



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	Susan Peterson
Email	susan@susanforcitycouncil.com
Phone Number	(303) 594-3844
Mailing Address	350 Quail Circle Boulder, CO, 80304

Current Cash on-hand \$4005

Will accept City matching funds when I qualify.

Name of Campaign Contact Susan Peterson

Campaign Contact Phone Number (303) 594-3844

Are you now, or have you ever been, a union member? If yes, when, where and what union were you affiliated with? No, I never worked in an industry or role that was unionized.

What would be your priorities as an elected official? What policies or coalitions do you see yourself leading?

With regard to labor issues, as an elected official I would support the following policies:

- Bringing the custodial workers, landscapers, and EMS workers (who currently are contracted but work for city) into the city organization so they receive the same benefits as are currently offered to city employees.
- Consider making self sufficiency wages city wide but first understand the breadth of the impact on small businesses and our non-profits.
- The city has 3 unions : police, fire, and municipal employees. My understanding is that the police in particular may need some more constructive negotiations to ensure they feel the city has their back with respect to benefits, like mental health counseling
- Support possibility of providing 100% affordable housing at Alpine Balsam via an AFLCIO program

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 would see Labor being a key stakeholder in all of the policies mentioned above. I want to support Labor unions, to make sure all workers are protected from discrimination, and are receiving fair wages and opportunities for upward mobility, good working conditions and access to a full package of health and retirement benefits.

City Workers

In your first term, would you work with BALC to sponsor a policy granting collective bargaining rights to city employees?

Yes

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

I would advocate against the privatization of public services under all circumstances. I would work to make sure that we protect

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

Absolutely. Everybody else on the City staff already has union representation (except for the executives, contractors and elected officials), so why would the Municipal Utility be any different?

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

The right to strike when necessary 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? I know from my engineering experience that the low bid seldom ends up delivering the best value. As a result, I would support the use of Best Value Metrics for City Vendors.

Would you support creation of a Local Minimum Wage by CityCouncil? Yes, in fact I would support the City moving to self-sufficiency wage levels over a short period of time.

Would you support licensing requirements for marijuana and hemp retail and grows that encourages high labor standards and favorable treatment of union shops? I would consider it, but I would want to know more about the implications. Generally, I am in support of Unions.

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

Your city has an affordable housing crisis. What steps would take to address this problem? I would dissociate the density discussion from affordability. The data clearly shows that increased density in Boulder has

not resulted in more affordability. In fact, quite the opposite is true. Checks and balances need to be strengthened in a market that has an unlimited demand for luxury housing. For instance:

1 - Raise the Inclusionary Housing requirements from 20% for Low Income to 25%, and from 5% for Middle Income to 10%.

2 - Raise the Cash In Lieu % from 75% to 100% of the comparable cost of building affordable units on-site to reduce the financial incentive for socioeconomic segregation.

3 - Support the middle-income assistance program currently under discussion in Council.

I would also look around the world for other creative solutions we can tailor to Boulder.

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

I believe it is in the best interests of the BALC to endorse my candidacy because I believe in your mission, and because I was an effective leader throughout my 40 year career with a track record for getting things done.

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.