

Our Revolution

What does your record show that would appeal to Colorado's Bernie voters? How do you distinguish yourself from your fellow candidates in your appeal to Colorado's Bernie voters?

I am running for Governor to ensure that our state's progress reaches everyone. I have a track record of increasing public investments in our public schools and public services and I am the only candidate who has successfully taken on TABOR at the statewide ballot. I am an economic progressive which is one reason that Senator Bernie Sanders did so well in Colorado.

I have fought for public schools, students and teachers my entire career which is why the Colorado Educators Association and American Federation of Teachers (Colorado Chapter), the two largest teachers unions in the state, have decided to endorse me in the campaign. This is the first time that CEA has endorsed a candidate in the primary. I have also been endorsed by Pipefitters Local 58, and United Steelworkers District 12. I am a labor champion and I am running my campaign side by side with Colorado's workers. That is the kind of movement that Sen. Sanders built and that's the type of campaign I am building in this primary.

What solutions do you have to the problem of money in politics?

Citizens United v. FEC is one of the most destructive Supreme Court decisions in our country's history. We need comprehensive campaign finance reform to ensure that people, not corporations decide our country's elections and elected officials aren't captive to the corporations that fund their campaigns.

As a candidate, I have taken the most immediate step by committing to a Clean Campaign Pledge and asking my primary opponents to commit with me. This pledge is intended to limit the influence of money in this race. As laid out in my pledge I will:

- Reject any contributions from corporations including corporate PACs and lobbyists.
- Run a clean, positive, primary campaign
- Cap my spending at \$3 million and I've asked my primary opponents to do the same.

Read and sign my Clean Campaign Pledge [here](#).

What is your stance on privatization of public assets, such as highways, in Colorado?

Generally, I do not believe Colorado should privatize public assets. As Colorado State Treasurer (2007-2011) and the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Denver (2011-2016) I witnessed many attempts to sell or lease public assets through public, private partnerships. Public assets are public in order to guarantee everyone equal access and opportunity and it is not appropriate to restrict these assets to generate a profit for private operators.

The Colorado Water Plan, appears to be an "everything including the kitchen sink" document for planning the future of Colorado's many water needs. 80+% of Colorado's water is on the Western Slope, while 80+% of our population and water use is on the Front Range and Eastern Slope. We already have 13 major diversion projects that divert Western Slope water East. What projects and policies specifically do you support in water use, conservation, dams and diversions for present and future use in our wildlife, urban and agricultural areas? What specifically do you agree to support in this plan?

Water will be one of the most challenging and important issues in Colorado in the years ahead. We cannot continue to take more from our rivers, drain our aquifers, and dry up farmland to supply water to a growing urban population. Instead, we must take action and implement innovative and forward-thinking solutions to use water more efficiently. Each watershed in Colorado is unique, and we need support local communities to protect their watershed.

First, we must invest in and implement the state water plan, particularly the conservation elements. Although not perfect, Colorado took an important, collaborative first step when it created the State Water Plan. The Colorado State Water Plan establishes a goal of conserving 400,000 acre-feet by 2050, a 35% reduction. Achieving the goal will mean reducing per-capita water demand by about 1% per year by 2050. As governor, I will provide the bold leadership needed to invest in and implement the recommendations set out by the plan, specifically to conserve 400,000 acre-feet by 2050.

We need to promote conservation first. That means increasing reuse and recharge projects, prioritize conservation in new developments, rehab and repair existing water infrastructure, and support instream flow programs.

We also need to expand leasing and sharing of water rights, not just “buy and dry”. We can increase the prevalence of Alternative Transfer Methods which allow water to be shared between agricultural users and other users without the permanent transfer of water rights. We can do this, in part, by supporting the creation of water banks or other entities that can facilitate the temporary exchange of water between users by bringing down transaction costs, expediting the approval process, providing a clearinghouse of available water, and protecting the rights of the original water owner.

This plan offers solutions that promote conservation, protect rural and agricultural communities, help wildlife thrive and avoid additional transmountain diversions. Read more on my water plan [here](#).

In the interview with Biz journal you were opposed to requiring oil drilling to have at least 1 2000 foot set back. When we have seen explosions in our state as well as a recent one in Oklahoma, why are you not willing to require at least a 2000 foot setback from oil drilling? Are you afraid you will lose funding and support from oil companies?

As Governor, I will ensure we have a legal structure that protects the health, safety and welfare of Coloradans and our natural environment. By working together, we can keep growing our economy and protecting all that is special about Colorado for future generations.

The first role of government is to protect its citizens. The COGCC has long labored under the dual mandates of promoting the industry and protecting Coloradans. For too long the preferences of the industry have come before the health and safety of Coloradans.

I have called to give local governments authority to regulate industry within their communities, and that includes the oil and gas industry.

I have never received any campaign funding from oil and gas companies and am not planning on receiving any. I have pledged not to take any money from Corporate PACs or lobbyists.

A yes or no answer: DO you support a bid for the 2026 Olympics for Colorado?

Colorado should not submit a bid unless we can host the games without having an adverse effect on our environment, or continue to stress our already crowded

infrastructure. The Olympics could be an opportunity to leverage outside financing to build affordable housing, student housing and make long-term improvements to I-70.

PERA: There is current legislation in the state to restructure PERA Board of directors to include non-PERA members. Where do you stand on this? What would be your plans to ensure that PERA stays solvent and do you support a hybrid approach to PERA of part pension and part attached to a 401. How will you advocate for the solvency of PERA without putting undue hardships on current and future employees?

The current board membership is well configured to perform its duties as fiduciaries. As Governor, I will appoint members to the PERA board who understand the duties and responsibilities to the PERA membership, the state, and the taxpayers.

While I was State Treasurer, I helped lead efforts to strengthen PERA by improving the status of PERA by over \$9 billion (SB 10-1) — the largest improvement in its history. As Governor, I will continue to provide this leadership to ensure we maintain our commitment to public employees and keep our state on sound financial footing.

PERA is the social security for our public employees and we must protect that promise. PERA helps us recruit, and keep, the best and brightest to educate our children, plow our roads, and keep our highways safe. I support keeping PERA as a defined benefit for current and future employees as a replacement for social security.

Over 10% of Colorado's population rely on PERA instead of Social Security, and as with Social Security, a pension is a promise. It is essential we protect the retirement savings of so many Coloradans. Especially when those retirement saving equate to \$3.8 Billion annually to the 98,332 Colorado residents helping to sustain over 32,807 jobs and \$6.1 billion in economic output across Colorado.

What are your ties to DFER? Have you received contributions from them in previous elections? What is your personal stance on charter schools? How will you protect and strengthen Colorado public schools?

I have never received any contributions from DFER and have no association with the organization. Public education is my #1 priority on this campaign and as Governor.

I have spent my career working to improve public schools in Colorado. I was the author of Amendment 23 which increased funding for public education and reversed cuts imposed by TABOR. I also created the Building Excellent Schools Today program that is rebuilding schools in some of the poorest communities in Colorado.

I have released a comprehensive platform for Colorado's public schools that establishes a goal of ensuring that every kid in Colorado, by the age of 19, is ready for a career, higher education, or both. The most effective way to achieve that goal is to have a great teacher in every classroom. However, studies show Colorado is one of the ten least attractive states to work as a teacher because of low salaries, lack of support and insufficient professional development. As Governor, I will pay teachers as the professionals that they are, expand the talent pipeline for new teachers, and provide more leadership opportunities for our current teachers. We also need to focus on equity and ensure that all Colorado students, regardless of where they live or how much their parents earn, can attend a great public school. Read more on my education platform [here](#).

Our top priority must be to adequately invest in our neighborhood public schools, students and teachers. I believe that charter schools can provide options for students who may benefit from alternative curriculum or schooling models but we cannot build an education system where the success of some schools comes at the expense of others. We need to ensure that every Colorado kid has access to a high-quality, neighborhood public school. They may also provide an opportunity for innovation in the education field that is valuable if it can be shared to all schools and all students in our state. However, alternative education options are only valuable if every Colorado kid has access to a high-quality, neighborhood public school.

Charter schools must be held to the same standards as all other public schools. Without the same accountability and transparency required of traditional public schools, the rights of teachers and students are not well protected.

I am honored to have been endorsed by Colorado Education Association (CEA) and American Federation of Teachers Colorado Chapter (AFT). This is the first time that CEA has ever endorsed in a gubernatorial primary.

Do you unequivocally support and will you fight for universal healthcare for all? How do you define universal, affordable healthcare and what would that look like in CO, namely Medicare for All?

Healthcare is a basic human right and as governor I will fight to ensure that everyone in Colorado gets the healthcare they need. Universal healthcare means that every Coloradan has access to high-quality healthcare that meets their needs. My plan achieves universal coverage in this state through the creation of a statewide public health insurance option.

I am the only candidate to propose a statewide public health insurance option to everyone in Colorado. Everyone in our state will be given the option to buy into Health First Colorado, which is the state's Medicaid program, or buy into the plans available to state employees. Adding these options through the Colorado's health insurance exchange will lower premiums, stabilize markets, and increase choice. Health First Colorado is cost-effective and efficient healthcare coverage and because it is publicly administered there is no profit margin, which lowers costs even more for consumers.

I am supportive of Medicare for All at the federal level. However, in the absence of meaningful action at the federal level, my plan for a statewide public option is the best strategy to reach universal healthcare for all Coloradans.

Read my full healthcare plan [here](#).

What makes TABOR such a complex piece of legislation, and what are you going to do about it?

TABOR is the most restrictive spending restriction in the country. It is an outdated system that keeps us from making the investments we need to keep up with growth and prepare for the future. It is complex in that it has restrictions on a number of normal government functions. As State Treasurer, I saw firsthand the complex and far-reaching effects of TABOR.

I am the only candidate who has called for permanent TABOR reform my entire career. I helped develop the language and built the bipartisan coalition to pass the only two measures that took on TABOR and passed at the statewide ballot. I wrote Amendment 23, the only legislation that increased funding for public schools and I helped develop Referendum C. As Governor, I will lead the bipartisan coalition to pass permanent TABOR reform so we can adequately invest in education and keep up with the demands of a growing economy.

How have the policies of the military and local law enforcement impacted the violence in our local communities?

The disturbing trend of police killings of people of color are a symptom of a larger racial bias in our criminal justice system. The racial biases entrenched in the United States sadly continue and diminish opportunities for people of color in our state. Decades of business discrimination, voting restrictions, predatory lending, racial profiling, mandatory sentencing, inequitable schools, unfair housing practices and other biased policies have chronically burdened communities of color in our state. From our criminal justice system, to our economy and public schools, Coloradans of color do not have a fair shot. Black Coloradans are nearly three times as likely to be unemployed as white Coloradans. Latino students are more than three times less likely to receive a college degree than white students. And American Indians in Colorado are nearly three times more likely to live in poverty than white Coloradans.

We must address the root cause of these impacts by empowering the most affected as decision makers. We also need to focus on community policing and holding our police officers accountable. We need to increase training for law enforcement officers that stresses nonviolence and deescalation. In Colorado, we can resist the increasing levels of racism, hatred and discrimination that we are seeing across the country. I will lead Colorado to join me in the fight for a more just and equitable state.

Do you support codifying Colorado as a sanctuary state?

Local and state law enforcement should not be required to enforce federal immigration laws. In order to keep Colorado communities safe, all people need to feel safe and able to report crimes like child abuse, drunk driving and domestic violence and must be able to visit police stations, courthouses, hospitals, and schools without the fear of them or their loved ones being turned over to ICE.

How will you address affordable housing, attainable housing, and housing for the homeless?

In communities across Colorado, from metro areas to rural resort towns, the cost of housing is skyrocketing. Today, one in four Coloradans spends more than 50% of their income on housing and 40% of renters in our state spend more than a third of their income on rent. People can't afford to live where they work or stay in the communities where they grew up. Part of expanding prosperity to include everyone is ensuring that Coloradans everywhere can live where they work.

I have a history of helping Coloradans find and afford homes. During my time as Deputy Mayor and CFO of Denver, I started the Metro Mortgage Assistance Plus program which provides down payment assistance for low to moderate income families who are attempting to buy a home. Along with the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program, the program has helped more than 1,400 Denver and metro area families buy a home. I also helped launch the first affordable housing fund in Denver.

I have laid out a comprehensive affordable housing plan for Colorado that includes the first ever statewide affordable housing investment fund that will be initially funded by Unclaimed Property Fund money. The fund will support local communities in preserving and constructing affordable housing.

I will also work to enact a series of renter protections. Colorado lags behind the rest of the country in protecting the rights of renters. For instance, I will increase the fee for a landlord to file an eviction. The additional revenue will support a legal defense fund to represent people being threatened with eviction. A very small percentage of tenants at risk of being evicted can afford legal representation. Evictions are a leading cause of family homelessness, can often trigger job loss and declines in physical and mental health, drive up local poverty and crime rates, and are more frequent in communities of color and rapidly gentrifying areas.

The lack of affordable housing is contributing to the critical and growing problem of homelessness in our state. As CFO and Deputy Mayor of Denver, I created a first of its kind program that provides supportive housing and wraparound services for 200 homeless individuals with the money that the City otherwise would have spent through the criminal justice system. So far, the program has seen great success with these formerly homeless Coloradans maintaining housing and achieving positive outcomes in terms of employment, etc. In addition to my plan to increase affordable housing and protect renters, as Governor, I will work to increase supportive housing programs across the state.

Read more on my plan for affordable housing [here](#).

Do you support the right of workers, as well as public employees, to organize and engage in collective bargaining? How have you been rated by unions and what unions have endorsed you?

Yes. I stand with working families and believe that unions play a critical role in building and protecting the middle class in America. Unions help hardworking people access good paying jobs, health care benefits and have workplace protections. These values make our economy stronger. This is especially important as we are witnessing the largest income gap in our country's history. When unions are strong, entire communities enjoy better wages and greater social and economic mobility. I believe in collective bargaining, and as governor, I will never let right-to-work laws take hold in our state. Employees, unions and employers all stand to benefit from working together, and workers deserve a seat at the negotiating table.

I have already been endorsed by a number of unions including Colorado Education Association, American Federation of Teachers (Colorado Chapter), Pipefitters Local 58, and United Steelworkers District 12.