

2017 BOULDER COUNTY ISSUES SURVEY

Hello, my name is _____. First, I want to assure you that we're not selling anything, or asking for money. I'm with Talmey-Drake Research, a public opinion research company here in Boulder, Colorado. We are conducting an interesting survey with registered voters about local issues in your community, and we would like to include your opinions. Your telephone number was selected purely at random.

SCREENER

- A. First, I would like to confirm that you are at least 18 years old, and registered to vote in Boulder County? *[n=605]*
- | | |
|------------|------|
| Yes..... | 100% |
| No..... | -- |
| DK/NS..... | -- |
- B. *[Ask only if R says "No" or "DK/NS" in Screener A; else go to Screener C]* Is there someone in this household I can speak to who is at least 18 years old and is registered to vote in Boulder County?
- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Yes..... | 100% ⇒ Start over |
| No..... | -- ⇒ Terminate |
| DK/NS..... | -- ⇒ Terminate |
- C. Party Registration *[From Sample]: [n=605]*
- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Democrat..... | 47% |
| Republican..... | 15% |
| Unaffiliated..... | 36% |
| Other:..... | 2% |
- D. And did you vote in the 2016 election for President between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, or did you not vote. *[n=605]*
- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Voted..... | 99% |
| Did not vote..... | 1% |
| DK/NS..... | -- ⇒ Terminate |
- E. *[Ask only if R says "Did not vote" in Screener D; else go to Screener F]* Did you not vote because you were too young to vote in 2016, or was it for some other reason?
- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Too young..... | 100% ⇒ Continue |
| Some other reason..... | -- ⇒ Terminate |
| DK/NS..... | -- ⇒ Terminate |
- F. In November of this year, there will be elections for local City or Town Councils and possibly some other city, County or statewide ballot issues, but no races for President, Congress or Governor. On a scale of zero to ten, with zero meaning NOT AT ALL likely and ten meaning EXTREMELY likely, please tell me how likely you are to vote in this Fall's election? You can use any number between zero and ten. *[Terminate if R does NOT say 5-10] [n=605]*
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 0-4..... | -- |
| 5-8..... | 29% |
| 9-10..... | 71% |
| DK/NS/Refused..... | -- |



SCREENER

G. Is the telephone number we called you on a cell phone, or is it a traditional home phone line, often called a landline? [n=605]

Cell phone	50%
Landline	49%
Other	1%
DK/NS	-- \Leftarrow <i>Terminate</i>

H. [Ask if R says "Cell phone" in Screener G; else go to Screener I] Are you currently driving or doing something else that makes it unsafe to talk?

Yes	100%	\Rightarrow <i>Thank; Set time to call back</i>
No	--	\Rightarrow <i>Continue</i>
DK/NS	--	\Rightarrow <i>Terminate</i>

I. In which Boulder County City do you live? If you live in an unincorporated area of Boulder County, like Gunbarrel or other unincorporated areas, just say so? [n=605]

Allenspark	*
City of Boulder	33%
Eldorado Springs	--
Erie	3%
Gunbarrel	1%
Hygiene	*
Jamestown	*
Lafayette	10%
Longmont	27%
Louisville	7%
Lyons	*
Nederland	*
Niwot	1%
Pinecliffe	--
Superior	4%
Ward	*
Other Unincorporated area of Boulder County	10%
Other City	2%
DK/NS/Refused	-- \Rightarrow <i>Terminate</i>

J. Sex: [Do Not Ask] [n=605] [n=

Male	49%
Female	51%

*An asterisk, wherever it appears, means that the result for that response rounds to less than 1%.



1. Generally speaking, would you say things in Boulder County are going in the right direction, or do you feel things here have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track in the past few years?

	<u>6/17</u> [n=605]	<u>6/16</u> [n=605]	<u>12/15</u> [n=605]	<u>3/14</u> [n=603]	<u>5/12</u> [n=605]	<u>4/10</u> [n=603]	<u>7/09</u> [n=600]	<u>12/06</u> [n=500]	<u>6/99</u> [n=603]	<u>4/95</u> [n=507]	<u>6/94</u> [n=300]	<u>4/92</u> [n=501]
Right direction.....	56%	56%	61%	60%	62%	59%	58%	70%	59%	53%	50%	66%
Wrong track.....	27%	26%	22%	26%	23%	27%	26%	16%	29%	37%	38%	18%
No opinion/DK/NS...	17%	13%	17%	14%	15%	14%	16%	14%	12%	10%	12%	16%

Next I am going to read you two ballot proposals that could be on this November’s election ballot. The first is: *[Randomize Q2 & Q3]*

2. Shall the term limits on the office of Sheriff of Boulder County that are imposed by state law and in Article Eighteen, Section 11 dash 2, of the Colorado constitution, be *[Sample A read: “modified”/ Sample B read: “removed”]* so as to permit an elected officeholder in that office to seek and, if the voters of Boulder County choose to re-elect that person, to serve *[Sample A read: “a fifth consecutive term”/ Sample B read: “an unlimited number of consecutive terms”]*? If the election were held today, would you vote in favor or against this ballot proposal to *[Sample A read: “modify”/ Sample B read: “remove”]* the term limits for the office of Boulder County Sheriff?

	<u>5th</u> <u>Term</u> [n=300]	<u>No</u> <u>Term</u> [n=305]	<u>Total</u> [n=605]
Vote in favor.....	38%	27%	32%
Vote against.....	43%	57%	50%
Undecided at this time/Not sure	19%	16%	18%
Refused.....	*	*	*

3. With no increase in existing taxes, shall the existing point zero five percent (.05%) Boulder County Worthy Cause sales and use tax that helps with debt reduction and funding of capital facilities for nonprofit organizations, be extended for a period of *[Sample A read: “ten”/ Sample B read: “fifteen”]* years, up to and including *[Sample A read: “December 31, 2028”/ Sample B read: “December 31, 2033”]*? This tax currently raises approximately two and a half million dollars a year, and these funds help with the high price of obtaining and/or improving facilities that allow County non-profits to provide a variety of services, including, but not limited to: *[Randomize]*

- Child Care
- Health Care
- Mental Health
- Basic Needs, such as food assistance
- Senior Services
- Affordable Housing

If passed, this ballot proposal would keep in place the existing sales tax that adds five cents on a one hundred dollar purchase. The current Worthy Cause tax will expire in 2018 unless voters approve this extension. If the election were held today, would you vote in favor or against renewing the Boulder County Worthy Cause tax for an additional *[Sample A read: “ten”/ Sample B read: “fifteen”]* years?

	<u>10</u> <u>Yrs</u> [n=300]	<u>15</u> <u>Yrs</u> [n=305]	<u>Total</u> [n=605]
Vote in favor.....	79%	82%	80%
Vote against.....	16%	11%	14%
Undecided at this time/Not sure	5%	6%	6%
Refused.....	--	--	--



3a. *[Ask only if R says “Vote in favor” in Q3; else go to Q3b]* And would you definitely vote in favor of extending this existing sales tax, or would you only probably vote for it?

	10 Yrs [n=236]	15 Yrs [n=252]	Total [n=488]
Definitely vote for it.....	72%	63%	67%
Probably vote for it.....	27%	37%	32%
DK/NS.....	1%	*	1%

3b. *[Ask only if R says “Vote against” in Q3; else go to Q3c]* And would you definitely vote against extending this existing sales tax, or would you only probably vote against it?

	10 Yrs [n=47]	15 Yrs [n=35]	Total [n=82]
Definitely against it.....	67%	74%	70%
Probably against it.....	33%	24%	29%
DK/NS.....	--	2%	1%

3c. *[Ask only if R says “Undecided/not sure” in Q3; else go to Q4]* And even though you are undecided about extending this existing sales tax, which way are you leaning? Are you leaning towards voting in favor or against it?

	10 Yrs [n=16]	15 Yrs [n=19]	Total [n=35]
Leaning towards voting in favor.....	76%	32%	52%
Leaning towards voting against	12%	21%	17%
DK/NS.....	12%	47%	31%

Summary: Q3/3a/3b/3c

	10 Yrs [n=299]	15 Yrs [n=306]	Total [n=605]
Definitely vote in favor.....	56%	52%	54%
Probably vote in favor	22%	31%	27% ¹
Leaning towards supporting	4%	2%	3%
Undecided/DK/NS.....	1%	3%	2%
Leaning towards opposing.....	1%	1%	1%
Probably against it	5%	3%	4% ²
Definitely against it.....	11%	8%	9%
Refused	--	--	--

¹ “DK/NS” responses in Q3a are included in the “Probably vote in favor” category.

² “DK/NS” responses in Q3b are included in the “Probably against” category.



4. Next, I'm going to read you things that people who are in favor of extending the Worthy Cause sales and use tax are saying about why the tax should be extended. After I read each statement, please tell me whether it makes you much more likely or only somewhat more likely to support this tax extension. If the statement has no effect on you one way or the other, or makes you likely to oppose this extension, just say so. The first is: *[Randomize; except randomize f through i as a group in that order]*

		Likely to Support Extension				
		Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	More Likely to Oppose	No Diff	DK/ NS
a.	If approved, one-half of the tax revenue each year would go to fund affordable housing <i>[n=605]</i>	41%	23%	13%	21%	2%
b.	A portion of the revenue from the Worthy Cause tax would be directed to specific projects to provide additional day care opportunities <i>[n=605]</i>	34%	31%	10%	24%	1%
c.	<i>[Ask Sample A]</i> A portion of the revenue from the Worthy Cause tax would be directed to specific projects to provide additional services for senior citizens <i>[n=300]</i>	40%	30%	5%	24%	1%
d.	<i>[Ask Sample B]</i> A portion of the revenue from the Worthy Cause tax would be directed to specific projects to provide additional services for senior citizens, such as Meals on Wheels <i>[n=305]</i>	55%	27%	3%	14%	1%
e.	The Worthy Cause Tax is not a new tax, but is an extension of an existing tax <i>[n=605]</i>	37%	22%	7%	30%	4%
f.	<i>[Ask Sample A]</i> A portion of the revenue from the Worthy Cause tax would be directed to specific projects to increase access to health care <i>[n=300]</i>	46%	23%	8%	22%	1%
g.	<i>[Ask Sample B]</i> A portion of the revenue from the Worthy Cause tax would be directed to specific projects to increase access to health care at community health care providers such as Salud Family Health and Clinica Health Services <i>[n=305]</i> ...	51%	23%	5%	19%	2%
h.	<i>[Ask Sample A]</i> A portion of the revenue from the Worthy Cause tax would be directed to specific projects to increase access to behavioral health care, including mental health and substance abuse treatment <i>[n=300]</i>	53%	21%	5%	19%	2%
i.	<i>[Ask Sample B]</i> A portion of the revenue from the Worthy Cause tax would be directed to specific projects to increase access to behavioral health care, including mental health and substance abuse treatment at Mental Health Partners <i>[n=305]</i>	60%	21%	4%	14%	1%



5. On a different topic, since 2003, the number of elk on Rabbit Mountain County Open Space land, located between Longmont and Lyons, have increased from 25 to over 270, a ten-fold increase. Officials in both Boulder County Open Space and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife believe that the size of the elk herd has become way too large for its surroundings. The elk have developed use patterns where they spend the days on Rabbit Mountain and move to private lands at night to feed on crops. With few natural predators, this elk herd has stopped migrating, they are reproducing more rapidly and causing extensive damage to the highly diverse native plants and wildlife habitat of Rabbit Mountain. Additionally, they are causing damage to neighboring residential fences, landscaping, and agricultural crops. In addition, human-elk conflicts in the surrounding area are also on the rise. Before just now, had you read or heard anything about the elk herd on Rabbit Mountain Open Space? [n=605]

Yes, had read/heard about herd..... 31%
 No, had not read/heard about herd 69%
 DK/NS..... *

6. After careful consideration of many options and techniques on how to reduce the size of the Rabbit Mountain elk herd, officials at the Boulder County Open Space, in consultation with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, feel the most appropriate method to significantly reduce the size of herd is to allow limited elk hunting on the county-owned Rabbit Mountain Open Space during the State’s elk hunting season. Knowing what you now know, would you be in favor or against allowing limited hunting on Rabbit Mountain Open Space in order to reduce the size of the elk herd to protect the native plants and wildlife habitat and the health of the elk herd on Rabbit Mountain Open Space? [n=605]

In favor 73%
 Against..... 19%
 DK/NS..... 8%

7. Next, I’m going to read you some statements about the proposal to allow limited elk hunting on Rabbit Mountain Open Space. After I read each statement, please tell me whether it makes you much more likely or only somewhat more likely to support allowing limited elk hunting on Rabbit Mountain open space. If the statement has no effect on you one way or the other, or makes you likely to oppose hunting on this land, just say so. The first is: [Randomize]

	Likely to Support Hunting				
	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	More Likely to Oppose	No Diff	DK/ NS
a. If approved, limited hunting would be combined with other efforts that address the concerns about damage to open space and private lands. These may include limited fencing, hazing, and other efforts to restore damaged habitats and entice the herd to return to more migratory habits [n=605].....	29%	31%	8%	27%	5%
b. Allowing hunting on Rabbit Mountain would require closure of Rabbit Mountain Open Space on Monday through Wednesday of each week for five months during the state hunting season, which lasts from September through January [n=605].....	16%	16%	24%	42%	2%
c. The over-grazing by the large elk herd is destroying the ecosystem of Rabbit Mountain Open Space [n=605].....	37%	27%	8%	24%	4%



	Likely to Support Hunting		More	No	DK/
	Much More	Somewhat	Likely to	Diff	NS
	Likely	More	Oppose		
d. Notification of open space closure would be made by signage at entry points to Rabbit Mountain as well as on social media and the County's web page [n=605].....	20%	19%	7%	50%	4%
e. Hunting the elk will scare elk off Rabbit Mountain and will most likely lead to a return to their migratory patterns of heading higher up in the mountains in the summer months and return to a larger and more diverse lower area in the winter months [n=605].....	32%	28%	8%	28%	4%
f. [Ask Sample A] Once the elk return to their natural migratory patterns, it will allow the Rabbit Mountain habitat to recover from over grazing damage that exists today [n=300].....	34%	30%	8%	24%	4%
g. [Ask Sample B] Once the elk return to their natural migratory patterns, it will lessen the now increasing risk of human-elk conflicts in the area [n=305].....	33%	29%	6%	26%	6%
8. Next I would like to ask you a few questions about recreational shooting on U.S. Forest Service land in Boulder County. Currently the Forest Service has a policy called "Dispersed Shooting," which allows RECREATIONAL shooting anywhere on most Forest Service land, including its land in Boulder County, as long as it is conducted at least 150 yards away from a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation area or occupied area. Before just now, were you aware of this US Forest Service policy of Dispersed Shooting? [n=605]					
Yes, was aware of policy.....	42%				
No, was not aware of policy.....	55%				
DK/NS.....	3%				
9. In order to address safety concerns raised by Dispersed Shooting in populated areas of the foothills of Boulder County, the US Forest Service is willing to close those populated areas to Dispersed Shooting if the County develops specific shooting ranges and facilities in safer areas where gun owners could go for recreational shooting. These closures for Dispersed Shooting would not impact hunting during hunting season or shooting on private land. Do you support or oppose Boulder County developing a limited number of specific shooting ranges and/or facilities in order to allow the US Forest Service to prohibit Dispersed Shooting in the populated areas of the Boulder County foothills? [n=605]					
Support.....	71%				
Oppose.....	17%				
DK/NS.....	12%				



10. Finally, thinking about just the taxes you pay to Boulder County today, would you say that the taxes you pay to the Boulder County government are way too high, high but acceptable, about right, or lower than you would expect for the services that the County government provides?

	<u>6/17</u> [n=605]	<u>6/16</u> [n=605]	<u>12/15</u> [n=605]	<u>3/14</u> [n=603]	<u>5/12</u> [n=605]	<u>8/11</u> [n=411]	<u>5/10</u> [n=603]	<u>7/09</u> [n=600]	<u>6/08</u>	<u>7/07</u>	<u>5/06</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>4/95</u> [n=507]
Way too high.....	22%	21%	20%	20%	18%	15%	20%	21%	23%	24%	22%	22%	16%
High but acceptable.....	39%	38%	40%	36%	41%	39%	34%	40%	37%	28%	35%	31%	34%
About right.....	29%	30%	29%	38%	32%	42%	35%	32%	32%	41%	36%	40%	41%
Lower than expected.....	3%	6%	3%	3%	6%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	5%
No opinion/DK/NS.....	7%	5%	8%	3%	3%	--	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. Now talking some more about you, some people are always following what's going on in politics and public affairs. Others just aren't that interested. Do you follow what's going on politically and in government all of the time, most of the time, some of the time or almost never? [n=605]

All of the time.....	33%
Most of the time.....	39%
Some of the time.....	21%
Almost never.....	2%
Refused.....	1%
DK/NS.....	4%

D2. Do you own or rent your home? [n=605]

Own.....	62%
Rent.....	31%
DK/NS/Refused.....	7%

D2a. [Ask if R says "Own" in D2; else go to D3] Thinking about just your property taxes, would you say that your local property taxes are way too high, high but acceptable, about right, or lower than you would expect to pay?

	<u>6/17</u> [n=377]	<u>6/16</u> [n=458]
Way too high.....	34%	24%
High but acceptable.....	35%	40%
About right.....	25%	30%
Lower than what one would expect.....	4%	3%
No opinion/DK/NS.....	2%	3%

D3. How many people, including yourself, live in your household? [Range 1-20; 99=Refused] [n=605]

1.....	16%
2.....	39%
3.....	16%
4 or more.....	24%
Refused.....	5%



- D3a. *[Ask if R says "2 or more" in D3; else go to D4]* How many of those living in your home are under the age of 18? *[n=479]*
- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| None..... | 67% |
| 1..... | 16% |
| 2..... | 13% |
| 3 or more..... | 4% |
| Refused..... | * |
- D4. Are you a full or part-time college student? *[n=605]*
- | | |
|------------|-----|
| Yes..... | 15% |
| No..... | 81% |
| DK/NS..... | 4% |
- D5. Now, I have just a few more questions for statistical purposes only. May I ask how old you are? *[n=605]*
- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| 18-24..... | 14% |
| 25-34..... | 17% |
| 35-44..... | 17% |
| 45-54..... | 14% |
| 55-64..... | 20% |
| 65 or older..... | 17% |
| Refused..... | 1% |
- D6. And which of the following income groups includes your family's total annual income from all sources in 2016?: *[Read list except refused and DK/NS] [n=605]*
- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Up to \$20,000..... | 6% |
| \$20,000, but less than \$30,000..... | 6% |
| \$30,000, but less than \$40,000..... | 7% |
| \$40,000, but less than \$50,000..... | 10% |
| \$50,000, but less than \$60,000..... | 6% |
| \$60,000, but less than \$75,000..... | 8% |
| \$75,000, but less than \$100,000..... | 14% |
| \$100,000, but less than \$150,000..... | 13% |
| \$150,000 or over..... | 14% |
| Refused..... | 10% ⇐ <i>Do not read</i> |
| DK/NS..... | 6% ⇐ <i>Do not read</i> |
- D7. Finally, so we can ensure that all groups are statistically represented, would you please tell me what racial or ethnic group or groups you consider yourself to be a member of? *[Single Response only] [n=605]*
- | | |
|--|-----|
| White/Caucasian..... | 75% |
| Black/African-American..... | 1% |
| Hispanic/Latino..... | 9% |
| Oriental/Asian-American/Asian/Pac. islander..... | 3% |
| American Indian/Native American..... | * |
| Multi-Ethnic/Mixed race..... | 3% |
| Other..... | 2% |
| Refused..... | 7% |



**Thank you for taking our survey, your answers
have been extremely helpful.**

Methodology

2017 Boulder County June Issues Survey was conducted on behalf of Boulder County by Drake Research & Strategy, Inc., a public opinion research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The results of this survey are based upon 605 telephone interviews conducted among active voters residing in Boulder County. Drake Research purchased a sample of telephone numbers, and a supplemental list of cell phone numbers, of active County registered voters, which was then randomly sampled. Quotas were established to obtain appropriate representation for gender, geography, political party and for age. Interviews were conducted from May 31 to June 7, 2017. A random sample of 605 has a worst-case 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 4.0% about any one reported percentage.

