

## Sam Weaver: Boulder City Council

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### Sam Weaver

**Website:** [sam4council.org](http://sam4council.org)

**Age:** 51

**Family:** Married, brother, 12 nieces and nephews

**How long in Boulder:** nine years

**Neighborhood:** Whittier

**Professional background:** CEO of Cool Energy, trained optical engineer, named on 26 issued U.S. patents

**Political/community experience:** Boulder City Council member (2013-2017); Boulder Planning Board member (2012-2013); Sugarloaf Fire Department volunteer and chief (1991-2007); board member of Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association; board member of Clean Energy Action, board member of Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority

**Education:** B.S. in engineering and applied science from the California Institute of Technology

### Do you believe Boulder should continue its effort to separate from Xcel Energy and form a municipal electric utility?

Yes. The Public Utilities Commission recently provided a viable process to separate Boulder's grid system from Xcel's. The choice regarding separation from Xcel is a generational decision on par with previous landmark Boulder initiatives such as setting growth boundaries, creating our open space system, establishing the Pearl Street Mall and limiting building heights. Because of the way electricity is regulated in Colorado, being a part of the Xcel system greatly limits what choices are available. With a muni, existing limits to the deployment of customer-sited solar and storage could be removed, and local businesses could sell excess energy from their solar system to their neighbors. Perverse incentives that cause private utilities to oppose widespread behind-the-meter energy generation and storage would disappear. Creating a municipal electrical system would be a great benefit to future Boulder generations.

### How do you believe the City Council should proceed with regard to Boulder's pursuit of a citywide broadband network?

Boulder should continue to explore the possibility of a public-private partnership for a municipal broadband utility, while also continuing to pursue a municipal electric utility. Successful public broadband utilities like those in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Longmont have leveraged both the cash flow and the infrastructure of their public electric utilities. If Boulder does enter a public-private partnership, the city should split ownership with the private entity. Boulder should own either the core fiber backbone, or the runs to the home. In the event that the private entity should choose to sell to a different private entity, Boulder should have the first right of refusal to purchase the private half of the broadband system.

### Is there anything that can be done to make Boulder a more affordable place to live?

Yes. The fee on commercial development to fund affordable housing should be increased substantially, bringing in funding for building affordable housing and reducing the incentive to build commercial development over residential. Along with the coming increase in middle-income affordable housing required by our inclusionary housing ordinance, we should add a down-payment assistance program targeted at middle-income home ownership. This program would be "evergreen," as the down-payment loans would only come due when the home is sold, but in exchange for the loan the home would become permanently affordable.

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