

# COLORADO GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES AND GUN STANCES

April 15<sup>th</sup> update

Democratic and Republican state Assemblies have now concluded, and the field for Governor on the party platform has winnowed significantly.

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. Additionally, we look to these candidates to approve more proactive gun violence prevention laws.

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 many Democrats who had filed to run for Governor, only 4 remain. Of those, all are on the ballot except Donna Lynne, whose petition signatures must still be approved the by the Secretary of State

### 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.

Assault Weapons Ban: Despite his position with the Denver Post in October, and that his first television ad touted a ban on assault weapons, but in the first Democratic debate, Johnston waffled on the question of an assault weapons ban and focused on magazine size.

ERPO (red flag- disarmament of danger individuals): supports

Johnson has successfully petitioned onto the ballot, he withdrew from the assembly process.

### 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.

Assault Weapons Ban: Supports

ERPO (red flag- disarmament of danger individuals): Supports

Polis is on the ballot as he earned the approval of 33% of the delegates at the Assembly. Nevertheless, he has also endeavored to petition onto the ballot, but does not need that approval.

### [Other major Democratic Candidates](#)

*These two 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.

Assault Weapons Ban: Supports

ERPO (red flag- disarmament of danger individuals): Supports

Has raised \$840K

Won 61.7% of the vote at the state assembly and therefore earns top line status on the ballot.

### [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.

Assault Weapons Ban: Supports

ERPO (red flag- disarmament of danger individuals): Supports

Entered race late, but has raised \$674K.

Is petitioning onto the ballot, her petitions await approval.

## Republican Candidates

At one time, there were as many as 13 Republican candidates for Governor. After the state assemblies, only 4 remain.

### 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 pledged to donate \$3 million of his money to his campaign. Mitchell is petitioning onto the ballot, and awaits approval of signatures.

### 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. Robinson is petitioning onto the ballot, and awaits approval of signatures.

### 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.

Stapleton had been approved by petition, but withdrew those after it was revealed that the signature collecting company had violated state law. He received 44% of the state assembly votes and has top line status.

### Greg Lopez - former mayor of Parker.

Web page is silent on issue. Has raised \$13K.

He received sufficient votes at the state assembly to be on the primary ballot.

### 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...."

This is perhaps old, but the Denver Post interviewed candidates back in October 2017.

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