

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Caitlin Reed, Partner
SUBJECT: Key Findings from a Statewide Survey of Colorado Likely Voters
DATE: June 24, 2025

THE BOTTOM LINE: Voters are unhappy with the direction of the state. They see the Democrat majority as being out-of-step with everyday concerns, allowing for a competitive political environment for Republicans in 2026.

- **Colorado voters believe the state is on the wrong track.**
 - Only 41% of voters believe Colorado is heading in the right direction, while 56% believe it is off on the wrong track. This includes 58% of unaffiliated voters, 59% of Hispanic voters, and 68% of non-college educated voters who believe Colorado is off on the wrong track.
- **Colorado Democrats aren't focusing on the top priorities for Colorado voters.**
 - Coloradans were asked what the most important issue was for them when considering who to vote for in the 2026 gubernatorial election. Twenty percent (20%) of voters said inflation and the cost of living was their top issue, followed by jobs and the economy (17%), crime and public safety (15%), and border security and immigration (12%).
 - Voters were then asked what issue they think the Colorado state legislature is most focused on. Forty-four percent (44%) of voters say the state legislature is most focused on social issues like gender identity and LGBTQ, followed by 12% who say jobs and the economy, and 9% who say inflation and the cost of living.
- **This fundamental misalignment of priorities between voters and the state legislature has created a prime political environment for Republicans.**
 - Republicans have a four-point lead over Democrats on the generic ballot for state legislature in 2026 (50% Republican – 46% Democrat). This includes a 12-point lead among unaffiliated voters (53% Republican – 41% Democrat).
 - Despite recent political history in Colorado, Michael Bennet only has a five-point lead on a head-to-head ballot against potential Republican candidate Barb Kirkmeyer (46% Kirkmeyer – 51% Bennet with 2% undecided). Bennet only holds a one-point lead with unaffiliated voters (48% Kirkmeyer – 49% Bennet). Kirkmeyer has already locked up much of the Republican base, earning 86% of Republican voters.
 - Voters aren't impressed with Michael Bennet's background as a US Senator and 52% of voters are less likely to vote for Bennet when they learn that "Michael Bennet is a do-nothing Senator in Washington, DC. Now he wants to run for governor to do-nothing in Colorado."

- After hearing only this message on Bennet, his share on the ballot plummets to 46% Kirkmeyer – 40% Bennet with 11% undecided. Unaffiliated voters move away from Bennet and give Kirkmeyer a nine-point lead (47% Kirkmeyer – 38% Bennet).
- **Voters are still incredibly supportive of the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (also known as TABOR) and are strongly against Democrat attempts to repeal TABOR.**
 - Voters were asked if they support or oppose “the Colorado Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights, also known as TABOR, which prohibits tax increases in Colorado without direct voter approval.” Seventy-six percent (76%) of voters support TABOR, while 23% oppose it. Further, 60% of voters *strongly support* TABOR.
 - By partisanship, 88% of Republicans, 82% of unaffiliated voters, and 57% of Democrats support TABOR.
 - Seventy-five percent (75%) of voters in the Denver Metro Area support TABOR, as do 81% of voters in Colorado Springs, 79% of voters on the Eastern Plains, and 76% of voters on the Western Slope.
 - Voters were asked if they were more likely or less likely to vote for a Democrat who supports overturning TABOR, allowing the state legislature to raise taxes on Coloradans without direct voter approval. Eighty-two percent (82%) of voters are *less likely* to vote for a Democrat who supports overturning TABOR, and 67% are *much less likely* to vote for them.
 - Eighty-seven percent (87%) of unaffiliated voters and even 63% of Democrats are less likely to vote for a Democrat who supports overturning TABOR.
- **Coloradans hold common sense views on issues such as cashless bail and overturning sanctuary state policies.**
 - Three out of four (76%) of Coloradans oppose “cashless bail, similar to New York’s radical bail reform law that allows criminal defendants to be released into our communities before their trial, even as crime rates in Colorado are increasing.”
 - On the issue of immigration enforcement, 57% of Coloradans support “repeal[ing] Colorado’s sanctuary state policy and [allowing] the federal government to enforce immigration laws and deport dangerous illegal immigrants.”

Public Opinion Strategies recently completed a survey of 500 likely voters in Colorado. The survey was conducted June 9-11, 2025, and has a margin of error of $\pm 4.38\%$.