

## Jeff Rifkin: Give neighborhoods a formal voice

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I've had a chance to listen to most of the City Council candidates address various issues and to ask them all questions. While no one candidate is going to agree with all of my/our values, I'm voting for Sam Weaver, Mary Young, Cindy Carlisle, John Gerstle, and Mirabai Nagle and I encourage you to do the same. They will put the values of Boulder's neighborhoods before those of developers. They are all good listeners, thoughtful, and concerned about the issues facing Boulder in general and Boulder's neighborhoods in particular. Most importantly, they all believe that the city should employ neighborhood sub-committees that would give neighborhoods a formal voice in any proposed change to a neighborhood; that neighborhoods shouldn't be forced to change without the neighborhood's consent. They are all aware of the issues surrounding the jobs/housing imbalance, affordable housing, and densification. The position of the present City Council majority on those issues is exemplified by the difficulties we've experienced trying to stop the development of Hogan-Pancost. The most prominent being community benefit, which is not a synonym for affordable housing. The only way we're going to change the direction the city is presently headed is to get *five* people on City Council that will listen, that will challenge the pro-growth-pro-development position that the majority of our present CC, PB, and planning staff share, that are willing to say no to development that benefits no one but the developers, and who will work hard and sincerely, to solve the jobs/housing imbalance and the need for affordable housing that isn't at the expense our existing neighborhoods. We need to have five City Council members that will represent our neighborhoods' interests, but most importantly, come November — *vote!* We need everyone to vote! Thanks

**Jeff Rifkin**

*Boulder*

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