

**League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley**  
**Election - November 1, 2005**

**BOULDER COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES**

**BALLOT ISSUE 1A:**  
**TABOR Surplus Retention**

WITH NO INCREASE IN ANY TAX RATE BEYOND THE CURRENT TABOR TOTAL MILL LEVY LIMIT OF 23.745 MILLS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROVAL OF COUNTY VOTERS, SHALL BOULDER COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND EXPEND ALL REVENUES AND OTHER FUNDS COLLECTED IN 2005 AND EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, NOTWITHSTANDING THE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (TABOR), SUBJECT TO THE MILL LEVY AND PROPERTY TAX REVENUE EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH IN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RESOLUTION NO. 2005-89?

**BACKGROUND:** The Constitution of the State of Colorado was amended in 1992 to require that state tax revenue that exceeds certain limits be returned to taxpayers. The amendment is known as the Taxpayers Bill of Rights or TABOR. However, TABOR also allows local governments to retain surpluses upon an affirmative vote of their citizens.

**MAJOR PROVISIONS:** County Issue 1A would allow the county to permanently retain and expend surplus revenue for county purposes. In a separate resolution, the commissioners committed to using 30% of those revenues for public safety, 20% for health and human services and more than 6% for renewable energy, water quality and other environmental purposes over the next five years.

**THOSE IN FAVOR SAY:**

Boulder County's annual TABOR refunds are so small as to be insignificant to most families. When pooled together, they can make all the difference in the world.

**THOSE OPPOSED SAY:**

In approving TABOR, the voters made clear their desire to limit growth in government spending.

**BALLOT QUESTION 1B:**

**Extension of Term Limits for the County Assessor, County Coroner, County Surveyor and County Treasurer**

SHALL THE TERM LIMITS IMPOSED BY STATE LAW AND IN ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 11(2), OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION ON THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS OF BOULDER COUNTY, INCLUDING THE OFFICES OF COUNTY ASSESSOR, COUNTY CORONER, COUNTY SURVEYOR, AND COUNTY TREASURER, BE MODIFIED SO AS TO PERMIT ELECTED OFFICEHOLDERS IN THOSE OFFICES TO SEEK AND, IF THE VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY CHOOSE TO RE-ELECT THEM TO A THIRD TERM IN OFFICE, TO SERVE A THIRD CONSECUTIVE TERM?

**BALLOT QUESTION 1C:**  
**Extension of Term Limits for the Sheriff**

SHALL THE TERM LIMITS IMPOSED BY STATE LAW AND IN ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 11(2), OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION ON THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF OF BOULDER COUNTY, BE MODIFIED SO AS TO PERMIT AN ELECTED OFFICEHOLDER IN THAT OFFICE TO SEEK AND, IF THE VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY CHOOSE TO RE-ELECT THAT PERSON TO A THIRD TERM IN OFFICE, TO SERVE A THIRD CONSECUTIVE TERM?

**BALLOT QUESTION 1D:**  
**Extension of Term Limits for the County Clerk**

SHALL THE TERM LIMITS IMPOSED BY STATE LAW AND IN ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 11(2), OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION ON THE OFFICE OF CLERK AND RECORDER OF BOULDER COUNTY, BE MODIFIED SO AS TO PERMIT AN ELECTED OFFICEHOLDER IN THAT OFFICE TO SEEK AND, IF THE VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY CHOOSE TO RE-ELECT THAT PERSON TO A THIRD TERM IN OFFICE, TO SERVE A THIRD CONSECUTIVE TERM?

**BACKGROUND:**

The Colorado Constitution provides that no elected county official shall serve more than two consecutive, four-year terms in office. The constitution also allows voters to change or eliminate term limits. Referred to the voters by the county commissioners, questions 1B, 1C, and 1D would allow three terms for some elected county officials.

THOSE IN **FAVOR** OF CHANGING THE NUMBER OF TERMS SAY:

1. In a democratic society, voters should be free to choose the officers they think will best serve them. The present proposals are a good step in extending the right to choose elected officials.
2. Term limits should restrict legislators, not technical positions like coroners.
3. The possibility of serving for twelve years will encourage a larger and more diverse pool of candidates to run for office.

THOSE **OPPOSED** TO CHANGING THE NUMBER OF TERMS SAY:

No organized opposition has been identified.

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The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue. The League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side.

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