

United States Senate **Bob Schaffer**U.S. House of Representatives **Doug Lamborn***5th Congressional District*Colorado State Senate **Bill Cadman***Senate District 10* **Keith King***Senate District 12*Colorado House of Representatives **Mark Waller***House District 15* **Larry Liston***House District 16* **“Kit” Roupe***House District 17* **Marsha Looper***House District 19* **Amy Stephens***House District 20* **Bob Gardner***House District 21*El Paso County Commission **Sallie Clark***District 3* **Dennis Hisey***District 4* **Amy Lathen***District 2*4th Judicial District **Dan May***District Attorney*

# Chamber Endorsed Candidates

The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber Commerce strives to identify and support candidates who believe in strengthening the American system of free and competitive enterprise and who will promote economic growth and prosperity for the Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak area. The Chamber looks for strong voices who will represent our community's best interests for this state and region.

“Strong leadership is critical for this state and our region. Our job is to promote and protect the economic health of the Pikes Peak region by working with elected officials who have a record, or who show the promise, of understanding the issues that matter most to our Chamber member.”

—David Csintyan, Chief Executive Officer  
Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce



**THE CHAMBER**  
colorado springs

The endorsed candidates are selected by a team of volunteer leaders from the business community who serve on the Political Action Committee (PAC) and interview each candidate to identify business and community-focused individuals to serve in public office. The Political Action Committee then sends their recommendations to the full Chamber Board of Directors for their approval.

Voting is occurring right now until November 4. The polls will be open on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. To find your polling place, please call the Election Department at (719) 575-VOTE (8683) before Election Day. For more information, go to

<http://car.elpasoco.com/Election>



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



**This election is critical. Your vote is important. Voting for pro-business candidates and against bad-for-business initiatives is the simplest way to promote the economic vitality of the region and state.**

The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce announces its recommendations for the November election on the second most crowded ballot in Colorado's history.

The Chamber Political Action Committee has held several joint meetings with business and community leaders from around the region to review the ballot initiatives and formulate recommendations to oppose, support or taking no position on the different proposals. These recommendations were approved by the Chamber Board of Directors. The final results are included in this document, along with the rationale behind each decision.



## Chamber Recommendations on Ballot Initiatives

### SUPPORT Referendum O

Would make it harder to place constitutional amendments on the ballot for voter approval, but easier to call a vote on state statutes.

**Chamber Rationale:** Colorado's constitution is full of conflicting proposals, is cumbersome, and is being used as a political tool. This referendum will support Colorado and our community by encouraging citizens to propose statutory rather than constitutional initiatives, leaving room for our legislators to make changes to adjust to the rapidly changing economic environment. **Vote Yes.**

### OPPOSE Amendment 46

Prohibits state from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. **Chamber**

**Rationale:** The Chamber does not support amending the Constitution with an action that could be decided in statute. This could have unintended consequences like putting in jeopardy effective programs at our public universities that provide scholarships to low-income woman who have realized a better, more productive future through special efforts to reach them. It also leaves many terms in the law open to interpretation, causing concern about costs to taxpayers due to lawsuits being more prevalent. It could also lead to a weakened multi-cultural workforce, which would have negative impact to the international businesses in this region. **Vote No.**

**No Position: Amendments 48 & 51,  
Referendums L, M, N.**

### SUPPORT Amendment 47

Prohibits unions and employers from negotiating "union shop" contracts under which employees would be required to pay union membership or "agency" fees as a condition of continued employment.

**Chamber Rationale:** The Chamber believes union membership should be a personal decision and not a requirement of employment. **Vote Yes.**

### SUPPORT Amendment 49

Bars automatic union dues deductions from public employee payrolls. **Chamber Rationale:** With our local government's budgets so tight, it defies common sense does not make sense to pay for the cost of processing union dues out of the governmental entities pocket. This should be handled by the individual and their personal bank. **Vote Yes.**

### SUPPORT Amendment 50

Would allow the general assembly or voters in the cities that permit limited gaming to extend the hours of limited gaming operations; to add roulette, craps, or both to the allowed games; and to increase the maximum bet up to \$100, with extra tax revenue generated to be distributed 22% to the cities where limited gaming exists and 78% for financial aid for higher education at community colleges. **Chamber Rationale:** A voluntary tax on those interested in gambling this bill would be an effective way to fund our colleges. The money will go directly to community colleges and the local cities affected and is a creative way of supporting our community and Pikes Peak Community College. **Vote Yes.**



## Chamber Recommendations on Ballot Initiatives

### SUPPORT Amendment 52

Would create the Colorado Transportation Trust Fund, to be funded by a portion of the severance tax for highways. **Chamber Rationale:** This is creative funding for a state-wide high priority item. Rather than being a tax increase, this is a wise and better use of our dollars and a meaningful long- term solution to Colorado's critical transportation needs. **Vote Yes.**

### OPPOSE Amendment 53

**VOTES WILL NOT COUNT.** Would establish criminal liability for executives of businesses found guilty of criminal conduct. **Chamber Rationale:** A trial lawyer's dream, this proposal expands every executive and owner's responsibility and liability – which will increase their insurance and therefore their cost of running a business. This will result in higher costs for services and fewer jobs by discouraging businesses to relocate to Colorado. **Vote No.**

On October 2, 2008, an agreement was reached with the supporters of Amendments 53, 55, 56 and 57 to officially remove the vote count for these initiatives. While they will still appear on the ballot, negotiations were completed so that regardless of the vote, they will not pass or fail. However, we still encourage you to mark your ballot "No" on each of these to send an important message.

### OPPOSE Amendment 54

Amends the Colorado Constitution to prohibit certain entities who win contracts with the government from contributing to a political party or candidate. Also prohibits a contractor who contributes to community issues campaigns from bidding for contracts. **Chamber Rationale:** The broad scope of the measure could have far-reaching consequences for business, political candidates, community advocates and elected officials. Such open-ended language could make it harder for businesses to participate in the political process. **Vote No.**

### OPPOSE Amendment 55

**VOTES WILL NOT COUNT.** Would establish new rules for dismissing employees. **Chamber Rationale:** This bill will force employers to abide by a short list of acceptable reasons for release of employment, and encourage frivolous lawsuits against small business. **Vote No.**

### OPPOSE Amendment 56

**VOTES WILL NOT COUNT.** Would require every employer that employs 20+ employees in Colorado to provide major medical health care coverage for its employees and their dependents. Would also set up a governmental health insurance authority to administer the program.

**Chamber Rationale:** This bill will force our small businesses to choose between providing jobs or health insurance. **Vote No.**

### OPPOSE Amendment 57

**VOTES WILL NOT COUNT.** Would alter Colorado's effective Worker's Comp program by allowing employees to sue their employers at the same time they are collecting Worker's Comp benefits.

**Chamber Rationale:** It will destroy a highly effective system and encourage lawsuits. **Vote No.**





## Chamber Recommendations on Ballot Initiatives

### OPPOSE Amendment 58

Would eliminate a tax credit for property taxes paid for payers of the severance tax, using the revenue primarily to fund college scholarships, wildlife habitat, renewable energy and local governments.

**Chamber Rationale:** A well meaning proposal that goes too far, impacting a major Colorado Economic Driver.

**Vote No.**

### SUPPORT Amendment 59

Eliminates taxpayer rebates caused when the state collects more money than is currently allowed and places the funding in a State Education Fund. Eliminates the required inflationary spending for Preschool-12 grade education instituted by Amendment 23 and sets aside funding in a new savings account for P-12 education.

**Chamber Rationale:** Without raising taxes or harming businesses, this proposal will help Colorado get out of the bottom in funding. Creates a rainy day fund for when financial problems occur, which is smart business.

**Vote Yes.**

### SUPPORT Safer Community Initiative 1A

The Safer Community Initiative will help El Paso County meet the public health and public safety needs of its communities and will provide regional support for the cities and towns within the county.

**Chamber Rationale:** This proposal is critical to fund the backlog of the growing needs of this region. With an ever-increasing population, yet drastically declining revenue to fund government services, our community's quality of life is at risk. School resource officers, effective programs like 4-H and DARE, and Sheriff patrols will be eliminated. Businesses will be reluctant to relocate to El Paso County if we have a weak local government and neighborhoods will lose community policing.

**Vote Yes.**

### OPPOSE City Initiatives 200 & 201

Initiative 200 states that, excluding hospital charges, all city enterprises shall bill and collect charges for voluntary customer contracts only. This targets the Stormwater Enterprise.

Initiative 201 states that, excluding sales and use taxes forwarded from enterprise customers, all enterprise payments to the city shall phase out in ten or fewer equal yearly steps starting in January 2009, with all yearly savings passed on as reductions to each customer bill in dollar amounts as equal as possible.

**Chamber Rationale:** Doug Bruce has placed similar versions of these measures many times on the ballot and the voters continue to say no. Each time they are placed on the ballot, it costs the taxpayers \$190,000 and more many more thousands for business to fight them.

The Chamber opposes eliminating storm water improvements for many important reasons. Colorado Springs is the last major City in Colorado to institute this fee - based on use, clearly showing the need for such a program throughout the state. This action was needed to address \$300M of backlogged storm water and drainage projects and is very much a safety issue for our community. If the Stormwater Enterprise is eliminated, it will stall our community's plan to access future water. It will also put us out of compliance with Federal Clean Water Act, causing fines larger than the fees collected. The enterprises also share HR, legal, auditor, budget and other services that save taxpayer's money.

Initiative 201 keeps the City from operating like a business and causes lost efficiencies from joint operations and shared administrative resources. It forces duplication of effort and will cause increased costs due to inefficiencies.

**Vote No on both 200 & 201.**

