



Saturday, August 31, 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	Mark Wallach
Email	mark@wallachforcouncil.com
Phone Number	(917) 282-3552
Mailing Address	1455 King Avenue Boulder, Co., 80302

Current Cash on-hand	Approximately \$12,000, including \$6,900 of City of Boulder matching funds which have been received, but not yet deposited.
Name of Campaign Contact	Nancy Kornblum
Campaign Contact Phone Number	(303) 588-6055
Are you now, or have you ever been, a union member? If yes, when, where and what union were you affiliated with?	No. However, many, if not most, of my family members have been in unions (or are currently in unions) and I come from a culture and background that is highly supportive of unions.
What would be your priorities as an elected official? What policies or coalitions do you see yourself leading?	Not all of my priorities would necessarily have implications for the labor movement. Providing more affordable housing is at the top of the list (As one of your questions below correctly states, we do not have a housing crisis; we have an AFFORDABLE housing crisis). I am also committed to the conservation, preservation and proper funding of our Open Space, which I regard as the crown jewel of Boulder. And I support the muni, which I believe is the most consequential program we can have in order to break the hold of coal on our energy production (fun fact: Colorado still gets 54% of its energy from coal, which ranks us 39th among all states. That is a disgrace.) I will also lobby our national legislators to begin to redress the country's income inequality through reform of our insane tax policies and lobby our state legislators to provide adequate funding so that our jails do not serve as the repository for the mentally ill or those suffering from drug addiction, as well as reform of the bail bond system that habitually incarcerates people of color for the crime of not being able to afford the services of a bail bondsman. And as noted below, I support redressing income inequality through minimum wage and tax reform policies.
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?	I intend to be an open and accessible member of Council, and will always be receptive to the Labor movement's perspective on the many issues that will come before me. On those issues where there is a clear Labor interest, I intend to consult to determine what the Labor position is, and to see how it might be accommodated.
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 am not in favor of privatizing public services, particularly in areas of potential threats to life, health or safety, which are proper functions of government and should not be offloaded to the private sector. I will stand against that trend, and vote accordingly.
For Boulder Candidates only: Would	I think so, but I do not know whether any of the financial

projections concerning the muni account for unionization, and, if not, whether that change jeopardizes its financial viability. I support the muni, and I would hope that those services could be provided by a unionized workforce, but I need to know more.

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

Yes

The right to collectively bargain

Yes

The right to wages and benefits that improve the living standards of families

Yes

The right to full equality on the job

Yes

The right to a safe workplace and decent working conditions

Yes

The right to speak and be heard, without punishment

Yes

The right to a pension and a healthy retirement

Yes with Reservations or Conditions

The right to strike when necessary

Yes with Reservations or Conditions

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. I believe you get what you pay for, and the lowest bidder - even if responsible - often does not provide a high quality of service, or achieves a lower price on the backs of its workers.

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

Absolutely. There can be a discussion of what that amount should be, and how quickly it should be escalated, but we should use our authority as a municipality to enact a local minimum wage. This will probably engender the normal projections of doom and the collapse of our business community, but I confidently predict that the sky will not fall should we do so. As it has not fallen anywhere.

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

Probably, but it depends on the substance of the legislation. I generally do not believe in easy or pat answers, and on this one the devil is in the details.

Would you support a state-wide

Yes, subject only to a review of its financial implications.

One of the miseries of being a TABOR state is that we are underspending in so many critical areas (such as education, infrastructure, and providing the proper funds to treat homelessness, mental health issues and drug addiction) that it is difficult to satisfy all priorities necessary to achieve our social goals, even with a progressive governor and legislature. We do need to get rid of TABOR restrictions, and raise the necessary revenue for these purposes. Achieving paid family leave is high on the list.

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

I am looking for solutions beyond inclusionary zoning, which requires 2-3 market rate units be produced for each affordable unit. I would like to explore the conversion of some of the City's underutilized assets - such as the airport - to residential use. The key is that the City owns the land, and if you remove that factor from the equation, it becomes easier to build predominantly affordable and middle income housing. The airport is 120 acres; at even a modest density (such as the 19 units/acre of the Holiday area) that could yield more than 1500 units of affordable/middle income housing. I am old enough to remember a time (before Ronald Reagan when the creation of affordable housing (including middle income) was seen as a direct responsibility of government, and not merely something to be extracted from the private sector (see Coop City in the Bronx, with 60,000 residents). I look forward to returning to that climate, and to a greater investment of public funds to actually build such housing.

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

As noted earlier, I come from a family environment that values unions. I disagree with Bernie Sanders on many, many things, but not his call for growing and strengthening unions. To me, the decline of union participation is one of the major contributing factors in the progressive degradation of the American worker by large corporations over the past 35-40 years, and until more workers and industries unionize, there will be no redress of that power imbalance. I believe in the value of unions, and I want to see the union movement reinvigorated in this country.

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.