



**COMMON
SENSE**
Policy Roundtable

2012 Candidate Survey
www.commonsempolicyroundtable.com

**Colorado House District 35
Brian Vande Krol (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?

Deliver a stable regulatory climate. Colorado agencies have issued over 15,000 pages of new regulations (on average) every year for at least the last 6 years. It's very difficult to invest in new ideas and opportunities when the rules continue to change.

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, energy production can be a big boost to local economies as well as the state economy. The high paying jobs, local taxes, severance taxes, sales taxes, income taxes, property taxes, business personal property taxes, etc. that will come from responsible oil and gas production should not be forfeited because of excessive regulations. Although I generally believe in local control, I believe uniform state standards are necessary if we are to realize the benefits of our natural energy resources.

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 going at an unsustainable rate, threatening to consume a greater portion of the state's General Fund. As Medicaid costs continue to

grow, fund 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?

I support Colorado's right, as re-stated by the recent Supreme Court Decision, to determine our own Medicaid program and reject the expansion required by PPACA. To comply with PPACA's requirements will eventually crowd out all other spending priorities and bankrupt the state. I support returning eligibility to 2008 levels, or at least maintaining the current level. I also support restructuring the program to establish consumer driven use of healthcare services. This will reduce upward pressure on the cost of healthcare (not just in the Medicaid program, but in the healthcare market as a whole) by reducing the cost shifting that happens when reimbursement rate for Medicaid patients are below market rates.

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?

Yes, as Medicaid expands, it consumes an ever-greater portion of the state budget, crowding out other spending priorities.

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, it will undoubtedly force legislators' to look at the broader picture.

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, lowering tax rates and reducing taxed activities increases economic growth, creating greater prosperity and job growth.