

Boulder County Democratic Party Platform 2020 Action Plank: Healthy Democracy

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HEALTHY DEMOCRACY: Election Reform, Media Reform, and Government Ethics & Accountability

Statement of Principles

- Elections must be verifiably secure.
- Electoral systems should disperse power and include everyone.
- The right to vote should be equal and inalienable.
- Every vote should have equal influence, regardless of geography. Eliminating gerrymandering is not enough.
- We should have more expressive ways to vote so that the electorate's true opinion can be known.
- As many voters as possible should have a representative in government who shares their values.
- Government officials should be subject to the strongest ethics standards with an emphasis on transparency and accountability.
- The judiciary must be an independent arbiter.
- Individuals' data rights should be recognized and protected in order to prevent mass-scale misinformation campaigns and commercial or electoral manipulations.
- All citizens should have access to accurate news and information.
- Fundamental to a fair election is the opportunity for voters to see the candidates' debate the issues prior to the election.
- Public funding for elections should be provided.
- All candidates in the Democratic Party should be expected to agree to reasonable spending limits in the primary.

2020 Call to Action

We call on our elected officials to work toward a healthy democracy by implementing the following specific and attainable actions.

1. In the 2020 election we call on small-d democrats all over the state to vote for and work toward approval of the Colorado General Assembly's decision to join the National Popular Vote Compact.
2. We call on city councils to work to adopt single transferable vote which is allowed under Colorado statute and which promotes proportional representation (PR). We also call on the state legislature to allow for boards of county commissioners, school districts, state legislatures and other boards to be elected via a PR election in multi-winner districts.
3. We call on our congressional legislators to co-sponsor the Fair Representation Act which creates multi-member congressional districts when possible and elects the members using single transferable vote (a multi-winner version of "Ranked Choice Voting" which promotes proportional representation).
4. We call for the establishment of Home Rule in not just Boulder County, but every Colorado county.
5. We call on the Secretary of State and county and city clerks to collect and publish data metrics on pluralism similar to the criterion on the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index.
6. We call on governmental bodies charged with drawing new district maps to measure proposed maps against all the possible maps drawn by computers using the state's "own districting criteria as a neutral baseline" [US Supreme Court: *Rucho v Common Cause*] and only adopt district maps close to the "median" map.
7. We call on governing bodies at all levels to lower the voting age to 16 by legislative action or a measure referred to the people.
8. We call on election officials to adopt the standards set by Boulder County for voter-verifiable paper trails and transparent processes from registration to auditing.
9. We call on lawmakers and electoral governing boards and officials to broaden the definition of political and/or campaign ads and require complete financial disclosure of an ad's funding sources.
10. When the election of a candidate would trigger a vacancy committee for the candidate's current office, we call on Democratic Party officials and the media to widely publicize this fact and to encourage the candidate to resign from the current office with enough time for a successor to be elected in a general or coordinated election.
11. We call on lawmakers to statutorily recognize that citizens own their personal data and to explicitly protect their data from unauthorized transfer and use by both government and private corporations.