



Petitioning

Boulder City Council

April 14, 2020

Filed Petitions



1. Legal Representation for Evictions
2. Reallocation of Utility Occupation Tax
3. Occupancy Limits

Legal Representation for Evictions



Shall the City of Boulder (1) establish, run and fully fund a program to provide legal representation to tenants who face the loss of housing in eviction and administrative proceedings; (2) provide a Legal Services Coordinator to administer the program; and (3) create a Tenants' Committee comprised of five members paid a \$1,000 per year stipend?

Reallocation of the Utility Occupation Tax



Shall the revenues of the City of Boulder utility occupation tax dedicated to electric utility exploration, planning, and creation collected after December 31, 2020 be allocated exclusively to fund solar incentives, wind incentives, a renewable energy certificates broker and programs that promote energy use reduction, subject to the same terms and conditions as the original tax, including having the tax expire on December 31, 2022 and being an exception to the revenue and spending limits of Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution?

Occupancy Limits



Shall the City of Boulder Charter be amended to allow housing units to hold a number of people equal to the number of bedrooms plus one, and allow housing units with fewer than four bedrooms to hold four people, and in all cases shall relevant International Building and Residential code limits apply?

Deadlines and Signature Requirements



Subject	Type	Signatures	Deadline
Eviction Representation	Code	3,336	June 5
Reallocate UOT	Code	3,336	June 5
Occupancy Limits	Charter	4,048	August 5

Charter Section 38



(a) For paper petitions that are circulated by a person signatures to initiative petitions need not all be on one paper, but the circulator of every such paper shall make an affidavit that each signature appended to the paper is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. With each signature shall be stated the place of residence of the signer, giving the street and number or other description sufficient to identify the place, and the date the signer signed the petition. All such papers pertaining to any one measure shall have written or printed thereon the names and addresses of at least five registered electors who shall be officially regarded as filing the petition and shall constitute a committee of the petitioners for the purposes hereinafter named. All such papers shall be filed in the office of the city clerk as one instrument.

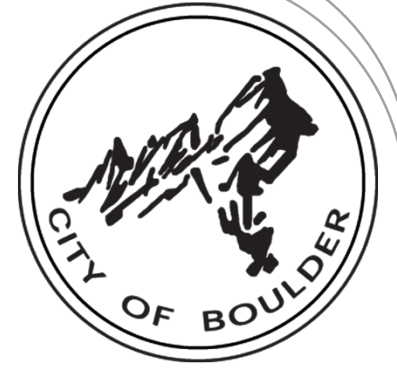
(b) Electronic petitions and on-line electronic signing or endorsement of petitions may be allowed as permitted by the Boulder Revised Code.

Other Approaches



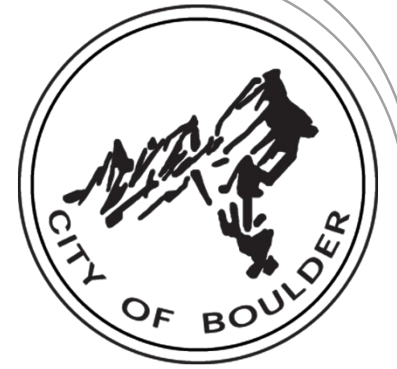
- Michigan LGBTQ Nondiscrimination – using electronic signatures
- Washington, D.C. – delayed the start of the signature gathering period
- Colorado 22-week Abortion Ban – Allowed 15 days after the end of the state’s emergency order to gather signatures.
- Utah local ballot initiatives – the Governor allowed signature collection through fax and email.
- San Diego – Clerk extended the deadline for submission from April 8 to May 1.
- Oklahoma – Tolloed the signature gathering period until the state emergency order is lifted. Petitioners will have 90 days to collect signatures.

Time to Gather Signatures



Subject	Approval Date	Deadline	Approval to Deadline	Days Prior to March 17	Days Lost
Eviction Representation	January 8, 2020	June 5 , 2020	149	69	80
Reallocate UOT	March 6, 2020	June 5, 2020	91	11	80
Occupancy Limits	March 23, 2020	August 5, 2020	135	0	135

One Option



- Council adopts a deadline for submission of signatures for council to place the measure on the ballot.
- Council establishes a formula for the number of signatures required based on the number of days signature gathering is permitted.
- Council may wish to have some minimum number of signatures required if the time becomes very short.
- The clerk's office is given time to verify voter registration.
- Council puts qualifying measures on the ballot as council originated measures.

Example



- Assume signature gathering can begin June 15
- Assume council sets August 1 as the new deadline for initiative petitions and leaves the charter petition at August 5.
- The initiative petitioners would have 47 days to collect signatures. This is 59% of the 80 days that they would have lost.
- The charter petitioners would have 52 days to collect signatures. This is 39% of the 135 days they would have lost.

Assuming: Begin Collecting June 15,
Deadline August 1 / August 5



Subject	Days Lost	Days Left to Collect	Percentage of Lost amount	Signatures Required
Eviction Representation	80	47	59%	1968
Reallocate UOT	80	47	59%	1968
Occupancy Limits	135	52	39%	1579

Electronic Signatures



- Allow electronic signatures on petitions.
- Require sufficient information to limit fraud.
- Retain the current deadlines.
- Would require an ordinance to change the Boulder Revised Code.