

Petition Seeks to Amend how Boulder County Commissioners are Elected

A citizen sponsored petition, spearheaded by Gary Cooper, resident of Lafayette, and Bruff LeVan, resident of Boulder, seeks to amend how the Boulder County Commissioners are elected and place the initiative onto the 2020 November ballot. If the petition garners the required 13,926 signatures by November 18, 2019, Boulder County voters could vote to increase the Boulder County Commissioners membership from three to five, and then vote how the five members would be elected.

Currently, residents of Boulder County vote for all county commissioner candidates, regardless of which district that resident resides in and which district that candidate is running for because now all commissioners are voted into office by the whole county. Cooper, from District 3, asserts that the way commissioners are currently elected does not lend itself to fair or direct representation, "As it stands now, the City of Boulder ultimately determines who gets elected as County Commissioner. Smaller cities or areas, such as Lafayette or Niwot, have little say in who becomes commissioner and who gets to represent that area's ideals or interests."

If placed onto the November 2020 ballot, the initiative would ask voters if the membership of the Boulder County Board of Commissioners should be increased from three to five. If the voter selects "yes", then they would choose how they would like the five-member board to be elected. The initiative asks voters to decide between electing all five members from districts and voted on only by residents in the districts or electing three of the five members from districts and then electing the remaining two members via countywide vote.

A copy of the petition can be found on the website

DistrictRepresentationForBoulderCounty.com.