

Mirabai Nagle: Boulder City Council

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Mirabai Nagle

Website: nagleforcouncil.org

Age: 34

Family: Dad Bruce Nagle, mom Karen Kuk-Nagle, husband Luke Poss

How long in Boulder: Entire life, with brief time away

Neighborhood: Gunbarrel

Professional background: Finance and marketing for Crocs, graduate gemologist, diamond grader, custom jewelry designer, marketing manager

Political/community experience: Close Up Washington, BoCo Democrats, Young Democrats, volunteer firefighter/first responder, Prairie Protection Colorado, United Paws Rescue

Education: B.S. in business administration from CU's Leeds School of Business

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

On Dec. 7, 2016, Boulder formally adopted a Climate Commitment of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030. Boulder's municipal utility is designed to achieve that. Xcel's plan is 55 percent renewable electricity by 2030. I support a municipal utility, in order for Boulder to fulfill its Climate Commitment goal. This November, voters will vote on three measures related to the muni. If Boulder voters no longer support a muni, as they previously did, I'll recognize that "the people have spoken" and I'll respect the will of the voters.

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

Consumer Reports recently documented that many large broadband providers such as Comcast score poorly in many categories, including value and customer service. Conversely, CR found that the city of Chattanooga, Tenn., municipal broadband has the nation's fastest internet. Their service is highly reliable, and Chattanooga charges just \$57.99 per month for 100 mbps service, or \$69.99 per month for gigabit service. This bodes very well for the city of Boulder. Cities will need fiber to be competitive and survive in the 21st century. There's talk of a Boulder public-private partnership for broadband. But such arrangements typically benefit the private entity more than the public.

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

Yes. First, we should pursue real solutions. Simply building more, without specific controls, may just produce more high-priced housing. We should preserve housing that is affordable. We should require that most new housing that's built be affordable. Our biggest deficit is housing that's affordable to lower- and middle-income residents. We should convert commercial- and industrial-zoned land to mixed-use/affordable housing. The city should require community benefit in the form of substantial permanently affordable housing when granting building developers variances for height, and floor area, increases. We should require that new commercial growth, which creates the need for more affordable housing, adequately funds affordable housing. A city-hired consultant found that the real, adjusted costs to the city, in terms of affordable housing, are \$70 for every new square foot of commercial office buildings. Yet the city only charges commercial developers \$12 square foot for affordable housing. This should be increased.

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