

# COLORADO GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES AND GUN STANCES

March 29<sup>th</sup> update

It's essential that our next governor (to be elected in November, 2018) supports retention of Colorado's universal background checks, ban on high capacity magazines, and relinquishment of weapons by domestic violence offenders.

We have entered the caucus and assembly period, so there it is a time of winnowing the field. There is a huge number of people running for this office.

Colorado Ceasefire has summarized and expanded on a report by the Denver Post (October 16, 2017). We note candidate's fundraising efforts, which reflect their support in the community. Dollars noted are total contributions as of January 16, 2018 and generally are given in thousands of dollars (K).

## Democratic Candidates

Of the ten Democrats who have filed to run for Governor, only two have taken votes on Gun Bills:

### Michael Johnston - Denver

As a state senator in 2013, Johnston cosponsored the Universal Background Check bill and voted to support all five of the gun reform laws. Additionally, he spoke eloquently from the senate floor in support and defense of these. He has voted against permitless concealed carry and training teachers to be armed, and has indicated an interest in banning bumper stocks and assault weapons. Additionally, he opposes easing restrictions on silencers. In March, held a forum on gun violence prevention, and his first campaign ad focused on guns and he vowed to ban assault weapons, get guns out of the hands of the dangerously ill and stop the gun lobby. Has raised \$1.5 million, but it has been noted many donations are from out-of-state people who support his education reform efforts. Caucus/assembly results – Johnston has fared poorly at the assemblies, but has already had his petitions approved.

### Jared Polis - Boulder

As a Congressman, Polis has a checkered record on the issue. To enumerate:

2018: Signed on as cosponsor to H.R. 5087, Assault Weapons Ban of 2018

2017: Voted against 2 bills to allow mentally ill veterans and social security recipients to buy guns.

Co-Sponsor of Thompson Background Checks Bill (HR4240)

Co-sponsored a bipartisan bill to ban bump stocks and a bill to reinstate gun violence research, but **he has not joined with his Democratic colleagues DeGette and Perlmutter on co-sponsoring a high capacity magazine ban (which had 89 co-sponsors as of 10/27/2017).**

**2016: Did not join with Democratic colleagues in co-sponsoring an Assault Weapons Ban, but did co-sponsor a ban on guns to terrorists.**

**Co-sponsored King-Thompson background check bill, also did in 2014.**

2014: **Most egregious to us was his vote to interfere with D.C. gun laws.** In a note to Ceasefire regarding that vote, Polis stated "I have always run on being against gun registries .... and there is no chance that I will change my mind for the foreseeable future." On that same note, he indicated his support for universal background checks. **Polis co-sponsored the Interstate Commerce Reform Act, which would have allowed gun dealers to sell any firearm to residents of any state.**

Through a personal communication with a colleague, Polis indicated that the Denver Post did not include his answers to their survey in which he indicated he would not seek to overturn any of the 2013 gun laws, but stated there is always room for bipartisan improvement. Additional responses to the Denver Post survey: against guns in schools, against easing silencer regulations, and against permitless concealed carry. Polis's views have evolved from his 2013 statement regarding assault weapons that "banning weapons possessed by law-abiding people violates the Second Amendment." His staff indicates Polis is no longer averse to an assault weapons ban, but tempers his stance with concerns for the druthers of hunters and sportsmen. Although Polis has raised over \$1.5 million, but 91% of it is from Polis himself.

Has come in second in the caucus/assembly process.

### Other major Democratic Candidates

*These three candidates have no recorded votes on gun bills, but they have all indicated they support the bills passed in 2013 (universal background checks and high capacity magazine ban), and bans on bump stocks and assault weapons. They oppose arming teachers, permitless concealed carry and making it easier to obtain silencers.*

#### **Cary Kennedy--Denver**

Served as Colorado State Treasurer and as Denver's Chief Financial Officer. She wants to raise awareness of keeping guns out of the hands of children. Kennedy grew up in with foster siblings who had been victims of violent crimes and had been incarcerated themselves. She believes we need to have a conversation about what services are available for people when they are concerned that someone they love might be a risk of harming themselves or others. Her website indicates she wants to ban assault rifles, keep guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves or others and to fight the NRA and gun lobby. Has raised \$840K Is currently the leading candidate in the caucus / assembly process.

#### **Donna Lynne -- Denver**

A former health care executive, Lynne is currently Lieutenant Governor and oversees a state program to connect primary care doctors with practitioners in mental health so that persons experiencing behavioral health problems don't slip through the cracks. Entered race late, but has raised \$674K. Is petitioning on to the ballot.

### Also Running for the Democratic Nomination

Renee Blanchard - Denver No information available Late entry, no fundraising info.

Adam Garrity – Phippsburg Has raised \$0.

Posted on Facebook on October 6<sup>th</sup> "**I will remove firearm restrictions ASAP.**" Has raised \$0.

Moses Humes - White Ridge Even a newspaper was unable to locate him for comments. Has raised \$0.

Roberto Padilla – Westminster No information available. Late entry, no fundraising info.

Michael Schroeder - Basalt Seems to be most concerned about the pot industry. Has raised \$40K.

Erik Underwood - Boulder

A tech entrepreneur running as a Democrat. In 2016 he ran as a Republican for the U.S. Senate. At the state Republican convention, he spewed red meat comments: "**They're not going to take your guns away if I'm in the United States Senate.**" (Note to Underwood: Despite the gun lobby rhetoric, The number of guns taken away from law abiding citizens due to the 2013 laws is ZERO. )

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/166640/erik-underwood-colorado-governor> Has raised \$0.

It has been noted that he has not filed any campaign reports, which he is required to do, even if self-funding his campaign. He has done poorly in the caucus/assembly process.

## Republican Candidates

There are 13 Republican candidates vying for the Republican nomination.

### Major Republican Candidates

#### Cynthia Coffman - Denver

Currently Colorado's Attorney General. She has signed onto a letter with other Republican AG's supporting the NRA's Concealed Carry Reciprocity bill (H.R. 38), which would allow anyone with a CCW permit (or coming from a permitless state) to carry a hidden handgun anywhere in the United States. Indicated in Project Vote Smart survey that she if she had been in the legislature, she would have voted against all three of the gun violence prevention bills in 2013 (universal background checks, domestic violence relinquishment, and high capacity magazine ban). Has raised \$100K.

#### Barry Farah – Colorado Springs

Farah is an entrepreneur who has been successful in a number of business endeavors, most recently in aerospace and technology companies. Website is silent on gun issue, but does proclaim "Barry dignifies personal responsibility and Barry champions limited government." Farah is a late entry and has not made fundraising reports. The Colorado Independent reports that he has connections with the Koch Brothers, who have funded many right-wing candidates and causes.

#### Victor Mitchell - Castle Rock

A millionaire businessman and former state lawmaker. **Although he supports Universal Background Checks and would support a bump stock ban, he does not support the high capacity magazine ban, and he supports arming teachers, permitless concealed carry and making silencers more easily available.** Mitchell opposes an assault weapons ban. He indicated that we need more people carrying firearms in more places and need to get rid of gun free zones in Colorado's schools. Has raised \$31K, but has pledge to donate \$3 million of his money to his campaign.

#### Doug Robinson - Englewood

A former investment banker and nephew of Mitt Romney, Robinson did not complete the Denver Post's survey, but indicates that we should keep universal background checks. **He believes that Colorado should reconsider the high capacity magazine ban and is unsure on the bump stocks.** He indicated that another way to address gun violence is in focusing on drug use and on family life. Has raised \$610K.

#### Walker Stapleton - Greenwood Village

Currently Colorado State Treasurer, he cleverly stayed out of the race while holding fundraisers for a separate independent expenditure committee. Although he didn't answer the Denver Post's survey he indicated he would **"absolutely sign" a repeal of Universal Background Checks.** Has raised \$1.005 million, with \$250K from himself.

### Also running for the Republican Nomination:

Stephen Barlock - Denver Realtor co-chair of Donald Trump's campaign. Wants to tackle the "swamp" in state politics. Does not discuss gun issues on his website, only PERA. Has raised \$6K  
Erich Braun – Aurora No information available. New candidate, no fundraising information.

Lew Gaiter – Livermore. Larimer County Commissioner Web page is silent on issue. Has raised \$11K.  
Teri Kear – Westcliffe No information available. New candidate, no fundraising information.  
Greg Lopez - former mayor of Parker. Web page is silent on issue. Has raised \$13K  
Daniel McFarlane – Delta No information available. New candidate, no fundraising information.  
Jim Rundberg - Moffatt His website is quite sparse, but under his name states “Republican, Pro-Life,  
**Pro-2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment**” raised \$0.  
Greg Westin – Fort Collins No information available. New candidate, no fundraising information.

### **Third Party and Unaffiliated Candidates**

There are 10 others running who are unaffiliated or from smaller parties. We could only find gun stances information on one:

Bill Hammons (Unity party): “I support the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. ...Gun Violence has its roots in societal problems....”

Read the Denver Post article on candidates and the gun issue.

<http://www.denverpost.com/2017/10/22/colorado-gun-control-laws-governor-race-2018/>