



**COMMON
SENSE**
Policy Roundtable

2012 Candidate Survey
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**Colorado House District 29
Robert Ramirez (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 have the greatest impact on improving Colorado's business climate?

There is one bill that we tried two years ago that I still believe will turn the state around. The bill reconstituted the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission to its original membership. Then, any rules that had been promulgated would be put on hold until a cost benefit analysis could be done. This bill would have put approximately 100,000 people back to work in Colorado, and it would have created many secondary jobs. It would also create multi millions in severance taxes and school taxes, not to mention the sales and income taxes to the state. This one bill if passed would bring Colorado back to economic stability and success.

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 government 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?

Yes, as I stated in the previous answer, these rules need to be looked at again to allow our state to flourish. Many of the communities have tried to create laws that are more restrictive than those of the state. I would support legislation that would keep the energy industry from being further pushed out of our state.

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?

I would not support a ban on Hydraulic Fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing has been proven to be safe. The fluids have been proven to be safe enough to drink. Not that one would want to. The fracturing takes place approximately 6,000 ft. below the water table. There have never been any proven water contamination instances.

4. Colorado's Medicaid program is going at an unsustainable rate, threatening to consume a greater portion of the state's General Fund. As Medicaid costs continue to grow, funds 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 possible solutions would you offer?

Answer was cut off the page.

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 of 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?

I would support opting out of the Medicaid expansion. It would seem that I should have through the questions before starting. As I stated in a previous answer, Colorado has already expanded our Medicaid program and any further expansion would cause the state to be out of balance.

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, I would support this solution. We had a similar bill last year. I feel that this would be the best way to get an accurate assessment of how a bill would affect not just the government, but each business. That is what we need to know. The more regulations that negatively affect the business community, affect every job and adversely affect the economy.

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?

I do not know much about this type of taxation. I do know that I would support any measure that cut down or cut completely any double taxation.

