



**COMMON
SENSE**
Policy Roundtable

2012 Candidate Survey
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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?

Reducing the number of criss-crossing, burdensome regulations that hamper big and small business is a top priority. A company must hire and train staff to work full time on researching all the law – much of it ridiculous and conflicting – that it must comply with. How is a small or start-up supposed to deal with this kind of expensive nonsense? It is unfair to saddle business with such crippling restrictions.

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?

I would have to see the wording of such legislation and consider its impact before committing to support it. It's true that at times different levels of government lower themselves to peeing contests and petty turf wars. We must, however, remember that Colorado consists of hundreds of widely differing environments. One locality may have very different geology, land use, human and animal populations and just plain local preferences that defy any state-wide legislative effort to govern it wisely. While I support sane development of our incredible energy resources, I also recognize that there may be folks who simply don't want an oil derrick where their horse barn currently stands.

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 do not support bans as a tool to enforce minority opinions. Coloradoans have the brains to develop our resources properly. With care and common sense we can make

safe use of our oil and gas reserves and use profits there from to fund technology research on using other resources at our disposal.

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?

It depends on whose reforms you propose. There have been many ideas bandied about, not all of them wise. One of the best things we can do reform Medicaid or any other health benefit program is to eliminate the need for it. Coloradans must take charge of their own health. Obesity, substance abuse, tobacco use, lifestyle diseases- all these place severe strains on our medical/dental care supply system. We cannot continue to fund pandemic stupidity.

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?

The war of words on this issues is deafening, 2nd the fog of conflicting statistics and “facts” hard to wade through. I am still trying to find the hard data. I tend to favor opting out. I am in favor of repealing the PPACA in its entirety. It is a deeply flawed concept that is already demonstrating immeasurable harm to care providers and patients. My feeling is that anything associated with it, such as expanding Medicaid, is only to aggravate an untenable situation. Where is the money to come from? When you throw stuff into a black hole the black hole only grows bigger and more powerful. Throwing money at problems is not always a solution.

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?

As long as it does not create further burden on private businesses I believe such a scheme might have a favorable impact, pun intended. When businesses are forced to hire staff and conduct expensive research by government fiat we are creating expensive new layers of bureaucracy, both in government and in the business world. The scheme you propose must be voluntary and its parameters must come from the world of business no the state house.

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?

To be honest, I have never even considered this issue. On it's surface it seems only just not to tax undistributed income.