

## OPEN FORUM

### Harber is an advocate for transparency

I respectfully would encourage everyone to support Aaron Harber because he is the only CU Regent candidate who has made the case for greater transparency in government, including at CU. He has succeeded in getting government entities to disclose public records and inform citizens about meetings being held behind what essentially were closed doors. He stands up to bullies — including when he defeated Rush Limbaugh's frivolous \$20 million suit against him — and always helps those in need.

Aaron is not afraid to speak truth to power or take unpopular stands to meet the needs of those without a voice. In these uncertain times, while the novel coronavirus wreaks havoc with education at all levels, we need his expertise, abilities and strength if our kids are going to have the opportunities they deserve. Aaron is the only candidate who will represent us fearlessly while standing up to Betsy DeVos and Donald Trump.

His public affairs television program has benefited all of us with Aaron bringing us in-depth, revealing conversations with guests such as Madeleine Albright, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Anthony Fauci, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Robert Mueller, Ralph Nader, Michelle Obama, Sandra Day O'Connor and Colin Powell.

Over the 40 years I have known Aaron, I have watched him raise his daughter and help her schools — from working on committees, to helping raise funds, to serving lunch to kids for years, to supporting teachers. No candidate comes close to being as involved in our community as Aaron. His roots here are deep and they will be reflected by how he represents all of us.

*George Anagnost  
Boulder*

### Bernett for HD 12

For the upcoming primary election on June 30, I urge you to vote for Tracey Bernett, Democrat for House District 12. As I have gotten to know Tracey over the past few years, I have been extremely impressed with her commitment to progressive causes, in particular, fighting climate change. She combines passion for environmental conservation with experience and knowledge based on technology and science. As a world class runner, and someone who nearly lost her son to an asthma attack, her concern about air pollution along the Front Range is personal. She has volunteered the past few years down at the Capitol on environmental issues, and understands not only what is at stake, but what tangible policy solutions are needed.

With an engineering degree from Cornell University and Harvard MBA, Tracey has the capacity to

understand the big picture and implement innovative solutions to our most pressing problems. Boulder County deserves a representative who will fight for cleaner air, building more sustainable and resilient communities, protect our residents from oil and gas, and lead us to a dramatically reduced carbon emission future. It will take determination and a commitment to innovation to transition away from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy. From homes and businesses, to cities and utilities, we need forward thinking solutions rooted in technology. In addition, Tracey supports the electrification of our transportation systems. This is an important part of mitigating climate change, since approximately 30% of carbon emissions come from transportation. We need bold approaches such as affordable electric vehicles and public transportation infrastructure.

Tracey will bring a sense of urgency to fight climate change with her to the State House. For these reasons and more, I fully support Tracey's candidacy for House District 12.

*Ashley Stolzmann  
Mayor  
Louisville*

### Why I'm voting for Marta

There are two qualified candidates in the Boulder County Commissioner District 2 race — Jonathan Singer and Marta Loachamin — and I know and like them both.

But recent events have spurred me to forego neutrality and endorse Marta. As we protest the brutal killing of George Floyd and countless other Black Americans, it's clear that words alone are not enough; real action is necessary to dismantle the systemic racism in our country.

One action we can all take is to vote for qualified progressive candidates of color whenever we can. This would be significant in Boulder County, because never, not once in the 159 years since our county was established, have we ever elected a person of color to be county commissioner. Voting for Marta could finally change that.

A Latina from Longmont, Marta has the skills and experience needed to be an effective commissioner, something I know having held the position myself for eight years. As a small business woman, housing advocate, educator, resiliency expert and single mother of two children, she would bring to the job an expertise with budgets, organizational management, and community outreach; a connection to underserved populations; cultural competency and bilingual fluency; and a strong passion for helping those in need — all things we want in a county leader.

Having commissioners with diverse backgrounds and skills makes for better decision making.

Particularly as we grapple with the crises of racial violence, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, all of which disproportionately harm people of color, having a commissioner from a frontline community would greatly benefit Boulder County's efforts to achieve racial, health and climate justice.

Please join me in voting for Marta Loachamin to become the first county commissioner of color in Boulder County's history.

*Elise Jones  
Boulder County Commissioner*

### Harber is clear choice

The official Democratic ballot for the primary election of June 30 lists three candidates for the one position as regent of the University of Colorado District 2.

Except for Aaron Harber, the two other candidates are both employees of the University of Colorado system. Both of these candidates have outright conflicts of interest too numerous to name and which must be avoided.

You cannot be both the employer as a regent of the University of Colorado and at the same time be the employee of the University as a professor in one of its colleges. The conflicts are clear and absolute.

It has been suggested that should either of these other candidates be elected to office of regent, any conflict of interest could be resolved by having the elected regent renounce himself from consideration of the proposed action by the board. While such action may appear to solve the problem, further analysis shows that such will only compound the problem by having the elected regent's position abridged and canceled with the result that the majority of the voters of Congressional District 2 will have been disenfranchised.

It is refreshing to see the dedication to public service as shown by these two other candidates, and while there are many other boards, committees and groups which could well use the talents of both of these candidates, it is not possible that either of the candidates, because of their inherent conflict of interest, can serve on the Board of Regents.

Some will be quick to banish or condemn Aaron Harber as the default candidate. Nothing could be further from the truth. In the half century that I have known Aaron, I have always found him to be a clear, analytical, rational and logical thinker, who quickly gets to the problem and its solution. Aaron Harber is clearly his own man.

A vote for Aaron Harber is a vote for outstanding progressive leadership all without a hint of any conflict of interest.

*Robert E. Dippo  
Boulder*