

# COLORADO GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES AND GUN STANCES

July 5<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. Additionally, we look to these candidates to approve more proactive gun violence prevention laws, such as the Extreme Risk Protection Orders bill (red-flag) defeated by Senate Republican leadership in May.

## Democrat: 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, which he co-sponsored in 2013 also.**

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 indicate Polis is no longer averse to an assault weapons ban, but tempers his stance with concerns for the druthers of hunters and sportsmen.

Assault Weapons Ban: Supports

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

Although Polis has raised over \$11.5 million, the money is almost all from Polis himself. He has \$228,000 remaining as of June 27th.

## Republican: Walker Stapleton (Greenwood Village)

Currently Colorado State Treasurer, he cleverly stayed out of the race while holding fundraisers for a separate independent expenditure committee. His web site states he supports "repealing the misguided 2013 gun control laws that limit our Second Amendment freedoms." Those laws included Universal Background Checks (supported by over 90% of Americans), Domestic Violence

Relinquishment, and the High Capacity magazine Ban. Stapleton also supports giving local communities the ability to allow teachers to be armed.

ERPO: To the Durango Herald, Stapleton stated he would support red flag legislation, but that it would need to not violate due process (ah....that caveat). ERPO was supported by 81% of Colorado voters.

Has raised \$2.1 million, with \$250,000 from himself, and had \$193,000 on hand on June 27th. His PAC (Better Colorado Now) has raised just over one million and had \$18,000 on-hand June 27th.

### **Third Party and Unaffiliated Candidates for Governor**

There are 11 others registered with the Secretary of State who are unaffiliated or from smaller parties. Most have raised no money whatsoever, none has raised more than \$1600. 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...."