# The Democratic Dispatch - August 9, 2019



# Democracy is ALWAYS in Fashion! New Voter Registration T-Shirts at the CDP Store!

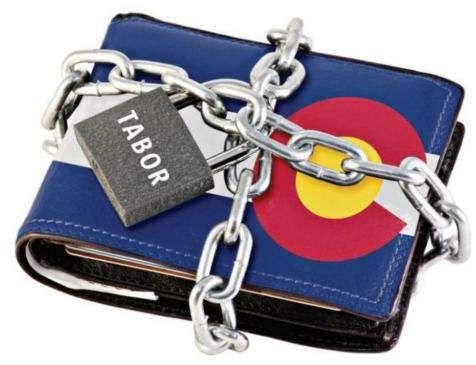


Do you want to help register voters so we can defeat Cory Gardner and Donald Trump in 2020? The nifty QR code on the shirt takes you directly to GoVoteColorado.com, where you can make sure your voter registration is up to date. It even works here -- try it with your phone and see for your self!

Click here and buy a new voter registration t-shirt!

On your Ballot this Fall: Prop CC End TABOR's Stranglehold on Colorado

**Sunday, August 18, 2019** 



Credit: Denver Post

This November, voters will have the opportunity to end Doug Bruce's strangehold of Colorado by voting "Yes" on Proposition CC.

#### What is Prop CC

Each year, Colorado is only allowed to spend an amount of money that falls under the TABOR cap, which is a constitutional limit on spending. Prop CC is a ballot measure that, without raising taxes, would allow Colorado to retain the revenue we currently bring in to be invested in:

- Public Schools
- Roads, Bridges, and Transit
- Higher education

Specifically, the funds would be split evenly between the three. If you hear about this, you may hear this being called "Debrucing".



Doug Bruce, the father of TABOR

#### What is "Debrucing"?

Debrucing is named after the man who put TABOR on the ballot in 1992, Doug Bruce, who is a former Republican state representative and acolyte of Grover Norquist, and is a convicted felon.

Basically, TABOR put a one-size-fits-all restriction on what any level of government in Colorado can spend (including your state's general assembly, or local town council, or school board). There are local towns and school districts who have "debruced", which means they got permission from voters to retain all or a portion of money that goes over the TABOR cap. 51 out of the 64 counties in Colorado have debruced. It's time to debruce our state by voting "Yes" on Prop CC.

#### Why Should I Vote "Yes" for Prop CC?

In short, the TABOR cap is an outdated policy that has held Colorado back from truly reaching our potential. Despite having one of the top economies in the entire country, Colorado's investment in our children and their education constantly ranks near the bottom. In 2013, we ranked below Mississippi and Alabama in education investment. Thanks to TABOR, two of the poorest states in the country invested more in their kids than we do.

Think about it this way: Nothing costs in 2019 what it cost in 1999, right? TABOR essentially forces Colorado to budget our money as if it is 1999.

On top of that, our roads and infrastructure have simply not kept up with our state's growing population. Without properly preparing our state for the future by investing in our children, roads, and transit, Colorado is likely to fall behind. The reality is that TABOR is holding Colorado back from investing in our children and infrastructure, particularly in our rural communities.

#### Why is Prop CC on the Ballot?

This past legislation session, the Colorado General Assembly passed bipartisan legislation to refer this question to the voters.

#### Have I ever voted on this before?

Nope! This is the first time this question will have ever been on the ballot. Vote "Yes" on Prop CC!

### Bob's Corner -- Prop CC: What You Should Know



CDP Secretary Bob Seay

The most important thing to know about Proposition CC and the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) is that for Republican leadership, TABOR was never about the money. The money is a distraction; a lure to get people - especially rural people - to vote for something that would ultimately not be in their best interest. For the people who lead the Republican party, TABOR is about a philosophy of government.

But first, let's get the money stuff out of the way.

In November, Colorado voters will be asked if the State of Colorado can do what 51 of Colorado's 64 counties have already done and "debruce" the state. This question will appear as Proposition CC on the ballot. "Debrucing" refers to Douglas Bruce, convicted tax evader and the author of TABOR. Since 1992, TABOR has placed strict limits on the amount of revenue Colorado can collect in a year. Revenue that exceeds that amount must be refunded to taxpayers. TABOR prevents the state from benefiting from periods of economic growth. Counties and cities debruce in order to have sufficient funds to provide basic services.

The Colorado economy has improved, but you wouldn't know it from the condition of our schools and roads. TABOR is why 104 of Colorado's 178 school districts are open only four days a week. TABOR is why our highways are crumbling and our bridges are collapsing. TABOR is why the state with the highest rated economy in the nation is ranked 47th in investment in state colleges.

TABOR is why, in 2015, Colorado voters had to decide whether the state could use \$66 Million in marijuana tax money. That question, Proposition BB, passed with 69.39% of the vote. While \$66 Million is a lot of money, the individual refunds would have been about \$8 per taxpayer. Altogether, the state has refunded over \$3.5 Billion since 1992. That means \$3.5 Billion less that was available to invest in our state.

So how much will Proposition CC cost you?

The projected TABOR surplus for 2019 is between \$446 million and \$575 million. Similar revenues are projected for 2020 and 2021. Those are big numbers; altogether, Colorado faces the prospect of refunding over \$1 Billion over the next three years. That's a lot of schools and roads.

Those refunds look much smaller when they are split between every taxpayer in the state. The projected 2019 TABOR refund for a single person earning between \$39,901 and \$85,300 is \$88. An individual earning \$266,000 or more could expect \$644. To someone who earns \$266,000 a year, a \$644 refund amounts to an unexpected windfall of about 2/10th of a penny for every dollar earned.

But it's not about the money.

TABOR reflects an anti-government, anti-tax philosophy that gained popularity during the 1980s and 90s and is still the driving force of today's "Tax Cuts for The Rich" Republican party. Douglas Bruce didn't just want to get rid of taxes. He wanted to get rid of government. Other people might not have shared Bruce's hatred of government, but they did see TABOR as an opportunity. Underfunded public schools can be replaced by private, for-profit operations. Public highways can be replaced by privatized roads, typically subsidized with tax dollars, that generate a profit for some company. Money that could have been used for the benefit of all could instead be used to benefit a select few.

Some people might call this anti-government thinking "Bold Libertarianism." Others just call it irresponsible. That lack of responsibility has created the inadequate schools, bad roads, and other financial problems that Colorado faces today. That's why all but 13 of Colorado's 64 counties have found it necessary to debruce. TABOR was preventing these counties from providing essential services to their residents. The problem is even worse for the state. With each passing year, Colorado slips further behind other states in the quality of our roads, our schools, and our ability to meet the needs of our citizens. Eventually, we won't be able to catch up.

Your vote can change that. Vote Yes on Prop CC. Allow Coloradans to benefit from our state's amazing economic success.

Colorado deserves it.

# Join us at our 2019 Statewide Outreach Stops and Senate Forums! NEXT WEEK

#### August 13, 2019, 6:00pm Region 2 (Boulder, Broomfield)

â€cBroomfield Community Center, 280 Spader Way, Broomfield, CO 80020



Click the Graphic to Sign Up!

August 15, 2019, 6:00pm Region 2 (Larimer, Weld)

Council Tree Library, 2733 Council Tree Avenue, Ft Collins, Colorado 80525



Click the Graphic to Sign Up!

### **COMING UP NEXT**

September 7, 2019 (Training at 10:00am. Senate Forum at 2:00pm.)

Region 10 (Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, Dolores, San Juan, Hinsdale)

1900 E 3rd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301

September 16, 2019, 6:00pm Region 1 (Grand, Jackson, Routt, Rio Blanco, Moffat) The Inn at Silvercreek, 62927 US-40, Granby, CO 80446

> September 25, 2019, 6:00pm Region 5 (Summit, Eagle, Lake) 83 Nancy's Place, Frisco, CO 80443

#### October 5, 2019, 10:00am (Senate Forum)

West and Southwest Denver (House Districts 1 and 2; multi-county)
Loretto Heights Campus, Machebeuf Hall, 3001 South Federal Blvd., Denver, CO 80236

#### October 13, 2019, 5:00PM (Senate Forum)

Region 9 (Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Pueblo, Teller)
Colorado State University - Pueblo, 2200 Bonforte Blvd, Pueblo, CO 81001

October 19, 2019 (Training at 1:00pm. Senate Forum at 5:00pm.)

Region 4+8+10 (Delta, Garfield, Mesa, Montrose, Pitkin, Ouray, San Miguel)

Columbine Middle School, 610 York Street, Montrose, CO 81401

#### October 26, 2019, 11:00am (Senate Forum)

East and Southeast Denver (House Districts 6 and 9)

# Calvary Baptist Church 6500 E. Girard Ave. (Hampden/Monaco), Denver, CO 80237

#### November 2, 2019, 10:00am (Senate Forum)

Northeast Denver (House District 7 and 8)
Location TBA

#### November 9, 2019, 10:00am (Senate Forum)

West and Northwest Denver (House Districts 4 and 5)
Highlands United Methodist Church, 3131 Osceola Street, Denver, CO 80212

## Help Fight Sham Recalls against Polis, Lee, Pettersen



We can't let the GOP undermine democracy with these frivolous sham recalls. Visit Our Colorado Way of Life -- the issue committee that is focused on defending our Democrats -- to learn more at www.coloradoway.org. If you want to volunteer, email Tim@ColoradoWay.org!

# Nation Mourns in Wake of Mass Shootings in El Paso, TX and Dayton, OH



El Paso and Dayton residents mourn and memorialize those lost in the mass shootings this past weekend.

Our country is still in mourning from the mass shootings this past weekend in El Paso, TX and Dayton, OH that has left at least 31 people dead and multiple injured. With this mourning has come anger at conservative politicians -- particularly at Donald Trump and the Republican Senate Majority. For Trump, people are angry over how his racist and xenophobic rhetoric has inspired individuals to carry out acts of hate and violence. To the Republican-led US Senate, people and Democratic House Members and Senators have called on Mitch McConnell to bring the Senate back into session so they can pass commonsense gun-safety legislation.

The 150 or so residents chanted, carrying signs. They mourned in light rain as Colorado state troopers looked on. They lamented that they have to consider the possibility of ducking from an "active shooter" anywhere these days. They demanded that the president and other elected officials be held accountable for what they called hate speech and inaction. They denounced white extremism as terrorism. They called for stricter gun control that would limit access to semi-automatic weapons. Most of all, they looked for comfort.

To protect our families and make our communities safer, Colorado Democrats have shown they aren't afraid of the gun-manufactuers lobby in the NRA, and have gotten commonsense gun-safety reforms passed:

- â€⟨In 2013, in the wake of the Aurora Theater shooting, Colorado Democrats in the General Assembly passed sweeping gun-safety reforms including universal background checks and banning high capacity magazines.
- This past legisltive session, Colorado Democrats <u>passed the Emergency Risk Protection</u>
   <u>Order (ERPO) law</u>. Otherwise known as a "red flag" law, this would allow for guns to be temporarily removed from people who pose an extreme risk to themselves or others if ordered by a judge. Only family members or law enforcement could file a petition to a judge.
- For the first time in decades, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed two sweeping gun safety reforms. Led by Democrats, the House passed a <u>federal universal background</u> <u>checks</u> bill, and a bill to <u>close the Charleston loophole</u>.

# Candidates Currently Filed in the 2020 Colorado Senate Primary

There have been a number of candidates who have filed to run for the Democratic nomination in the U.S. Senate campaign here in Colorado! We wanted to give you a recap of who either has an exploratory committee or who is running as of today -- other candidates may file in the future and we'll update accordingly. The Colorado Democratic Party is strictly neutral in primaries and won't be endorsing any of these candidates while they are running in the Democratic primary. We have a number of talented candidates to choose from, and we believe any of them could defeat Cory Gardner.



(read from left, listed by alphabetical order) former Ambassador Dan Baer, Diana Bray, Lorena Garcia, Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold (exploratory committee), former state Senator Mike Johnston, former House Majority Leader Alice Madden, former state House Speaker Andrew Romanoff, Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding, former US Attorney John Walsh, Michelle Ferrigno Warren, state Senator Angela Williams, Trish Zornio.

# Get Involved with a Colorado Democratic Party Initiative!



Do you have a particular issue that you are passionate about? Come join one of the CDP's initatives, which are organizations that uplift their communities and promote certain issues. These initiatives do important work like attending community events, registering new Colorado voters, community outreach, voter education, and get out the vote efforts. **Join a CDP initiative by emailing them and get active, because #TheFutureIsBlue!** 

- The African American Initiative of the Colorado Democrats (mayawheeler42@gmail.com)
   The â€⟨Ethiopian Chapter of the African American Initiative (nahome11@gmail.com)
- The Asian American Pacific Islander Initiative (hchou32@gmail.com)
- The Colorado Democratic Party Latino Initiative (jmrod91850@aol.com)
- The Colorado Young Dems (info@coloradoyoungdems.com)
- Dems with Disabilities (angie4dougco@gmail.com)
- Education Initiative (kubikham@mac.com)
- Energy and Environment Initiative (conorjmay@gmail.com)
- Labor Initiative (jsgagliardi@msn.com)
- Progressive Dems (denniso@pdcolo.org)
- Rural Initiative (tj hestand@hotmail.com)
- Senior Initiative (ckboller@comcast.net)
- Stonewall Democrats of Colorado (rsimas3@gmail.com)
- Veterans Initiative (matthewper@gmail.com)
- Women's Initiative (karensmiddleton@gmail.com)

Volunteer of the Week: Nahome Y.



Nahome is a dedicated volunteer in Arapahoe County who started the Ethiopian American Chapter of the African American Initiative of the Colorado Democrats, and was integral to our 2018 successes (including defeating Mike Coffman)!

#### Why do you think it's important to volunteer?

I volunteer because I believe even one person, even with an hour of volunteering, changes things. I see a more inclusive America, one that accepts me, my children, and my community. That is what motivates me.

What would you say to someone who has thought about volunteering, but hasn't? Make calls to community leaders and members (speaking the language helps a big deal). Give time, get involved, and be there. That's what the Democratic Party lacked in the past, so someone else (Coffman) filled the gap.

Thanks Nahome! If you want to get involved with an initiative, check out the initiatives we have above, or if you would like to volunteer, contact our volunteer coordinator Karin Asensio at karin@coloradodems.org!

### **Rural Spotlight from Shelia: Delta County**



Delta County is located in the central west in Colorado. The county was created by the Colorado legislature in 1883 and was named after a "delta of fertile land at the mouth of the Uncompanding River". Delta is the county seat. To the east of Delta County is Gunnison County, to the northwest is Mesa County, and to the south is Montrose County.

Delta County offers miles of wilderness acreage including Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, Grand Mesa National Forest, Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, Crawford State Park and Sweitzer Lake State Park. Beautiful scenic farms, orchards and vineyards. Delta County towns, Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford, make up the North Fork Valley Creative District offering numerous galleries, studios, writers, photographers, musicians and more.



There are approximately 3,171 registered Democrats, 9,172 Republicans and 247 Unaffiliated voters in Delta County. In 2018, 71.35% turned in their ballots. Debbie Fisk, Chair Delta Democrats, works hard to make sure Delta knows there are Democrats in their "red-ish" county.

With a website: www.deltadems.org and <u>Facebook page</u>, you can find a lot of important information about the Delta Democratic Party. Including their upcoming "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of BBQ" to be held Sunday, September 8th at the Lion's Pavilion in Delta (510 Palmer Street & Confluence Drive) starting at Noon. Tickets are \$15.00 and you can RSVP to Debbie Fisk 970-773-1717, dberryfisk@gmail.com



The 114th Delta County Fair and Rodeo in Hotchkiss has a few more days (August 3rd-11th) if you want to take a beautiful drive to the mountains and join in the fun.

Keep Colorado Wild

- Shelia

Shelia Canfield Jones Vice Chair, Rural Outreach Colorado Democratic Party

## Sign up for "Work for the Wave" Webinars!

Our party wouldn't be as organized and successful as it is without the talented and dedicated volunteers we have at the local levels. Want to brush up on your skills so you can help make sure Colorado goes blue in 2020? Sign up for an upcoming webinar:

#### **August 15: People 2 People Training (Hosted by Tyler McDermott)**

Want to get involved in our People 2 People canvassing program? Help us talk to voters and find out what's important to them by checking out this webinar!

#### **August 19: VAN Training (Hosted by Pete Williams)**

Want to learn how to cut turf in VAN? Come learn techniques with our technology director so you'll know how to look up voter information, pull voter lists, and cut it into turf for your organizers!

#### **August 22: Voter Registration (Hosted by Julia Bristor)**

One of the most important things we can do is register new voters! Learn how to do that and be able to join us at voter registration drives by checking out this webinar!

#### **August 29: People 2 People Training (Hosted by Tyler McDermott)**

Want to get involved in our People 2 People canvassing program? Help us talk to voters and find out what's important to them by checking out this webinar!

On The Road



CDP Chair Morgan Carroll, AAICD Chair Maya Wheeler, and AAICD 1st Vice Chair Portia Prescott registered voters at the Taste of Ethiopia Festival. CDP 1st Vice Chair Howard Chou and his family took part in the Arapahoe County Democrats Picnic over the weekend. CDP Chair Carroll and CDP Executive Director Halisi Vinson attended the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Denver's annual SABOR fundraiser.

### **Share the Dispatch**

If you know someone interested in receiving this newsletter, they can **sign up here**.



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