



2021 BOULDER ISSUES SURVEY }

Hello, my name is _____. I'm with Drake Research & Strategy, a Boulder based public opinion research company. First, I want to assure you that we're not selling anything. We're conducting a very interesting survey with City of Boulder voters about important local issues, and we would like to include your opinions. Your telephone number was selected purely at random.

SCREENER

A. First, I would like to confirm that you are at least 18 years old, and registered to vote in the City of Boulder? [n=406]

- Yes100% ⇒ *Continue*
- No..... -- ⇒ *Schedule call back*
- DK/NS..... -- ⇒ *Schedule call back*

B. [Ask if R says "No" or "DK,NS" in Screener A; else go to Screener C] Is there someone at home who is at least 18 years old, and registered to vote in the City of Boulder, with whom I may speak?

- Yes 100% ⇒ *Start over at Intro*
- No..... -- ⇒ *Terminate*
- DK/NS..... -- ⇒ *Terminate*

C. Is the telephone number we called you on a cell phone, or is it a traditional home phone line, often called a land line? [n=406]

- Cell phone..... 79%
- Landline..... 21%
- Other --
- DK/NS..... -- ⇒ *Terminate*

D. [Ask if R says "Cell phone" in Screener D; else go to Screener F] Are you currently driving or doing something else that makes it unsafe to talk?

- Yes -- ⇒ *Thank; Set time to call back*
- No..... 100% ⇒ *Continue*
- DK/NS..... -- ⇒ *Terminate*

E. [Ask only if R says "Cell phone" in Screener C; else go to Screener F] Do you have a landline in addition to your cell phone, or is your cell phone the only telephone that you have? [n=321]

- Also have land line..... 6%
- Cell phone is my only telephone 94%
- DK/NS..... -- ⇒ *Terminate*

F. Sex? [n=406]

- Male 50%
- Female..... 50%



1. Generally speaking, would you say things in the City of Boulder are going in the right direction, or do you feel things here have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track in the past few years?

	<u>07/10</u>	<u>5/11</u>	<u>01/12</u>	<u>02/13</u>	<u>07/14</u>	<u>07/15</u>	<u>11/16</u>	<u>6/17</u>	<u>8/19</u>	<u>6/21</u>
Right direction.....	61%	53%	54%	56%	63%	59%	59%	58%	65%	56%
Wrong track.....	22%	25%	27%	28%	21%	23%	28%	12%	23%	25%
No opinion/DK/NS...	17%	22%	19%	16%	16%	18%	13%	16%	12%	19%

2. This Fall, there will be a proposal on the November ballot that changes the number of unrelated persons who can legally occupy housing units in most areas of the City. This ordinance reads as follows:

Shall the City of Boulder expand access to housing by allowing all housing units to be occupied by a number of people equal to the number of legal bedrooms, plus one additional person per home, provided that relevant health and safety codes are met?

If the election were held today, would you vote in favor of, or against this ballot proposal? [n=406]

Vote in favor.....	75%
Vote against.....	16%
Undecided at this time/Not sure.....	9%
Refused.....	*

2a. **[Ask only if R says “Vote in favor” in Q2; else go to Q2b]** And would you definitely vote in favor of this proposal to increase occupancy, or would you only probably vote for it? [n=304]

Definitely vote for it.....	71%
Probably vote for it.....	28%
DK/NS.....	1%

2b. **[Ask only if R says “Vote against” in Q2; else go to Q2c]** And would you definitely vote against this proposal to increase occupancy, or would you only probably vote against it? [n=66]

Definitely against it.....	60%
Probably against it.....	39%
DK/NS.....	1%

2c. **[Ask only if R says “Undecided/not sure” in Q2; else go to Q3]** And even though you are undecided about this proposal to increase occupancy, which way are you leaning? Are you leaning towards voting in favor or against it? [n=36]

Leaning towards voting in favor.....	42%
Leaning towards voting against.....	29%
DK/NS.....	29%

Summary: Q2/2a/2b/2c [n=406]

	Total
Definitely vote in favor.....	53%
Probably vote in favor.....	22% ¹
Leaning towards supporting.....	4%
Undecided/DK/NS.....	3%
Leaning towards opposing.....	2%
Probably against it.....	6% ²
Definitely against it.....	10%
Refused.....	*

¹ “DK/NS” responses in Q2a are included in the “Probably vote in favor” category.

² “DK/NS” responses in Q2b are included in the “Probably against” category.



3. Suppose the initiative I just read allowing more unrelated people to live together in each housing unit contained a provision that prohibited an owner from adding bedrooms to a house in order to increase the number of people who could legally live in that house. Would that provision make you more likely or less likely to support the ballot proposal allowing more unrelated people to live in a housing unit? [n=406]

Would make me more likely to support the proposal 35%
 Would make me less likely to support the proposal 43%
 Undecided/Not Sure 22%

4. I would now like to read you a series of possible policies that the City of Boulder could pass to address different issues facing the City today. After I read each one, please tell me if you are strongly in favor of this possible new policy, only somewhat in favor, somewhat against or strongly against this possible new policy? If you are not sure, just say so. The first is: [Read list; Randomize]

	----In Favor----		----Against----		DK
	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Strong</u>	<u>NS</u>
a. [Ask ½ sample] Create a chronic nuisance policy to reduce repeat noise and other nuisance activity on the Hill and in other areas of the city by increasing enforcement, holding property owners accountable, and issuing penalties for repeat violations [n=191].....	38%	23%	21%	8%	10%
b. [Ask ½ sample] Create meaningful, proactive enforcement of nuisance noise violators on the Hill, like having a noise enforcement vehicle patrolling streets to find violators before they are reported, prevent escalations and track violations in order to provide consequences for violators [n=215].....	32%	26%	24%	11%	7%
c. When the Diagonal Plaza shopping center at 28th and Iris is redeveloped, allow housing to be built up to the maximum height allowable under the Boulder Charter [n=406]	34%	33%	11%	11%	11%
d. Without reducing the sales tax currently funding the Boulder Library system, the city council may create a new independent Library District comprised of the entire city of Boulder as well as some unincorporated areas surrounding the city. This District would be funded by an increase in the property tax of about two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) on a one million dollar home located in the City of Boulder, and about two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275) on an one million dollar home located outside the City. If approved, the main library and all branches would be transferred into the Library District, to be run by the new District and not by the City [n=406].....	18%	32%	18%	13%	19%
e. For future city elections, switch to using a system called Ranked Choice Voting to elect members of the City Council. With this system, voters mark a “1” for their first choice, a “2” for their second choice and so on [n=406]	46%	27%	6%	8%	13%
f. Increase pay for City Council members to reflect the work requirements of the job and to attract more diverse candidates [n=406].....	29%	36%	11%	11%	13%



5. After more than a decade of negotiation, the Boulder City Council is close to reaching a final agreement with the University of Colorado on the terms of annexing the CU South property into the City of Boulder. This agreement will allow Boulder to construct flood mitigation infrastructure on the CU South land and let CU build clustered, village-style housing no higher than allowed by Boulder’s Charter, for non-freshman students, faculty and staff. Based on what you have read or heard about this issue, are you strongly in favor of the City Council approving the annexation of the CU South land, only somewhat in favor, somewhat against or strongly against approving the annexation of the CU South land? If you are not sure, just say so. [n=406]

Strongly In Favor	22%
Somewhat In Favor	34%
Somewhat Against.....	13%
Strongly Against	10%
Undecided/Not sure.....	21%

6. Next I am going to read you two statements about the City of Boulder’s effort to address homelessness in the City. After I read both statements, please tell me which one comes closest to how you feel. The first is *[Read first Statement; Randomize]*

Statement A: The City’s police should step up its removal of homeless camps along Boulder Creek and in other areas of the city. They are illegal, unsanitary, threaten water quality and pose a threat to residents who live near the encampments and to other residents or visitors who want to enjoy the creek paths and other public spaces.

Statement B: Camping bans only serve to move the homeless from one place to another. Until the City of Boulder provides alternative authorized safe indoor or outdoor spaces where they can get sober, receive mental health counseling and drug rehabilitation assistance, the illegal camps should be allowed to continue to exist, as these people have no other place to go.

Which statement comes closer to how you feel, Statement A or Statement B? If you are not sure, just say so.

And do you feel strongly about your choice of Statement **[A/B]**, or do you only slightly prefer Statement **[A/B]** over Statement **[A/B]**? *[If R says “DK/NS” if “strong” or “somewhat,” record as “somewhat”]* [n=406]

Prefer Statement A strongly.....	21%
Prefer Statement A somewhat	14%
Prefer Statement B strongly	35%
Prefer Statement B somewhat	21%
Undecided at this time/Not sure if prefer A or B.....	8%
Refused.....	1%



7. Next I will read you some statements about various issues facing the City of Boulder. After I read each statement, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. If you don't have any feeling about the statement one way or the other, just say so. The first is: *[Read list; Randomize]*

	-----Agree-----		DK/NS	----Disagree----	
	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Neut</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Strong</u>
a. The City Council is not doing enough to fight crime in Boulder, like bike and auto thefts <i>[n=406]</i>	20%	20%	28%	24%	8%
b. City Council should enact tougher measures and penalties on student behavior to discourage riots like the one that took place on the Hill earlier this year <i>[n=406]</i>	37%	28%	11%	18%	6%
c. <i>[Ask ½ sample]</i> City Council should defund police by taking some money from the police department budget to pay for affordable housing <i>[n=209]</i>	33%	15%	8%	17%	27%
d. <i>[Ask ½ sample]</i> City Council should defund police by taking some money from the police department to pay for more services for the homeless <i>[n=198]</i>	36%	29%	7%	12%	15%
e. To create more affordable types of housing, Boulder should loosen regulations for accessory dwelling units, duplexes and triplexes in primarily single family home neighborhoods <i>[n=406]</i>	38%	30%	12%	11%	9%
f. There should be greater housing density along transit corridors in Boulder, especially for affordable and workforce housing <i>[n=406]</i>	48%	28%	7%	9%	7%
g. The University of Colorado should provide more housing for their students so that more single family housing in Boulder becomes available for workers and families <i>[n=406]</i>	46%	35%	8%	8%	3%
h. The City should continue efforts to attract businesses that support our local economy and sales tax base <i>[n=406]</i>	49%	34%	6%	7%	4%
i. To achieve our affordable and middle-income housing goals, City Council should prioritize high density housing on the former hospital site at Alpine-Balsam and Broadway <i>[n=406]</i> ..	38%	34%	14%	8%	6%



8. Next I will read you a list of five different priorities facing the City of Boulder, and after I read each one, please tell me, in terms of spending City tax dollars, how high a priority you feel it should be. Is it extremely important, very important, important, not too important or not at all important? The first is: *[Read list; Randomize]*

	<u>Importance</u>					<u>DK/NS</u>
	<u>Extremely</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	
a. Increasing the supply of low and moderate income housing in the City						
2016 [n=302].....	19%	34%	30%	9%	4%	4%
2021 [n=406].....	38%	32%	20%	7%	2%	1%
b. Attracting more good paying jobs to the City						
2016 [n=302].....	8%	24%	35%	19%	10%	4%
2021 [n=406].....	17%	25%	32%	18%	6%	2%
c. Achieving the climate goals the City has set for renewable energy and carbon emissions reduction						
2016 [n=302].....	25%	34%	24%	8%	6%	3%
2021 [n=406].....	42%	29%	19%	5%	4%	1%
d. Managing traffic congestion in the City.....						
2016 [n=302].....	16%	37%	32%	10%	2%	3%
2021 [n=406].....	18%	23%	32%	23%	3%	1%
e. Further addressing the problems of the homeless						
2016 [n=302].....	14%	35%	34%	9%	4%	4%
2021 [n=406].....	40%	38%	17%	3%	1%	1%

D1. Now talking some more about you, earlier you indicated you are registered to vote. Are you registered as a Republican, a Democrat, or are you unaffiliated or registered with some other party? [n=406]

Republican	6%
Democrat	53%
Unaffiliated	40%
Green.....	*
Libertarian.....	
Some other party.....	*
DK/NS.....	1%

D2. Are you either a full or part-time college student? [n=406]

Yes	15%
No.....	84%
DK/NS.....	1%

D3. Do you own or rent your home? [n=406]

Own.....	49%
Rent	49%
DK/NS/Refused.....	2%



- D4. May I ask how old you are? [n=406]
- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| 18-24..... | 14% |
| 25-34..... | 20% |
| 35-44..... | 16% |
| 45-54..... | 15% |
| 55-64..... | 12% |
| 65 or older..... | 22% |
| Refused..... | 1% |
- D5. And for statistical purposes only, was your total annual household income for 2020 less than \$60,000 dollars or \$60,000 or more? [n=406]
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Less than \$60,000..... | 41% |
| \$60,000 or more | 56% |
| Refused..... | 2% |
| DK/NS..... | 1% |
- D6. Finally -- so that we can make sure all groups are represented -- would you please tell me what racial or ethnic group you consider yourself to be a member of? [n=406]
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| White/Anglo | 86% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 6% |
| Black/African American | 1% |
| Asian/Oriental | 1% |
| American Indian..... | 1% |
| Multi-Ethnic/Mixed race | 2% |
| Other | 2% |
| Refused..... | 1% |
| DK/NS..... | * |

Thank you for taking our survey, your answers have been extremely helpful.

Methodology

2021 Boulder Issues Survey was conducted by Drake Research & Strategy, Inc., a public opinion research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The results of this survey are based upon 406 telephone interviews, 79% of which were conducted on respondents' cell phones, conducted among City of Boulder active voters. Drake Research purchased a sample of telephone numbers, and a supplemental list of cell phone numbers, of active voters living in the City of Boulder, which was then randomly sampled. Quotas were established to obtain appropriate representation for gender, political party and age. Results of the survey are also balanced by ethnicity, age and political party to more appropriately represent the actual distribution. Interviews were conducted from May 25 to June 1, 2021. A random sample of 406 has a worst-case 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 4.9% about any one reported percentage.

