



CHAMBER ENDORSED CANDIDATES

BOB BEAUPREZ
Governor

MARK HILLMAN
State Treasurer

JOHN SUTHERS
Attorney General

KYLE HYBL
CU Regent

Colorado State Senate

ED JONES
Senate District 11

Colorado House of Representatives

BILL CADMAN
House District 15

LARRY LISTON
House District 16

MARK CLOER
House District 17

MARSHA LOOPER
House District 19

AMY STEPHENS
House District 20

BOB GARDNER
House District 21

County Commission

WAYNE WILLIAMS
District 1

JIM BENSBERG
District 5

County Offices

TERRY MAKETA
Sheriff

SANDRA DAMRON
Treasurer

MARK LOWDERMAN
Assessor

ROBERT "BOB" BALINK
El Paso Clerk & Recorder

CHRIS BREWER
Surveyor

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 also looks for strong voices who will represent our community's best interests in the hub of decision making 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 membership."

*—Will Temby, Chief Executive Officer
Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce*

"We encourage a strong turnout from our membership so that we send a strong team of elected leadership to fight for our small businesses, industry, the military and other key constituencies of this community."

*—Nancy Lewis, Chair
Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce*

The endorsed candidates are selected by a team of business-minded volunteers who serve on the Political Action Committee 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. Early Voting is occurring right now until November 3. The polls will be open on **Tuesday, November 7, 2006 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.** To find your polling place or where you can early vote, please contact the County Clerks office at [HTTP://CAR.ELPASOCO.COM/MEET_THE_CLERK_AND_RECORDER](http://CAR.ELPASOCO.COM/MEET_THE_CLERK_AND_RECORDER).



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Voted **"Best Networking Events"** and **"Best Local Golf Tournament"** by readers in *The Colorado Springs Business Journal's* 2006 Best of Colorado Springs Business





Chamber Recommendations on Ballot Initiatives

The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce announced its recommendations for the November election on the second most crowded ballot in Colorado's history. The Chamber Political Action Committee and the Governmental Affairs Board held the first-ever joint meeting to review the ballot initiatives and formulate recommendations to the Board of Directors of the Chamber. Business and

community leaders from around the region reviewed the ballot initiatives and recommended to the Chamber Board of Directors opposing, supporting or taking no position on the different proposals. The final results taken by the Board are included below.



Scott Bryan, PAC Chair and owner of a successful Colorado Springs business, reminded the business community how important it is that they get out and vote this election. **“There are so many issues on the ballot this year that could have a harmful impact on our community. The ballot is so cumbersome, we wanted to provide what we believe is a helpful perspective and a solid analysis for business.”**

“With a ballot that is the most crowded and confusing since 1912, it more important than ever before that our membership is familiar with how these proposals might affect their ability to do business in this state and region, and what it does to their quality of life. Releasing this in anticipation of Early Voting, which begins today, allows our membership time to factor in the recommendations offered by their peers in the community, all concerned citizens.” said Will Temby, CEO of the Chamber.

The Chamber membership represents 1700 member organizations and 71,000 employees.



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Recommendations from the Chamber Board of Directors

Special Note: The PAC members and the Chamber all agreed that any proposal that amended the Colorado Constitution, and not the more adjustable method provided by amending the Colorado Statutes, needed to meet an extremely high threshold in urgent public policy needs in order to earn a positive recommendation.

Oppose CITY INITIATIVE 200

An initiated ordinance that reduces and phases out the city share of property taxes beginning in tax year 2006, phases out the city share of the sales tax, and mandates that city revenue growth cannot exceed inflation. A ratchet-down effect would also occur, which would apply permanently to tax rates, not to the specific year's revenue. It would apply to certain special taxing districts.

Chamber Rationale: Money Magazine recently voted Colorado Springs the best place to live in America. The Chamber believes that both Initiatives 200 & 201 would harm the future of Colorado Springs by de-investing in critical services such as life-saving paramedics, fire fighters, police protection, roads, and quality-of-life issues such as senior centers, recreational leagues, parks and trails, and job recruitment efforts.

Oppose CITY INITIATIVE 201

An initiated ordinance that would require that city financial obligations not exceed 10 years and that any measure that needs to exceed 10 years be approved by the voter; would require the city to "pay as you go" for capital projects instead of using effective tools in financing; requires a 3 percent capital improvement reserve; would require voter petition and approval on every action regarding debt, leases, and lease-purchases.

Chamber Rationale: This proposal would drive the city's interest rates up, impact its credit rating, and increase project costs. Additionally, it would put new restrictions on bonding that would have detrimental impacts to the North Nevada Avenue redesign and the vision for enhancing downtown.

Oppose REFERENDUM E

Amending provisions of the Colorado Constitution to extend the existing property tax exemption for qualifying seniors to any United States military veteran who is 100 percent permanently disabled due to a service-connected disability. Referred by the General Assembly.

Chamber Rationale: This proposal did not meet the threshold for amending the Constitution and should be proposed through the statutes. While a noble effort, it does not have a direct impact on business and should be left to the discretion of the individual voter. The Chamber would be pleased to be a partner in an effort to see this included in the Colorado Statutes as opposed to the Colorado Constitution.



No Position REFERENDUM F

Amending provisions of the Colorado Constitution concerning elections to recall state elected officials. Referred by the General Assembly.

Chamber Rationale: Administrative in nature and has no bearing on business.

No Position REFERENDUM G

Amending the Colorado Constitution to eliminate obsolete provisions of the state constitution. Referred by the General Assembly.

Chamber Rationale: Administrative in nature and has no bearing on business.

Oppose REFERENDUM H

Amending state statutes eliminating the ability of businesses, beginning January 1, 2008, to claim wages for "unauthorized aliens" as an expense for state income tax purposes, if the employer knew or reasonably should have known that the employee was an unauthorized alien. Referred by the General Assembly.

Chamber Rationale: This was a misguided attempt to address immigration issues during the legislative special session. It will likely have little or no impact on illegal immigration, is unenforceable, and addresses a situation that is already deemed illegal. There are more sensible ways to address hiring illegal immigrants, especially at the federal level.



Recommendations from the Chamber Board of Directors

No Position REFERENDUM I

Amending state statutes to establish legal domestic partnerships in the state of Colorado and specify eligibility requirements, definitions, procedures, rights, responsibilities, and means for terminating domestic partnerships. Referred by the General Assembly.

Chamber Rationale: It was decided, after much deliberation, that this is an issue that is best decided by each individual voter. There were strong feelings on both sides of the issue. Those supporting the issue felt like it would be a valuable recruiting tool for business when searching for national, expert talent and would help change the image of our community as intolerant. Those opposed did not want more mandates placed on business regarding providing health care and other benefits. They want the freedom to make their own decisions about this issue as it relates to the work place. Others were concerned about creating a fertile ground for misplaced legal action in dealing with “standing” issues, especially as it relates to housing and employment issues. The PAC concluded that the strong feelings on both sides of the issue warranted a “no position.”

Oppose REFERENDUM J

Amending state statutes to require all school districts to send their budgets to the Department of Education in a standard format and ensure that at least 65 percent of operational expenditures go to services directly affecting student achievement. Referred by the General Assembly.

Chamber Rationale: School funding decisions need to occur at the local level with school boards in order to account for differences in pupil population, geography, and community values.

Oppose REFERENDUM K

Directing the Colorado Attorney General to initiate a lawsuit against the federal government to demand enforcement of existing federal immigration laws. Referred by the General Assembly.

Chamber Rationale: Requiring the state attorney general to sue the federal government for enforcement of immigration laws could waste state tax dollars and the AG’s time. There appears to be a zero success rate in engaging in such an endeavor.

Oppose AMENDMENT 38

An amendment to the Colorado Constitution that makes several changes to the initiative and referendum process, including changing petition rights and procedures; allowing petitions to be submitted at all levels of Colorado government; limiting initiative ballot titles to 75 words; changing single-subject requirements and procedures; limiting the annual number of new laws that governments may exclude from possible referendum petitions; establishing standards for review of filed petitions; specifying that petitions may be voted on at any November election; limiting the use of government resources to discuss a petition; and requiring voter approval for future petition laws and rules and for changes to certain voter-approved petitions.

Chamber Rationale: This is an ill-conceived idea that will create chaos in government, waste taxpayer dollars, and eliminate current safeguards in the petition process. It is important to note that if Amendment 38 is defeated, the status quo occurs and citizens will still be able to petition their government. The Colorado Constitution has been amended 47 times since 1980 while the U.S. Constitution has been amended only 27 times in more than 217 years.

Oppose AMENDMENT 39

An amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring that a school district spend at least 65 percent of its operational expenditures on classroom instruction, with limited exceptions. This amendment is similar to Referendum J – the differences primarily being that this is a constitutional change; Referendum J is a statutory change and the two measures define items to be included in the 65 percent expenditure differently.

Chamber Rationale: School funding decisions need to occur at the local level with the school boards in order to account for differences in pupil population, geography, and community values.

Oppose AMENDMENT 40

An amendment to the Colorado Constitution reducing the terms of office for supreme court justices and court of appeals judges to four years; requiring appellate judges serving as of January 1, 2007 to stand for retention at the next general election; prohibiting an appellate judge from serving more than three terms; and making any appellate judge who has served 10 or more years at one court level ineligible for another term at that level.

Chamber Rationale: This proposal would unilaterally force a large number of judges out of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, taking away valuable expertise on important legal issues. Judges are already held accountable through performance evaluations, retention elections and other methods. Talented legal professionals would be reluctant to serve in a position that ends after a period of time because it would interfere with their careers.



Recommendations from the Chamber Board of Directors

Oppose **AMENDMENT 41**

An amendment to the Colorado Constitution prohibiting state and local elected officials and employees from soliciting or accepting monetary or in-kind gifts; prohibiting a professional lobbyist from giving anything of value to such persons or their immediate family members; prohibiting state elected officials from representing another person or entity before other state elected officials for a period of two years following departure from office; establishing penalties; creating an independent ethics commission; and specifying that the measure shall not apply to home rule jurisdictions that have adopted laws concerning matters covered by the measure.

Chamber Rationale: Great name, but terribly overreaching and mired in unintended consequences. It should not be a Constitutional Amendment, it goes too far and it is misleading. Applies to government employees from the lowest positional level to the highest, not just elected officials. It will have a chilling effect on good candidates running for office because of the impact to their careers after they are finished in public service. It also impacts government employee family members in unnecessary, unfair and foolish ways. There will be too many unintended and undesirable consequences.

Oppose **Amendment 42**

An amendment to the Colorado Constitution to raise the minimum wage to \$6.85 per hour from the current \$5.15 per hour. It also raises the minimum wage for workers who receive tips from the current \$2.13 per hour to \$3.83 per hour. Subsequently both amounts will be adjusted for inflation.

Chamber Rationale: Should not be a Constitutional Amendment. It takes away from business owners flexibility and the ability to make sound management decisions during challenging times; adjusts every year for inflation without the ability to address situational circumstances in an individual business; will cause employers to hire fewer less-skilled workers, which could impact teens and others from finding a job. It would be too dramatic of an increase in labor costs.

No Position **Amendment 43**

An amendment to the Colorado Constitution to define marriage in Colorado as only a union between one man and one woman.

Chamber Rationale: No impact to business.

No Position **Amendment 44**

An amendment to the Colorado statutes that would legalize the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana for adults 21 years or older.

Chamber Rationale: Drug abuse costs American businesses \$128.6 billion a year in indirect costs of lost productivity due to drug-related illnesses and missed work hours. Illegal drugs cost the health care industry \$15.8 billion a year—expenses that are passed along to employers in the form of higher premiums. Employers may not be able to deny employment or terminate an existing employee who tests positive—regardless of the nature of their job such as a teacher, bus driver, physician or other safety related positions. Studies have shown that marijuana users had 55 percent more industrial accidents and 78 percent more absenteeism than non-users. Employers might also be required to make adjustments in their policies and procedures for marijuana users.

Support **Downtown Authority Mail-in Ballot Election**

This proposal would create a government body to collect increased downtown property taxes and use them to improve the area. The ballot measure will seek an extra five mills per year per property for creation of an authority. It will also allow the authority to take on debt and to exempt its revenues from state and local revenue limits.

Chamber Rationale: This proposal would generate funds to fix aging infrastructure and induce businesses and residents to move downtown. Many authorities such as this exist in other larger cities that have a vibrant downtown.



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