



# **Boulder County Commissioner Candidates Forum**



# Welcome

- 6:30pm → 7:00pm Informal Greeting
- 7:00pm → 8:30pm
  - Introductions
  - Opening statements
  - Question and Answer
  - Closing statements



# Niwot Community Association

[www.niwot.org](http://www.niwot.org)

- Social
  - Fourth of July Parade and event support
  - National Night Out
  - Ice cream / Hot dog socials
- Service
  - Clean up day
  - Niwot Road underpass mural
  - Open space & trails
- County Liaison
  - Advocate for Niwot and interface with local government
  - Forums, surveys & information
  - Issue based, will not endorse a candidate



# Ground Rules

- Timing
  - Opening statements: 5 minutes
  - Answer: 3 minutes
  - Rebuttal: 1 minute
  - Closing statements 3 minutes
- Speaking order has been randomized
- No direct candidate-to-candidate interaction
- Please refrain from audible support or opposition to remarks. Please silence your cell phone



# Opening Statements

(5 minutes)

1. Gary Cooper
2. Matt Jones
3. Cliff Willmeng



# Question #1

## Growth & Transportation

Boulder county is about to embark on updating the transportation comprehensive plan:

- The city of Boulder's policy of increasing jobs faster than housing is exacerbating the already bad Boulder rush hour congestion and pollution across Boulder county. What solution(s) do you have to address this issue?
  - Increase mass transportation?
  - Expand roadways?
- How is it going to be paid for?

1. Cliff Willmeng
2. Matt Jones
3. Gary Cooper



## Question #2

# Unincorporated BC Subdivision Roads

The Boulder County Commissioners imposed a policy change in the 1990s to stop repaving subdivision roads that had been deeded to the county. We now find the neighborhood roads are extremely deteriorated.

How would you propose to get these roads repaved and maintained in perpetuity?

1. Matt Jones
2. Cliff Willmeng
3. Gary Cooper



## Question #3

# Representation

Currently, Boulder County Commissioner candidates are required to live within the district that they represent, yet they are elected by the public at large. Unincorporated county citizens feel disenfranchised and that Boulder City and city centers drive policy.

If you agree: What would you do to create direct elections in specific districts rather than at-large elections?

If you disagree: Explain how rural and demographic groups are being properly represented.

1. Gary Cooper
2. Cliff Willmeng
3. Matt Jones





# Question #4

## Land Use / Planning Commission

Homeowners in rural Boulder County often complain that they do not have control to moderately improve their property and are subject to more regulation than city residents. Square footage limitations, neighborhood “character”, and SMART regulations are used to deny building permits.

Case and point: a local resident with 2 acres claims to be limited 2,650 square feet for home, garage, AND outbuildings based on the median size of homes within a 1,500’ radius.

This problem has become so onerous that some people have chosen to sell their homes and move to a more desirable neighborhood or left the county altogether.

Do you feel that current codes are too restrictive and if so, what would you do to mitigate this situation?

1. Cliff Willmeng
2. Gary Cooper
3. Matt Jones



## Question #5

### Budget Priorities

From the insights that you have gained in your experience in Boulder County, what would be your top 3 budget priorities to address what you see as the county's greatest needs?

1. Matt Jones
2. Gary Cooper
3. Cliff Willmeng



# Question #6

## Oil & Gas Drilling/Fracking

The upcoming election has a statewide ballot issue to regulate setbacks. Regardless of the outcome, what additional provisions do you feel can be implemented to further reduce the potential for drilling and fracking in Boulder County near populated areas?

1. Cliff Willmeng
2. Gary Cooper
3. Matt Jones



# Closing statements

(3 minutes)

1. Matt Jones
2. Cliff Willmeng
3. Gary Cooper



Thank you

Thank you for being an  
informed voter!

Visit the NCA at  
<http://www.niwot.org>