



**COMMON
SENSE**
Policy Roundtable

2012 Candidate Survey
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Colorado House District 18
Jennifer George (R)
Pete Lee (D) – No Response

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?

The legislature should create a competitive business climate which requires (1) an environment of certainty – the rules of the game will not change for the worse with each legislative sessions, (2) a reduction in overly burdensome regulations and state government interference, (3) a reduction in business/corporate taxation policies and (4) a state that partners with the private sector for as much public business as possible.

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?

In general, I believe in local control. However, with the extensive state and national level regulations on the oil and gas industry, adding local regulations has the potential to deter what could be a significant economic engine for the Colorado economy. And, I do not favor a "patchwork" of local regulations for this industry. Nevertheless, I would hesitate to "ban" local government from creating new regulations, but instead would encourage cooperation between the government levels to the extent local jurisdictions believe they have a unique situation to address beyond what is preempted by state law.

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, 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?

I agree that Colorado's Medicaid program is growing at an unsustainable rate. Because our state spending priorities are potentially held captive to these expenses, I am in favor of reform. While I need to learn more about the program, I generally would not be in favor of expanding coverage or eligibility beyond current levels. And, I would be interested in learning how block grant funding could impact the state's financial responsibilities.

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 mentioned above, I would not be in favor of expanding Medicaid but would prefer to opt out of expansion. Colorado cannot afford to expand Medicaid, else we lose funding to other vital state programs such as education and infrastructure backlogs.

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?

I would support the creation of a business impact statement. The legislature does not pass law in a vacuum. The laws have real effects on real people in real business. Understanding what those impacts might be should be part of the legislative process, and creating a note to the bill indicating such would be an important element for the deliberative process.

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?

Generally, I favor lower taxes and disfavor double taxation. However, I do not have specific knowledge related to irrevocable trusts and state/federal taxation issues related to corpus and income. I would need to learn more about the issue to answer properly this question.