



# INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS

## WHO WE ARE

Let Colorado Vote 2016 is dedicated to building consensus for policies to increase voter access, engagement and participation in Colorado. We are pursuing two ballot measures in 2016:

- ✓ **INITIATIVE 98**  
To open primary elections to Colorado's 1.3 million unaffiliated voters.
- ✓ **INITIATIVE 140**  
To restore Colorado's presidential primary election, last held in 2000.

## WHY IT MATTERS

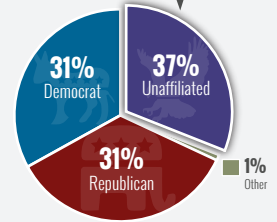
Freedom and independence are core Colorado values. It's not right to force voters who want to be independent to join a political party just to have their voices heard.

Since all voters pay for elections, it's not fair to exclude more than 1 million Coloradans from our primary elections.

Roughly 1 in 5 Colorado voters in 2016 picked candidates to run in November. In fact, turnout in primaries in Colorado is so low, the winners tend to appeal to the extremes of each party. We need more people involved if we want the best candidate options.

### ACTIVE VOTERS 2016

37% of active voters don't get to vote in primary elections in Colorado!



SOURCE: COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE, MARCH 2016

## WHAT WE KNOW

A majority of states open their primaries to unaffiliated voters, yet Colorado clings to an antiquated system.

- ✓ Colorado leads the nation in the growth of unaffiliated voters since 2008, and they now make up a plurality (37%) of active voters. (Sources: nonpartisan group "Third Way"; Colorado Secretary of State)
- ✓ Almost 50% of registered voters age 25 and under are unaffiliated, and nearly 47% of voters age 40 and under are unaffiliated. (Secretary of State data)
- ✓ Colorado has some of the highest general-election turnouts in the nation, but primary turnout has declined from 31% of active voters in 2010 to just 21% in 2016.
- ✓ Caucuses limit participation. There are more than 3.6 million registered voters in Colorado, and just 180,000 (5%) participated in 2016 caucuses.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Don Childears, President/CEO, Colorado Bankers Association
- Kelly Brough, President/CEO, Denver Metro Chamber
- John Hereford, President/CEO, Oak Leaf Energy Partners
- Kent Thiry, Chairman & CEO, DaVita

## ENDORSEMENTS

- Gov. John W. Hickenlooper
- Former Gov. Bill Ritter
- Former Gov. Bill Owens
- Governor Gov. Roy Romer
- Former Gov. Dick Lamm
- Former U.S. Sen. Mark Udall
- Former U.S. Sen. Hank Brown
- Colo. Springs Mayor John Suthers
- Former State Sen. Kiki Traylor
- Former State Sen. Josh Penry
- State Rep. Dominick Moreno
- Former State Rep. Cheri Gerou
- Former State Rep. Christine Scanlan
- Former State Republican party chair Don Bain
- Former State Democratic party chair Howard Gelt

## TO DONATE

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LetCoVote2016/donate

### Mail

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## MORE INFORMATION

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### Visit

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