

1	<b>2026 Budget Public Feedback (10-14-2025)</b>
2	I'm surprised to learn about the projected budget deficit, given the significant increase in property values and property taxes over the past decade. Where did that money go?
3	Maybe if the county wasn't wasting so much money building expensive bike and bus lanes everywhere, then you'd have enough money to keep paying the county employees who are doing the actual important work around here.
4	I'd like to know why the state audit has suddenly discovered such an enormous deficit. Boulder County has been operating as if this was not the case for years, why did you not plan for the end of COVID relief? Why did you not project a shrinking tax base before? Couldn't you have budgeted responsibly in prior years to avoid this?? Is there someone in financial management who was responsible for incorrectly calculating projections? Why are you taking this out on county workers and residents?
5	Structural deficit=Self inflicted Taking on community corrections and work release supervision from the private sector is an example of unnecessary spending. The County is taking on millions for something that has been no cost to the County for decades. Poor choice=Poor results
6	You are laying off people that make a meaningful difference to the service you provide. Even those who support minorities. There is an entire office focused on racial equity. That could be a single person's job within HR. The issue is still being addressed but there is no need for multiple full-time employees when you don't have the luxury.
7	Boulder needs to better manage the massive amounts of money we have. We are not poor and we need to allocate funds by priorities. Should city facilities looking like five-star hotels be the top priority? What else could that money do? We have a broad spectrum of an affluent population and also a very poor population. It seems like the priorities of the affluent get top funding allocations. They squeeze the average resident's life in a vice: taxes, regulations, inspections, approvals and more.
8	I am looking at information for the draft '26 budget. If I understand the info online, it shows only '26 additional requests above the base '25. I worked in corporate roles for >30 years in leadership with budgets >\$100M/year, and we 1) adopted a zero-based budgeting approach for the new year [ALL spending had to be revisited and justified], and 2) we pushed each department for productivity programs & investments and 3) we asked what no longer needed funding based on changing realities.
9	How is it that you can layoff 31 employees and eliminate another 60 positions, yet the city is virtually un-navigable on an average day due to the amount of construction, much of which appears to leave roads which were perfectly fine previously in even worse shape afterwards. How much money are you spending on that, City of Boulder?
10	As everyone else in the country is (sensibly) doing at the moment, zero out anything AT ALL having to do with DEI. As I have mentioned before many, many times, while no reasonable person should have any principled objection to any fundamental principles of non-discrimination and inclusion, simply obeying existing laws honestly takes care of 95% of the problem. Let natural societal progress take care of the remaining 5%. In these times of existential crisis especially, we have higher priorities.
11	Property taxes are way too high. I pay 100's of dollars to support a library I do not use. I get the e-pass free two different ways. Something has to change to keep the spiraling costs of local government in check.
12	Rather than just half-deploy remote workers, invest in allowing as many employees to work at home and then reduce the amount of physical space you use and get rid of unnecessary buildings (or rent them out). Not only will this have a direct impact on the budgeting, it will also give your employees who come to work from places like Aurora some savings to them as well and potentially handle furloughs better should they come.
13	The layoffs and cuts to staff, along with services that the community relies upon, is unacceptable in the face of what else is being prioritized by the Commissioners. It is obvious that leadership has miscalculated the budget, and instead of owning up and taking responsibility themselves, others now must pay the price by losing their jobs and losing access to essential services that they need. Employees of Boulder County and community members in need must be taken care of during this time!!!
14	You need an objective and transparent way to assess the impact of discontinuing programs like a scoring sheet. You also need a systematic way to determine if programs are redundant by not only looking at what is happening in the municipalities, but at the federal and state level and examining what is being provided by non-profits in the community. Decision-makers should have an objective and consistent approach including assessing staff's duties and the operational impact before layoffs.
15	Last year, together, Colorado recommended some money be set aside for both rental assistance and legal assistance. For homeowners and renters, you did not budget for this. And we are asking once again that some money be set aside, especially given all that's going on. Economically and that the need will be even greater. Please find some money for these badly needed services.
16	Thank you for all the hard work you do to govern our county during this difficult time. Please prioritize helping those who need it most. Housing is a big need in Boulder County. Please provide rental assistance and legal help to prevent homelessness. Also please support access to medical care and basic needs. I have a stable home, but I rely on SNAP and food banks for my groceries, and Clinica and Dental Aid for health care. Help Boulder value our low-income workers.
17	It is essential that the budget include sufficient funds to support what could become a wave of homelessness in the next few years. This will hit renters, in apartments, rental houses, and mobile homes, particularly hard, and feels most urgent in unincorporated Boulder Co. In particular, there is a need to increase funding for short-term rental assistance and legal assistance for people who are threatened with eviction.
18	I urge the Boulder County Commissioners to support our immigrant neighbors, with low-cost legal assistance and in any ways we can. The recent closure or "dormancy" of non-profits like Colorado Hosting Asylum Network have left a void in material support for immigrants. Continuing and expanding support from Boulder County can help offset diminishing (and overstressed!) resources in our community.