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## **OPEN BOULDER ENDORSES FIVE CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL**

*Boulder, CO – September 15, 2015* – Open Boulder today announced its endorsements of five candidates for Boulder City Council in 2015, and one special recognition for a sixth candidate. The five endorsees together will produce the kind of change for which the City is calling, while remaining true to the community's vision of Boulder as an exemplary place to live, work, and play.

"Each of our endorsees provides a different skill set to the table, and working together we are confident they will provide practical, progressive leadership for the City in a time of great change," said Open Boulder Executive Director Andy Schultheiss. "Every one shares a strong commitment to public accountability, good process—both internal and external, and pragmatism."

Open Boulder conducted an in-depth questionnaire (verbatim responses can be read at [www.openboulder.org](http://www.openboulder.org)) and interviews with several candidates. Our criteria for endorsement were consistency with Open Boulder's issue stances ([www.openboulder.org/issues](http://www.openboulder.org/issues)) and broad vision for the City; record on Council, City board and/or civic engagement; and electability.

The five endorsees are (in alphabetical order by first name):

**Aaron Brockett** — We are impressed with Aaron's independence and balance as a member of the City's Planning Board, as well as his sensitivity to the type of resident that has lately become invisible in City decision-making. He is a computer programmer, Holiday neighborhood resident, father to a young family, and a strong proponent of practical solutions on attainable housing, open space, and transportation.

**Bill Rigler** — The first of our newcomers to Boulder politics, Bill impressed the Open Boulder board with his creative, positive approach to solving difficult problems. Currently a leading innovator at Naropa University, Bill has a history of bringing people together to find ways to reach community goals. He's also an enthusiastic supporter of the City's start-up business scene, a competitive bicyclist, and a pragmatic proponent of Boulder's climate change program.

**Bob Yates** — Not a newcomer by any means, Bob still impressed us with his fresh approaches to intransigent challenges. He's a long-time community leader who has been involved in making Boulder a better place to live, work, and play for many years, starting with his years as a Level 3 founder. But he also has a variety of new ideas and a determination to bring disparate groups together to move the community forward.

**Jan Burton** — Another non-politician running for Council, Jan is a perfect fit for Boulder. She's a former top executive at Apple, a more recent entrepreneur in the "tiny housing" space, and a frequent volunteer in the City's burgeoning music scene. She brings a practical voice shaped by

years in the high tech corporate world, extensive knowledge and ideas on our housing crisis, and a commitment to inclusivity.

**Tim Plass** — Tim is the only incumbent Open Boulder is endorsing for 2015 because we find Tim to be a strong voice on Council for restraint, and smart non-ideological policy-making. Although we disagree on some substantive matters, we are impressed with Tim's openness to input, his willingness to take on orthodoxy, and his record on inclusivity and accountability.

In addition to the five endorsed candidates above, Open Boulder recognizes **Cha Cha Spinrad** as a rising star, a sixth candidate who impressed us with her energy, determination to represent her generation, and ideas, particularly on the housing crisis. Boulder's future is in the hands of Ms. Spinrad, a pre-school teacher and mechanical engineer, and her peers, and we hope that she will continue to provide leadership for the City in the coming years. And we also hope that many more of her generation will follow.

### About Open Boulder

Open Boulder is the voice of Boulder-area citizens who came to this community to "live, work and play," and who want to ensure that the amazing assets that brought them here are open for all for generations to come.

We are a grassroots, nonpartisan movement of open-minded, pragmatic and moderate individuals of all ages, cultures and economic backgrounds. We are parents, we are young and not-so-young professionals, students and recent grads, long-time residents and recent arrivals. We are employees and business owners, entrepreneurs and technology workers. We are outdoor enthusiasts and outdoor athletes, we are animal lovers, and we are environmentalists. We are forward looking, dynamic and we embrace diversity. We aren't afraid of change done right and we want our voices to be included in shaping our community's future. Most importantly, we are open to new ideas, new people and new ways of living, working and playing in Boulder.

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