

## Rolf Kjolseth: Consider the source in city election

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The "fast growth" side in our City Council election seems intent on distracting voters from the truth. Curiously, and relentlessly, they attack PLAN Boulder — people who basically created the things that make Boulder an attractive place: open space, the Blue Line, and a building height limit that preserves viewsheds. So let's examine the main movers and shakers behind the various sides of our current City Council debate of fast growth vs. carefully managed growth.

On the fast growth side, we have Better Boulder, whose board of directors is dominated by Realtors, builders, real estate developers, and members of other fast growth groups, including ultra-high occupancy co-op enthusiasts. Better Boulder closely aligns with Open Boulder, a group whose original board included staff from the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, a group that's against new commercial growth having to pay its share of new infrastructure costs.

Better Boulder and the Chamber are dominated by people who directly profit, the more Boulder grows. The Daily Camera is in there, too. Practically every newspaper in America cheerleads for growth, particularly commercial growth, because they sell more business advertising with commercial growth. And, larger populations buy more newspapers.

Conversely, examine the people behind PLAN Boulder and groups that support them. You'll find everyday, common citizens, whose fortunes aren't dependent on how much our city grows. You'll find environmentalists, scientists, and people who are simply asking how much larger can Boulder grow — given our ever-increasing traffic, limited water resources, and limited city infrastructure (the expansion of which will be unbelievably expensive, and apparently, disproportionately borne by everyday residents rather than the commercial growth that's causing the need for the expansion).

Personally, I much more trust PLAN's endorsement of Sam Weaver, John Gerstle, Mirabai Nagle, Cindy Carlisle, and Mary Young.

**Rolf Kjolseth**

*Boulder*

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