Boulder's six-seat city council race is gaining steam.

Voters on Monday gained an official list of 15 candidates who qualified to appear on the Nov. 5 ballot, and some election committees have already made their endorsements.

While the number of candidates this year might seem large, it marks a small step down from the previous three elections: 2017, which attracted 17 candidates, 2015 which drew 22, and 2013 which brought out 19. In each of those years, only five seats were up for grabs, with the sixth seat in this year’s election opening due to former Councilwoman Jill Adler Grano’s mid-term resignation to work for U.S. Rep Joe Neguse’s congressional office.

Reported campaign contributions and expenditures so far show a wide variance between candidates’ election-related financial activity in the race’s early stages.

The list of candidates certified for the ballot includes:

- Aaron Brockett, an incumbent council member
- Adam Swetlik, a sales and marketing employee at a Boulder honey business
- Andy Celani, retired owner of closed Smooth Motors used car business
- Benita Duran, former assistant city manager and current redevelopment consultant
- Bob Yates, an incumbent council member
- Brian Dolan, owner of a classic car importing and restoration business
- Corina Julca, who plans to respond Tuesday to a Camera inquiry on their background
- Gala Wilhelmina Orba, owner of a career coaching firm
- Junie Joseph, a law student at the University of Colorado
- Mark McIntyre, a Transportation Advisory Board member
- Mark Wallach, a former real estate and corporate attorney and real estate developer
- Nikki McCord, a diversity and recruitment services consultant
- Paul Cure, vice president of Historic Boulder and co-founder of an organic farm
- Rachel Friend, an attorney representing asylum seekers in immigration proceedings
- Susan Peterson, a retired engineer and marketing executive

Tamar Stone withdrew her candidacy, Boulder City Clerk’s Office records show, despite having received $200 in campaign contributions and spending more than $2,100.

All races are at large. The top four vote winners will receive four-year terms and the fifth voter winner will receive a two-year term, according to a post on the city’s website. The sixth voter winner will fill the vacancy left by Adler Grano for a two-year term.
Campaign finances

Wallach’s campaign appears to be leading the way in fundraising, having notched $6,921 in contributions and having spent $2,686, according to a report to the City Clerk’s Office submitted last week. Friend’s campaign is second in contributions at $6,545 with $2,470 in spending, but her and Wallach’s financial reports listed by the clerk’s website were more recent than those of their fellow candidates on Monday, having both been submitted last week, with the remaining candidates having last disclosed Aug. 12 or earlier.

Yates’ campaign had received $4,488 and spent $663; McCord’s had received $3,140 and spent $25; Orba’s had received $2,923 and spent $2,849; Duran’s had received $2,850 and spent $11; Peterson’s had received $2,258 and spent $1,908; Swetlik’s had received $1,150 and spent $102; Brockett’s had received $1,005 and spent $370.

Cure had raised $100 as of Monday.

The remaining campaigns for Dolan, Julca, Celani, McIntyre and Joseph look like they’re just getting off the ground, having all secured $253 or less in contributions as of Aug. 12.

Early endorsements

Better Boulder, an advocacy group supporting policies to foster infill development and transit-oriented housing density, has endorsed Brockett, Duran, Friend, Joseph, McIntyre and Yates.

“We believe well-designed density and sustainable urbanism will ensure Boulder evolves into a more inclusive, leading-edge city with a smaller environmental footprint and a more dynamic culture,” Better Boulder Chair Sue Prant stated on the organization’s endorsement webpage. “Our organization is fueled by ideas and input from a wide and diverse representation of our community who are committed to implementing a vision for how our city can progress in a livable, vibrant and connected way. These endorsements reflect that vision.”

Boulder Progressives, another advocate for greater housing density along highly traveled transportation corridors, is endorsing the same candidates as Better Boulder, minus Yates, it announced Monday.

“We see shelter as a basic human need, and believe that through the construction of more housing of various types at affordable price points, in combination with smart transportation policy, design and implementation, we can begin to build a more diverse and accessible Boulder worthy of the community’s liberal values, while better addressing climate change through the reduction of car dependence and in-commuting,” Boulder Progressives stated on its webpage.

South Boulder Creek Action Group, which has pushed for faster progress on flood mitigation design and construction for the south Boulder neighborhoods flooded in 2013 by South Boulder Creek waters that overcame U.S. 36, has endorsed Yates, Brockett, Friend, McIntyre, Duran, and Joseph, as well.

“Each of our endorseees has demonstrated their commitment to following the data and science when it comes to expeditiously completing the critical South Boulder Creek flood mitigation project,” South Boulder Creek Action Group member Jon Carroll stated in a news release. “Nearly six years after the 2013 flood and after decades of study, this project’s completion is long overdue and is imperative to safeguarding thousands of lives in future flood events, which we know will occur.”

The Boulder Chamber is hosting a forum from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Boulder Jewish Community Center, 6007 Oreg Ave., to which all candidates have been invited to participate.

Slow-growth advocacy group PLAN-Boulder County has not yet announced which candidates it will support, but will do so following three candidate forums it is holding at the Boulder Public Library’s main branch, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., spokesperson Allyn Feinberg said. Its forums will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, and the same time on Sept. 3 and Sept. 5 in the library’s Creek room. Brockett, Joseph, Orba and Dolan will debate in the first PLAN forum; McCord, McIntyre, Swetlik and Celani will participate in the second; and Duran, Julca, Peterson, Wallach and Yates will be featured in the third.  

Tags: 2019 Election
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<th>Email</th>
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<td>Aaron</td>
<td>Brockett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:broketta@bouldercolorado.gov">broketta@bouldercolorado.gov</a></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Joni</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joni: I had a really good meeting with Benita today (her request). We talked library, districting, budget and some other campaign issues. I’m very impressed. I think she’d be a good Council member and is likely an ally on districting.</td>
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<td>Bob</td>
<td>Yates</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yatesb@bouldercolorado.gov">yatesb@bouldercolorado.gov</a></td>
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<td>Joni: I spent ~ an hour with Junie talking about various issues. She is still figuring things out and I’ll follow up when I get back. I’ve been endorsed by the coalition and the south campus flood group.</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:susan@susanforcitycouncil.com">susan@susanforcitycouncil.com</a></td>
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