need explanation of terms feel free to contact Geof Cahoon, President of the BALC at (303) 601-1679.

There will also be a Labor Education Event that will include an Apprentice Program tour September 18 at Pipefitters 208, 5:30 - 8:00 PM. Attendance will be a positive factor in our endorsement considerations. Candidate interviews will be scheduled for Saturday, September 7 and Saturday September 14. Final endorsements will be announced October 5. Once endorsed, you are free to use the BALC logo in print and web materials.

Once you have started the questionnaire, do not hit the 'back' button or navigate away from this page until you have submitted the form.

Candidate Name	Adam Swetlik
Email	adamswetlikforboulder@gmail.com
Phone Number	(920) 621-1996
Mailing Address	645 Manhattan Place, 112 Boulder, CO, 80303

Current Cash on-hand	\$4500, will be pursuing Boulder's matching fund program for a maximum of \$20,000 in fundraising.
Name of Campaign Contact	Adam Swetlik
Campaign Contact Phone Number	(920) 621-1996
Are you now, or have you ever been, a union member? If yes, when, where and what union were you affiliated with?	No
What would be your priorities as an elected official? What policies or coalitions do you see yourself leading?	<p>My top priorities as an elected official will all stem from reducing inequality within Boulder. As a delegate for Bernie Sanders in 2017, I've learned a lot about how labor unions are the strongest way to ensure more equality in wages and better benefits for laborers.</p> <p>I've spent the last two years as a member of Boulder's Housing Advisory Board, and in that time I've learned about our housing policies and challenges. I would like to be able to house more of the people who work in Boulder, but are unable to afford to live here. I would do this by increasing the amount of permanently affordable housing required when developing new units, from 25% of new units, to 35%.</p> <p>I'd also like to improve our transportation system but holding RTD accountable to their promises of a train along the Northwest corridor. I'm willing to take legal action to either get our train or get the money we're paying for it back to fund other transportation systems.</p> <p>Finally I'd like to provide a much better engagement process between City Council, City Staff, and residents of Boulder. Currently many projects are being set up in town without feedback from residents. This creates a lot of conflict and slows the processes down to a halt. If we can bring in residents earlier in the design process there would be more of a partnership and things could move much more smoothly.</p>
Of the policies and coalitions that you have prioritized, where do you see Labor being a key stakeholder and how do you plan to engage us on these issues?	<p>Through my housing policies I think we can expand the amount of housing that is affordable to lower income and middle income workers. This would provide many more opportunities for non-wealthy people to both live and work in Boulder.</p> <p>As for transportation it will be substantially easier to move around our county if we have either the rail transportation we were promised or the funding mechanism to provide improved transit systems.</p> <p>If the city can have a better and more streamlined engagement process then projects can move substantially faster, providing more opportunity and less red tape.</p>

For labor these three things mean a better chance to live in Boulder, less time spent in traffic with more construction opportunities and faster moving projects overall.

City Workers

Privatization of public services can reduce city expenditures, but often result in poorer quality services and lower wages for service employees. Under what circumstances would you advocate against the privatization of public services? If so, what tangible steps would you take to prevent this from happening?

I would advocate against almost any effort to privatize public services. It's been shown that privatizing jobs leads to greater inequality. While there isn't much fear of this happening in Boulder, if there was a push to privatize any current public services I would vote against it and advocate for others to do the same.

For Boulder Candidates only: Would you support the Municipal Utility employing a union workforce?

Absolutely. I'm hoping voters will decide a municipal utility is in the City's best interest, and if they do I would strongly support a unionized workforce.

Workers Rights

We believe that all people deserve the following basic civil rights. Please check all that you support:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| The right to freely organize a union | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The right to collectively bargain | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The right to wages and benefits that improve the living standards of families | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The right to full equality on the job | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The right to a safe workplace and decent working conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The right to speak and be heard, without punishment | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The right to a pension and a healthy retirement | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The right to strike when necessary | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

Would you support the Use of Best Value metrics, as opposed to lowest responsible bidder for vendors supplying the City with goods or services?

Yes. A lowest bid does not mean the highest quality of service will go along with it. I very much prefer to have a higher

than the cheapest option. That way the same job doesn't have to be done twice.

Would you support creation of a Local Minimum Wage by CityCouncil?

Absolutely. I believe we should be at \$15 by January, 2021.

Would you support licensing requirements for marijuana and hemp retail and grows that encourages high labor standards and favorable treatment of union shops?

Yes. As the marijuana industry rapidly expands we have to ensure that all of the wealth isn't captured by the top few people in the marijuana business. We need to ensure that this lucrative business provides a good living for everyone involved.

Would you support a state-wide employee paid family leave policy?

Yes. We're one of just a few advanced economies in the world without paid family leave. We need to catch up to the rest of the world.

Your city has an affordable housing crisis. What steps would take to address this problem?

As a member of the Housing Advisory Board and the current Chair, I have several policies I'd like to see enacted to address our affordability crisis.

1. Increase the Inclusionary Housing requirement on new development from 20% for low-income and 5% for middle-income to 25% and 10% respectively. This means more of what is built will be allocated to those who need it.
2. Expand the down payment assistance program for middle income housing (if it passes the ballot this fall). I think this is a very good idea to both help middle income residents purchase a home and make more existing units of housing permanently affordable.
3. Support state-level legislation that would open up tools Boulder could use to address the crisis, like transfer taxes, luxury house taxes, and second home taxes. These progressive taxes would provide ways to fund a much more robust affordable housing program and transfer wealth back to those who can't afford housing currently.
4. Implement head taxes on the largest corporations in Boulder that would be used to fund our affordable housing program. Boulder is a hub for large technology firms that attract very high-salary jobs and push the cost of housing up immensely. I'd like to help balance this out by making these large and wealthy corporations pay in to our affordable housing fund so the levels of inequality in Boulder don't rise even more.
5. Explore new housing options. Currently things like tiny homes are illegal. I'd like to explore more options for cheaper alternatives to the types of housing we allow now.

Why do you believe it is in the best interests of the BALC and its members to endorse your candidacy?

I do. I'm a strong advocate for low and middle-income workers. While I've never been a part of a union, I've worked in the service industry, in an open source business, and currently in a small business. It's obvious to me that over the last 50 years inequality has risen drastically because of the erosion of strong unions. Without the ability to have a

seat at the bargaining table, more and more wealth is going to very few people at the top. I would do whatever I could to ensure this trend is reversed in Boulder.

I have finished the Questionnaire, and I am ready to submit my final copy:

YES

You will receive an automated email response once your submission has been received. For your records, the response will contain a copy of the completed questionnaire. In case of a process error, we recommend saving your responses in a word document before submitting.

If you do not receive an automated response, the questionnaire was not received.