



**COMMON
SENSE**
Policy Roundtable

2012 Candidate Survey
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Colorado House District 23
Rick Enstrom (R)

1. Growing Colorado's economy and job creation continues to be a top priority for voters throughout the state. As a legislator, what is the one thing you believe that you could do to have the greatest impact on improving Colorado's business climate?

To get government and bureaucracy out of the way and let business do what business does best make a profit, increase market share, grow the business, create jobs, and stimulate the economy.

2. In 2009, Colorado enacted rules and regulations for the oil and gas industry that are widely considered the most comprehensive and restrictive in the nation. Recently, local governments have sought to implement their own set of regulations, many of which are preempted by existing state rules. Given the uncertainty that a patchwork of local regulations would create for the energy industry, would you support legislation banning local governments from creating new regulations?

There are thousands of political subdivisions in CO. If the state lets every one of them regulate industry, growth will come to a standstill. We need to let the Oil & Gas Commission be the single oversight body, listen to local government concerns and make good decisions. Colorado's new O & G regs are some of the most comprehensive in the country and other states are looking at our model as a reference guide.

3. Greater access to oil and gas reserves throughout the United States and here in Colorado has dramatically increased our potential domestic energy supply. The use of a time tested technology known as hydraulic fracturing has been a significant contributor to the energy industry's ability to capture resources that would otherwise be out of reach. Despite a long history of safely utilizing hydraulic fracturing technology, some interest groups are advocating for an outright ban on its use. As a legislator, would you support a ban on hydraulic fracturing – and if so why?

No

4. Colorado's Medicaid program is growing at an unsustainable rate, threatening to consume a greater portion of the state's General Fund. As Medicaid costs continue to

grow, funding for K-12, Higher Ed, and other important funding priorities are reduced. As a legislator, would you support reforms to Colorado's Medicaid program and if so what are some possible solutions you would offer?

Yes.

5. The Supreme Court's decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act affirmed that states cannot be coerced by the federal government into expanding Medicaid beyond current levels. State lawmakers will have to decide whether or not they want to expand Medicaid as part of the implementation the new health care law or opt out of the expansion altogether. As a legislator, would you support the State of Colorado opting out of the Medicaid expansion – why or why not?

Perhaps. Sorry to be evasive, but federal mandates requiring more state funding have gotten us into deep trouble, and other funding priorities in the state needs to be driving the debate and solution, not the federal government.

6. Currently, when a bill is introduced the Office of Legislative Council issues a fiscal note indicating the potential fiscal impact the proposed legislation would have on state revenue. There have been efforts recently to create a similar impact statement for businesses. The creating of a business impact statement would allow businesses to weigh in on the impact that a bill would have on their industry. Would you support the creating of a business impact statement – why or why not?

Yes

7. Colorado currently assesses an income tax to both distributed and undistributed income from irrevocable trusts managed in the state. Some states only apply an income tax to distributed income and have experienced dramatic growth in individual irrevocable trust assets managed in their respective states. In order to eliminate the double taxation in Colorado, ensure our state is positioned to create good paying financial sector jobs, and capture additional tax revenue without raising taxes, would you support the elimination of the income tax on undistributed income?

Yes.